

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

“INVITATION: THE CALL TO WORSHIP”

For individual study or discussion

DATE: July 6, 2025

SPEAKER: Brian/Chad

SERIES: Summer in the Psalms

PASSAGE: Psalm 100

Family Dinner Table

Knowing God

“Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture” (Psalm 100:3)

True knowledge about God is not just an accumulation of facts (or being able to answer the Westminster Shorter Catechism question, “What is God?”). But rather, true knowledge stems from an interaction that happens through relationship. In her book *A Little Manual for Knowing*, professor and philosopher Esther Lightcap Meek explains how knowing God is an embodied, holistic understanding that is shaped by an interpersonal, covenantal relationship: “The goal of knowing is communion. This is an ongoing, dynamic, joyous, fruitful friendship—not a one-sided power domination. Communion contrasts to power in affording a lively, joyous, fruitful peace.”⁴ Being in covenant relationship with God guarantees his favor in this life and the life to come because “his steadfast love endures forever” (v. 5).

- Reflect on knowing God. How does the reality of God initiating and entering into a relationship with you bring further insight?

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

PCA Unity Fund, denominational ministry partner

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Robbie & Lydia Sweet, supported missionary partners

Besides being a rich treasure trove of prayer, praise, wisdom, and lament, the book of Psalms serves as the hymnbook for the people of God. And Psalm 100 is the only psalm uniquely titled, “A Psalm of Praise.” As a hymn of praise and thanksgiving, Psalm 100 begins by inviting “all the earth” to worship the Lord with joyful song, and it ends by guiding God’s people in the art and heart of worship.

A Joyful Invitation to Worship and Thanksgiving (vv. 1–2, 4)

Psalm 100 opens with an invitation to worship and thanksgiving, “make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!” The earth is called to celebrate with fanfare fit for a king. And the psalmist further invites the congregation to worship the King with service (v. 2). Theologian Derek Kidner explains, “In Hebrew as in English, service is indivisible; it is a word which leaves no gap or choice between worship and work... ‘Serve the Lord,’ is paralleled by ‘Come into his presence,’ which is a reminder that an act of worship is well named a ‘service.’ It is the first response we owe him—and not, in either sense of the word, the last.”¹

- According to verses 1–2, what are three ways to give thanks to God?
- Read Philippians 4:4, 12–13. In what kind of circumstances are we to give thanks?
- The word “serve” in verse 2 is the Hebrew word, “abad.” In Scripture, “abad” can be translated as “worship” as well as “serve.” How does serving God imply worshipping him as well? (cf. Deuteronomy 10:20–21 and Matthew 4:10)
- The OT covenant privilege of entering into the temple is astonishingly offered to “all the earth.” Read Revelation 7:9–17. Describe “the great multitude.” What enables them to “come into his presence with singing?”
- Read Isaiah 56:7b–8. How does Isaiah’s prophecy “for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples” find its fulfillment in the NT? (See also Mark 11:17 and Matthew 28:18–20.)

A Glorious Foundation for Worship and Thanksgiving (vv. 3, 5)

The glorious foundation for our worship and thanksgiving begins by knowing God. Psalm 100 explores knowing God through relationship, “We are his people and the sheep of his pasture” (v. 3). Like a good shepherd, God knows his sheep and his sheep know him (John 10:14). It is God’s love that initiates our knowing him and being in relationship with him: “We love, because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19). According to philosopher Esther Lightcap Meek, “The ultimate question is not ‘Do or can I know God?’ It is ‘Does he know me?’ In seeking to know God, you are no longer the one in pursuit. You are the pursued.”²

- Read John 10:1–18. How does “we are his people and the sheep of his pasture” find its full meaning in the NT? (cf. 1 Peter 5:4 and Heb. 13:20)
- Verse 3 states we should know that the LORD is God. Dr. James Montgomery Boice explains, “We cannot rightly thank or worship a God who is unknown to us.”³ Read Acts 17:23. How does Paul highlight this truth in his speech at the Areopagus?
- What attributes of God does the psalmist mention as reasons to thank God? How can you “enter his gates with thanksgiving” this week? Where have you seen God’s goodness, love, and faithfulness in your life?

¹ Kidner, Derek. *Psalms, Volume 2*. 1973. Downers Grove, IL. IVP. 389

² Meek, Esther Lightcap. *Longing to Know: The philosophy of Knowledge for Ordinary People*. 2003, Grand Rapids, MI. Brazos Press. 196

³ Boice, James Montgomery. *Psalms: Volume 2*. 1996, Grand Rapids, MI. Baker Books. 812

⁴ Meek, Esther Lightcap. *A Little Manual for Knowing*. 2014. Eugene, OR. Cascade Books. 93