



www.WORDFORLIFESAYS.com

Sunday School Lesson

TOPIC:

“Make a Joyful Noise”

Psalm 95:1-7

VERSE DISCOVERY: Psalm 95:1-7 (KJV, Public Domain)

Prepare

- There's a lot of noise we hear in our day, and a good portion of it is not joyful. Why do you think praise and the idea of “joyful noise” should be important to God's people?
- For older students, ask, *What is or are some of your favorite psalms, and why?* Give space and time for sharing. As they are sharing, you may want to jot down on a board some of the reasons shared. Is there something they all have in common?
- The author of Psalm 95's focus was to bring the heart of the people to recognize that God truly is the one worthy of all honor and praise. In this life there will be many challenges to face, but one way to combat those challenges is to stay focused on the true nature of God and His glory and worship Him.
- Download or write out and post before the class different hymns of praise (make it big enough for the class to see or pass out smaller copies to each member of the class). As we are going through the lesson, see if your class can spot similarities between those hymns and the psalm we are covering. Are there similar key words? If so, circle, underline, or highlight the similarities. If students have their own copies, they can do this on their own as a class activity.

Explore – Full Lesson Available on pages 5-11

Oh come, before the Lord in unashamed worship, is what this psalm beckons. **Oh come**, open your hearts and your mouths with His praise. **Oh come**, recognize who God truly is. **Oh come**, and reverence the Lord. **Oh come**, and give Him the glory that is due His holy name!

Sing!

Shout!

Tell it out loud!

Enter **His presence** with a heart of **thanksgiving!** He only is our **Rock**. He only is our **Salvation**. He only is the reason we are alive today. He only is our reason for praise!

Bow down the knee and the heart for He is **the great God!** He is the **great King** above all others! Psalm 77:13 asks, “*Who is so great a God as our God?*” The answer to that is unequivocally none!

For it is He only that holds all the **deep places of the earth** in His hands. He only is Creator and Owner of all the **hills** and the **seas**. He only is the one who called forth the **dry land** and it obeyed and came into immediate formation.

Take a true inventory of the grandeur of God. Reflect on His magnificence as the psalmist did. Exalt Him above all others for He is the only one worthy. He only is our **Maker**. He only is our **God** and **we are the people of his pasture**.

Make a joyful noise and lift Him above all the false. Make a joyful noise and cause His praises to fill the atmosphere. Make a joyful noise and daily let His worship proceed from your lips!

Activities

- **Journal Pages** can be used to write your own **Psalm of Praise** to God. Or, use blank journal pages to highlight your own lesson points.
- Younger students can write words from one of their favorite praise songs to God on the **Draw the Scene** activity page found on site.
- Younger students can make a “**Microphone Craft**” or “**Printable Microphone**”. Both activities can be found on site.
- Younger students can also put together one of the “**Make a Joyful Noise**” musical instruments found on site.
- Alternate activity sheets such as **Word Search, Crosswords, etc.** are available for those who just want to work printed materials. Just visit the site to print them out.

Review

- Commit to memory the base verse from the lesson: “***Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.***” Psalm 95:2
- Fill out the review sheet provided (page 12)

Life

Allow space and time for spontaneous praise breaks throughout this coming week. When you feel His Spirit moving you worship, don't hold back. Let Him have His way!

Also, allow for extra time of reflection on God's greatness and jot those things down as gentle reminders to honor God for who He is and all His glory no matter what challenges we may face.

TOPIC:

“Make a Joyful Noise”

Psalm 95:1-7

VERSE DISCOVERY: Psalm 95:1-7 (KJV, Public Domain)

Once, I had the privilege to attend a Christian concert. Oh, what a blessing and a joy for me to experience some of my favorite performers live in worship. It was a really awesome time.

Good, Christian music can have that effect on you. It may not change your situation, but it can change the atmosphere and how you feel about a situation. Christian music draws you in a realm of worship that can't be experienced anywhere else.

*Apparently, scrolling through my site I found that I have written quite of few things that involve singing, but one of my all times favorites that I have written is simply titled: “**Sing!**” and it goes like this:*

“And I saw as it were . . . them that had gotten the victory . . . and they sing the song,” Revelation 15:2-3, KJV

Songs. Movements of the heart and soul. I don't know how they come about. Do they start with words that won't let the mind rest until the lyrics are expressed? Or, is it a tune, a melodious humming in one's being that beckons to become more?

Songs come and go at any time and there's one for every occasion. Most great songs come from one's life experiences. Whether in good times or bad, happy or sad, the man inside calls for a tune to join the ceremony.

Songs express joy and times of rejoicing. A good song motivates one when it's hard to push forward in life and lifts one out of times of sadness. We see the power of this type of inspiring music in 1 Samuel 16:23, when David played the harp before Saul and the evil spirit left him.

NOTES:

Music is no doubt powerful. The most precious and heart-felt songs come after times of hardship and struggles. When we have gone through the wringer of life, made it to the other side, and have squeezed out a heart that expresses gratefulness to God. Music that tells the world that yes, it was hard, but I made it to the other side. After crossing the Red Sea did not Miriam put a tambourine in her hand and say, “Sing ye to the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously,” (Exodus 15:21, KJV)?

In the book of Revelation, we see songs of deliverance going up before God. They had overcome “the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having harps of God,” (Rev. 15:2, KJV). And, what did they do? “They sing!” (Rev. 15:3, KJV). Their praise cannot be constrained any longer. They have never felt freer then when they had overcome. That kind of joy starts to seep out every crevice of one’s being until it pours over in song, releasing praise to God!

Music and songs are wrought throughout the Bible. The psalmist exhorts us to “Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing,” (Ps. 100:1-2, KJV). When the Assyrians were prophesied to be destroyed, Isaiah 30:29 emphatically declares, “Ye shall have a song!” (KJV). When Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises, the earth quaked and prison doors were opened (Acts 16:25-26). After the Last Supper “they had sung a hymn,” (Mk. 14:26, KJV). James said, “Is any merry? let him sing psalms,” (Ja. 5:13, KJV).

Sing!

Sing!

Sing!

I don’t have the best voice, but I have a praise in my soul that I have to let out!

Sing!

NOTES:

I'm shy in front of other people, but I'm living to please an audience of one! It doesn't have to be in front of a crowd (yikes!). A praise can wring out of your spirit at any time and in any place.

Just, Sing!

Give your heart – your spirit – your soul permission to rejoice. God has been so good to us – so, Sing!

You are an overcomer also. “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us,” (Rom. 8:37, KJV).

So, SING!

Those in Revelations had every right to sing, and so do you. Just sing! He's worthy of it today!” (www.wordforlifesays.com).

The focus of that article was singing and rejoicing; worshiping Him because He is worthy; because He has done so much for you and me. In it, you find the same call as today's lesson to “Make a Joyful Noise!” coming from Psalm 95. If nobody else honors God, we the people of God should readily “Make a Joyful Noise!”

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

Psalm 95:1 “O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.”

“**O come**,” to me, rings out an open invitation for all to participate in the worship of God. “**Come**” is beckoning the hearer to come nearer; to approach God in the manner specified in today's lesson.

And, the manner specified is through song and “**a joyful noise**.” Yes, your prayers matter to God and your service also; but God is also attentive to your worship. A well-rounded Christian is active and alive and moving in all these areas.

Psalm 98 gives the same command to “**make a joyful noise**” and shows how that can be done through the voice and through instruments:

NOTES:

“Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

Sing unto the LORD with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm.

*With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the LORD, the King,”
(Psalm 98:4-6).*

Repeatedly in the Bible, we are commanded and shown that God alone is worthy of all our praise, honor, and glory. He deserves this and so much more. Praise and honor through song is something He expects from us and looks forward to. It’s like a love letter from us to Him. What an awesome perspective!

Now, I have written about the need to **“make a joyful noise”** enough in the introduction. Here, I want to focus on the word **“unto.”** **“Unto”** gives us direction to where this worship is to go.

There are many types of Psalms in the Bible. Some speak of confession and some of wisdom. Some tell history and some cry out against injustice. Some prophesy of the future Messiah and some, like today’s Psalm is considered a Royal Psalm. It is titled such because it declares the kingship of God. It is **“unto”** Him; it is **“unto”** the King, **“the LORD”** which we are commanded to **“make a joyful noise.”**

He is **“the rock of our salvation.”** **“Rock”** represents strength. It pictures one standing on a sure foundation that will not fail. I’m sure many are familiar with that old hymn that states: “On Christ, the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand,” (“My Hope is Built,” Edward Mote, 1834; Public Domain). 2 Samuel 22:32 asks, “For who is God, save the LORD? and who is a rock, save our God?” God is **“the rock of our salvation”** and He is worthy to be praised!

Psalm 95:2 “Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.”

“Come before his presence with thanksgiving” shows a grateful heart in action. One who knows not to take the goodness of the Lord for granted. One who dares not enter the place where He is or draws nigh unto Him without reverence for all that He has done for one in their life. Thanksgiving is not a holiday, it’s a lifestyle. It’s a life that knows apart from Him I can do

NOTES:

nothing (John 15:5); a life that recognizes their need and dependence upon this great Salvation and can't help but to say, "Thank You!"

In a previous article titled: ["What Ever Happened to Thank You?"](#) it was noted that *"There is a great danger in forgetting to be thankful, especially when it comes to recognizing the great work that God has done in our lives... When one fails to appreciate what is done for them they, of themselves, can begin to get prideful. Simply refusing to acknowledge that there was outside help to raise them out of a situation can make one think they have delivered themselves of their own accord and power. Being thankful means being grounded. It is recognizing that we don't have it all together as we think we do, and we need the assistance of another to help along the way."* (www.wordforlifesays.com)

When we enter His **"presence"** we are to do so with a grateful heart that doesn't take His goodness for granted. The article goes on to say, *"God is so gracious to us; let us not take Him for granted. We may slight our fellow man once in a while (which we also need to continually watch out for and learn to do better), but don't slight God. Give Him His due. Is it really that hard to simply stop during the busyness of our day and say, "Thank you?" Does it really cause us that much extra work to simply acknowledge what has been done for you and me with an attitude of gratitude?"* (www.wordforlifesays.com)

With that heart of gratitude, we are exhorted to once again **"make a joyful noise unto him with psalms."** Many know that **"psalms"** means songs. It shows us the real impact of God-honoring music during worship: He loves it!

FOR OUR GOD IS GREAT

Psalms 95:3 "For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods."

Deuteronomy 10:17 mightily declares, "For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward." God is the real thing! There are a lot of false and destructive forces that try to sway man away from the truth of God and His deity over all creation, but the fact of the matter is, He is the real deal. Everything begins and ends with Him. He is the authority over all. Therefore, He is the one worthy of praise.

NOTES:

Too many go through their day without ever considering the fact that hey, He is God, and He should be before all others. With that realization in hand, I want my life to reflect that great truth. I want every word, every action and every thought to magnify the greatness of who He is and all His glory. When I go about my day, I want people to see Him in me. Do I make mistakes? Oh, yeah! But I have a goal. I aspire to do better and to be better every day. God has been so good and wonderful to me, and I feel that as His child the least I can do is showing Him the honor due Him.

“Give unto the Lord, O ye mighty, give unto the Lord glory and strength. Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,” (Ps. 29:1-2). These two verses have been among favorites of mine for many years now. When you think of “giving to the Lord” one realizes just how futile our efforts can be because of His vast greatness. But, something that each of us can give is honor and praise because He is God!

Psalm 95:4-5 “In his hands are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land.”

Another of the Royal Psalms that really emphasizes the truth of this verse is Psalm 24 that opens declaring, “The earth is the LORD’s, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods,” (vss. 1-2). He “founded”, and He “established” along with the phrase from today’s lesson **“he made it: and his hands formed”** really expresses His all-powerful supreme rule over all creation. The word **“his”** showed here four times, along with the word **“he”** declares His ownership over all. He did it, not we. “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth,” (Genesis 1:1). Therefore, He should be praised and honored.

WE, HIS PEOPLE, WORSHIP HIM

Psalm 95:6-7 “O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker. For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand...”

Here, the psalmist reemphasizes the call to **“come, let us worship.”** Worshipping God is something that cannot be overemphasized. It’s something that we can’t exhaust. It’s

NOTES:

something that we better get used to because it will be happening all over heaven for all eternity.

To **“bow down”** and **“kneel”** shows honor to the one who receives this form of respect. We often see this in the realm of royalty and would aptly be applied here in a Royal Psalm to Him that is King above all the world and all kings of the world.

Oh, how quickly we tune in when we see royalty on display. Events revolving around those who belong to royal heritage gain our attention when we see their pageantry on display. As people come out in celebration and crowds gather around their televisions worldwide, we take a peek into the lives of those whom we know only afar off, and we watch their beautiful display of majesty on parade (at least on a human level). The celebrations are grand as the people cheer and look on with fascination.

The pageantry that God deserves is far greater **“for he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.”** We belong to Him and should want to celebrate Him in a manner that is higher than any earthly royalty could ever experience. He is the one who watches over our affairs. He is the one who comes to our rescue when we need help. He is the one who cares enough to let His only begotten Son die on the cross because of our mess-ups and mistakes. He did that for us all. Celebrate Him! “For God is my King of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth,” (Psalm 74:12). Celebrate Him! **“O come, let us worship!”**

“We are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.” God has often been identified as our Shepherd. Psalm 23:1 says, “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.” He is the only one who can care for His people as He does. God loves you and you belong to Him. He is in love with His flock and declares them as His. “And ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the LORD GOD,” (Ezekiel 34:31).

If you are not a member of His flock, I urge you to make that change today. Don’t let another opportunity go by without Him as your protector, your provider, your salvation and your Shepherd. There’s too much at stake. **“He is our God”** and He can be your God today as well. Turn to Him, give Him praise, and make a joyful noise before your God!

NOTES:

TOPIC:

“Make a Joyful Noise”

Psalm 95:1-7

Please Answer the Review Questions Below

1. **T or F.** We are encouraged to approach God’s presence any way we want. Psalm 95:2
2. “O come, let us _____ unto the LORD.” Psalm 95:1
A. Cry B. Pray C. Sing D. Speak
3. The lesson tells us, “**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving.**” Write something that you are most grateful for today.

4. Why do you think God is described as the “**Rock of our Salvation?**”

5. “We are the people of his pasture, and the _____ of his hand.” Psalm 95:7
A. Children B. Sons C. Kings D. Sheep
6. **T or F.** In God’s hands are the deep places of the earth. Psalm 95:4
7. The lesson reminds us of the greatness of God: “**For the LORD is a great God.**” How can we personally show Him the honor that is due Him daily?

