

Facilitator:

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Give a 5-minute review of Peppy's sermon

Facilitator:

Please don't feel you have to cover every question. They become increasingly deeper and more thoughtful toward the end. It may help to highlight questions you want to be sure to cover, depending on the dynamics of your group and the time available. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

CONNECT Group study questions for February 21 - Psalm 150 and Selected Scriptures

Title: Capturing a Vision of Praise

Read **Psalm 150—*Praise the Lord!***

Praise God in his sanctuary;

praise him in his mighty heavens!

Praise him for his mighty deeds;

praise him according to his excellent greatness!

Praise him with trumpet sound;

praise him with lute and harp!

Praise him with tambourine and dance;

praise him with strings and pipe!

Praise him with sounding cymbals;

praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord!

Question: To read Psalm 150, praising the Lord can be noisy. Yet various traditions and denominations express their praise from the solemn to the loudly emotional. Share with the group the ways you are accustomed to praise the Lord. In church. In public. In private devotions. In the shower? Alone in the car?

Question: Pastor Peppy played the Francis Chan video clip *The Awe Factor*. How did it make you feel? Important? Insignificant? What did it make you think about God?

Read or sing the George Beverly Shea classic, *The Wonder of it All*: If you can, find the music on You Tube and sing along.

There's the wonder of sunset at evening,
The wonder as sunrise I see;
But the wonder of wonders that thrills my soul
Is the wonder that God loves me.

Refrain

*O, the wonder of it all! The wonder of it all!
Just to think that God loves me.
O, the wonder of it all! The wonder of it all!
Just to think that God loves me.*

There's the wonder of springtime and harvest,
The sky, the stars, the sun;
But the wonder of wonders that thrills my soul
Is a wonder that has only begun.

Now offer praise to your creator and savior and exclaim:

How Great Thou Art!

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:

Refrain

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:

Refrain

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

Refrain

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Question: From the passages Pastor Peppy referenced, it leaves little doubt that God considers our sacrifice of praise to him of utmost importance. Why is that? Is it important to God? Why is it important to us?

Question: In Revelation 4:1 John describes a door in heaven—a portal to the universe we can't see. As John was invited in, he found himself in the throne room of God. Someone in the group read Revelation 4:1-11 with the group responding in unison where the text reads:

*"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!"*

and then

*"Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created."*

Hebrews 11:1-3 gives us a clue to the relationship of the visible world to the invisible. Read the text and discuss the implications of a world created by the word of God, and what we see made out of something not seen.

Close your Connect Group fellowship by reading or singing praise to God with the hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;

holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
who wert and art and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!