



25 Days of Praise

Week Two

PRAISE GOD FOR *little children*

"LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME, AND DO NOT
HINDER THEM, FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD
BELONGS TO SUCH AS THESE."

MARK 10:14 NIV

25 Days of Praise | Day 07
Praise God for Little Children
Cindy Wilkins

Children will tell you exactly what they think. As a teacher, I learned to be prepared for their daily honest, unfiltered observations about the world around them. Let's just say, that those young minds often "took me to school" and I've no doubt that in 32 years, I learned more from them than I ever taught!

Recently, I was schooled again; this time as I read a bedtime story to my grandson. The book we were sharing was written as a series of intriguing questions. Nearing the end, we came to one that asked something like: "How does tomorrow know to become today?" Without a moment's hesitation, my preschool-aged grand looked at me and answered, "God". I waited but he didn't explain further or try to prove it to me. For him, that one word was enough.

You and I know that life is challenging and it often leaves us full of not-so-intriguing questions. Unfortunately, we can become easily consumed with words as we find ourselves full of worried thoughts, in the midst of heated debate, or seeking the opinions of others all in an attempt to hold onto some sense of control and find the answers we want.

"When Jesus saw what was happening, he was angry with his disciples. He said to them, 'Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.'" Mark 10:14-15 (NLT)

Jesus was teaching the disciples, and us, that we don't need to solve every problem, understand all our circumstances or control each situation. Instead, with child-like faith and without hesitation we need to seek and run to the welcoming arms of the Only Answer.

Let's join together today in praise to God for the little children in our lives. They are the ones that remind us to trust Him; He who makes our tomorrows become today. God. The One Word, Who is enough for us all!

"In the beginning the Word already existed.
The Word was with God, and the Word was God."
John 1:1 (NLT)



Cindy is a "MiMi", Mother, Wife, and a Retired Teacher. She's also a left-handed, curly-haired, perfectionist-extraordinaire who loves to tell stories. You can read more of this kinda wacky, woman of God's writings at www.myseaofthought.com



PRAISE GOD FOR *His Comfort*

"ALL PRAISE TO GOD, THE FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.
GOD IS OUR MERCIFUL FATHER AND
THE SOURCE OF ALL COMFORT."
2 CORINTHIANS 1:3 NLT

25 Days of Praise | Day 08
Praise God for His Comfort
Jodie Barrett

Christmastime is a time when many give gifts to one another. In my book *Jingle and Joy, Praying Beneath the Tree*, I wrote about giving the gift of comfort to another. God graciously gives His children comfort so that we may be equipped to help others in their time of need.

2 Corinthians 1:3 calls God the source of all comfort and continues in verse 4 saying, "He comforts us in our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us."

Praise God for His comfort. With His comfort we can "patiently endure" our suffering (2 Cor.1:6) and help others do the same.

His gifts spill over to others, equip us to love like him, and never spoil or fade.

Christmastime is also a time when many are searching for hope and cheer, while simultaneously grief and depression builds momentum. Those who do not know the source of all comfort, need to hear our praise. As we rejoice over God for who He is and the many blessings He offers, we bring light into darkness.

His Light overcomes doubts and fears bringing comfort to hurting hearts.



No matter our circumstances, God is present and ready to comfort us.
Rejoice! His comfort is different from anything temporary the world offers.

Today, lift your voice in praise to the God of all comfort.



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PSALM 94:19

**When doubts filled my
mind, your comfort gave**

me renewed hope and cheer.

PRAISE GOD FOR *His wisdom*

"IF ANY OF YOU LACKS WISDOM, YOU SHOULD
ASK GOD, WHO GIVES GENEROUSLY TO ALL
WITHOUT FINDING FAULT, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU."
JAMES 1:5 NIV

25 Days of Praise | Day 09
Praise God for His Wisdom
Jodie Barrett

Jeremiah 51 contains a hymn of praise to the Lord that begins by recognizing God's power and wisdom in verse 15 and ends with praising Him for being the Creator of everything in verse 19. Verse 15 reads, "The Lord made the earth by His power, and he preserves it by his wisdom." (NLT). The prophet continues in verse 17 by comparing our Creator's wisdom and abilities with that of the "whole human race." The message is clear—God is wise, and we are foolish. Ouch.

Thankfully, the Lord loves us and offers His wisdom to help us navigate the ups and downs of this life.

I have a dear friend who listens well, prays for others, and offers sound counsel. Often, I find myself referring to her as my "wise friend." If she were to only offer her own opinions and advice, I could not give her this title. But her trust and fear of the Lord, and her practice of consulting His word make her wise. God is her source of wisdom.

He can be ours also.



James 1:5 reads, "if you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking." You see, it hurt my feelings to read in Jeremiah that "the whole human race is foolish and has no knowledge" (Jer. 51:7). No one desires to be a fool and with God, we don't have to be. God generously

offers His wisdom and unlike the teacher you may have experienced in High School, He does so without rebuking you for asking. His wisdom far exceeds that of our own or that of the world.

God, all-knowing, has the benefit of seeing the whole picture, and He knows what and when we need something. He waits today, with a listening ear, ready to respond to all our questions with wisdom and knowledge.

Rejoice! Be glad! Give thanks! The wisdom of the Lord "will enter your heart, and knowledge will fill you with joy." (Proverbs 2:11)

Let's come to Him today, praising Him for His valuable wisdom.



In him we have redemption through his blood,
the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with
the riches of God's grace
that he lavished on us

With all wisdom & understanding,

he made known to us the mystery of his will
according to his good pleasure,
which he purposed in Christ,
to be put into effect
when the times reach
their fulfillment--to bring unity
to all things in heaven
and on earth under Christ.

Ephesians 1:7-10 NIV



PRAISE GOD FOR HIS *Son's Sacrifice*

"AND BEING FOUND IN THE APPEARANCE AS A MAN,
HE HUMBLLED HIMSELF BY BECOMING OBEDIENT TO DEATH
--EVEN DEATH ON A CROSS!"

PHILIPPIANS 2:8 NIV

25 Days of Praise | Day 10

Praise God for His Son's Sacrifice

Jodie Barrett

It was a normal drive home. Like any other day after work, I turned onto the main road running through town, keeping a check on my speed to keep it under 25, the radio was on, and my voice was lifted. Then it hit me, and when it did, the tears could not be contained.

"He humbled himself and carried the cross...love so amazing."

Yes, He did. And yet, I let so many days slip by without remembering His sacrifice. Selfishness, busyness, pride, and even disinterest, cloud my thoughts, and silence my praise. But on this day, on this drive home, I was aware. I was aware and grateful for the sacrifice my Savior made for me.

"He became sin, who knew no sin...love so amazing." As my face grew wet, my voice lifted and becoming an offering.

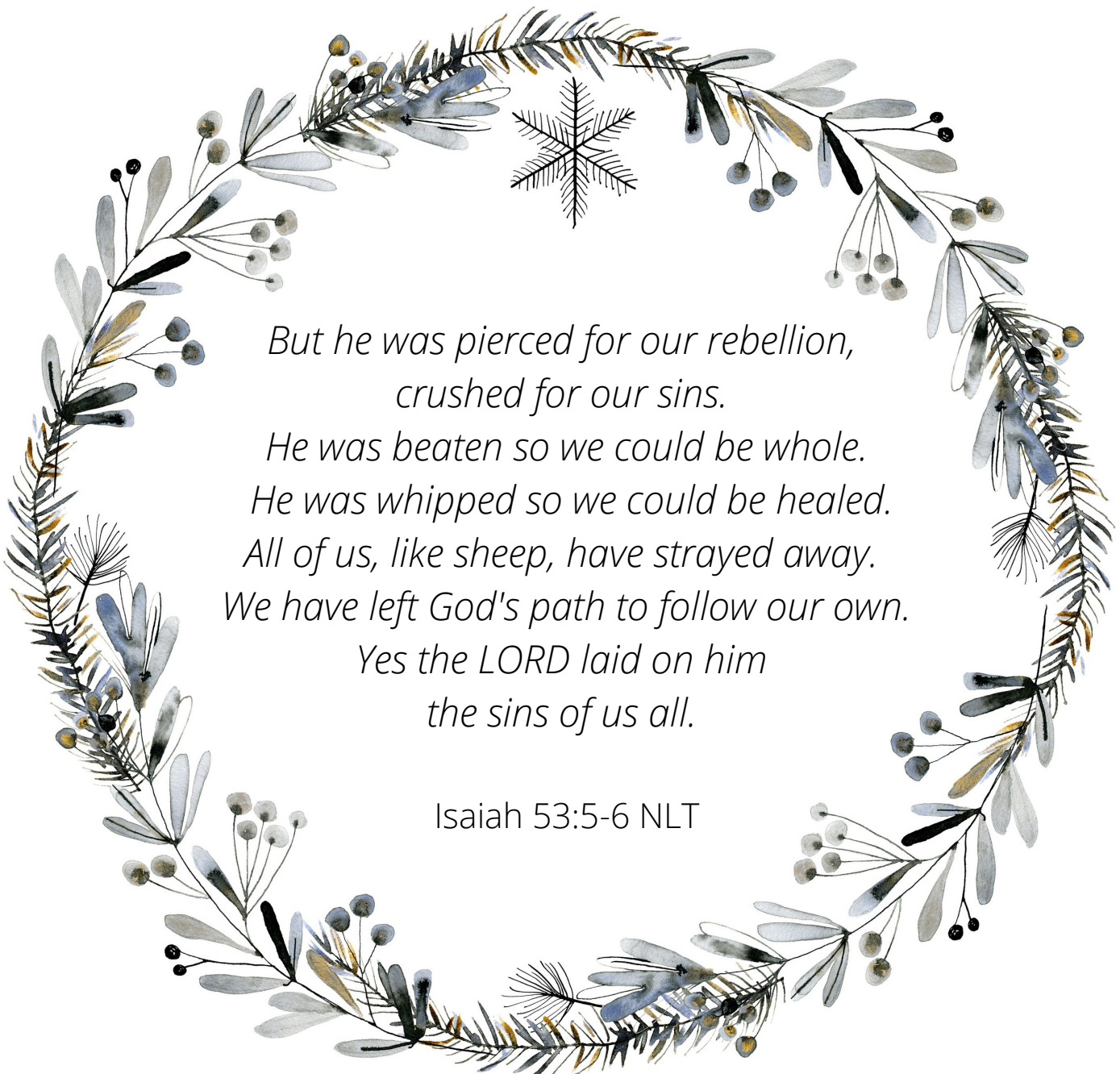
When we lift our voices to the King, our breath becomes an offering.

In that moment, everything Jesus did in my place was recognized and acknowledged with an offering of thanksgiving lifted to the heavens. The words of Isaiah 53:5 flooded my heart and reminded me that Jesus was pierced for our transgressions. Mine, yours, everyone's. He was pierced for our rebellion and His sacrifice covered all our sins; past, present, and future. Love so amazing.

Jesus' sacrifice opened the door for rebels to become righteous.

Bearing all our sins on His shoulders, "he exposed himself to death" (Isaiah 53:12 NLT). Let us rejoice and lift our voices collectively to give praise and honor to God's one and only Son. Offer your breath to God for sending His Son as a sacrifice for our sins.

Read Isaiah 53. Insert the name of
Jesus when you read the pronoun, he.



*But he was pierced for our rebellion,
crushed for our sins.
He was beaten so we could be whole.
He was whipped so we could be healed.
All of us, like sheep, have strayed away.
We have left God's path to follow our own.
Yes the LORD laid on him
the sins of us all.*

Isaiah 53:5-6 NLT

PRAISE GOD FOR HIS *ultimate healing*

"HE FORGIVES ALL MY SINS AND HEALS
ALL MY DISEASES."
PSALM 103:3 NLT

25 Days of Praise | Day 11
Praise God for His Ultimate Healing
Stephanie K. Adams

God is a God who heals. There are many ways we experience God's healing in our lives, but the one we think of most often is physical healing when we are sick. While God certainly heals our illnesses—from colds to cancer—He is also a God who heals our minds, emotions, finances, and relationships.

As someone who has experienced God's healing through breast cancer, depression, financial hardship, and through difficult relationships, it never ceases to amaze me how graciously willing He is to restore because of His deep love and compassion for us. No matter what circumstances you are facing, God can and does heal. It is in His very nature.

God Himself says, "...for I am the Lord, who heals you." Exodus 15:26 NIV
Although God desires to bring healing to our circumstances while we are here on Earth, He cares more about restoring our eternal relationship with Him. He never intended us to be separated from Him, but once sin entered the world in the garden of Eden, He immediately had a plan for reconciliation that would bring forgiveness of our sins, healing to our spirit, and give us eternal life. While we will face all kinds of pain, grief, and heartache on this side of Heaven, our ultimate healing will come when we stand face-to-face with Jesus.

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." Revelation 21:4 NIV
And that is worthy of praise.



Today, take a few moments and thank Him for all the ways He has brought healing into the hard places of your life, then lift up a praise for His ultimate healing of eternal life through Jesus.

Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits

— who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion”

Psalms 103:2-4 NIV



Stephanie K. Adams is a writer and founder of Real Women Ministries, where she helps women study God's Word so they can find encouragement in the midst of real life.

She is the author of *In the Shadow of the Cross: Following Jesus Through His Last Days* and contributing author to *Bearing Fruit: Living Rooted in Christ*.

To join an online community where women gather to grow in relationship with each other and God through encouragement & accountability through studying the Bible and prayer, visit RealWomenMinistries.org or connect with Stephanie on Facebook & Instagram: @RealWomenMinistries



PRAISE GOD FOR HIS *authenticity*

"GOD SAID TO MOSES, "I AM WHO I AM.
THIS IS WHAT YOU ARE TO SAY TO THE ISRAELITES:
'I AM HAS SENT ME TO YOU.'
EXODUS 3:14 NIV

25 Days of Praise | Day 12
Praise God for His Authenticity
Cindy Krall



Authentic is defined as being genuine, real, representing one's true self. We could praise God for many things, but at the top of my list is His authenticity.

We don't have to spend much time in Scripture to appreciate God's willingness to be genuine and real. Here are just a few examples of how vulnerable God made himself with His beloved Israel:

"I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, how you followed me in the wilderness, in a land not sown. Israel was holy to the Lord, the firstfruits of his harvest." Jeremiah 2: 2-3 ESV

"What wrong did your fathers find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthlessness, and became worthless?" Jeremiah 2:5 ESV

"Can a virgin forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? Yet my people have forgotten me days without number." Jeremiah 2:32 ESV

There are many examples in Scripture in which God communicates the sorrow and the pain He feels both for His people and from His people when they reject Him.

When I read how raw and real God was in His relationships, I can't help but think about David, the person that Scripture describes as "a man after God's own heart."

When we read the Psalms, we can see the authenticity in his relationship with God.

God's demonstration of realness in His relationship to His children, coupled with David's consistent display of his true self in the Psalms, has helped me in my own relationship with God.

I can be tempted to think, "I shouldn't say that to God." And yet look at David! The Psalms brim with his audacity. So many demands. So many directives. Utterances of outright anger. So. Very. Real. And yet, we'd miss a bigger picture if we didn't take note of two other things that are on full display in the book of Psalms.

Despite whatever complaint, grievance, or sorrow David shared with God, he nearly always ended with praise.

He also demonstrated a humility of heart. David understood his place in the conversation.

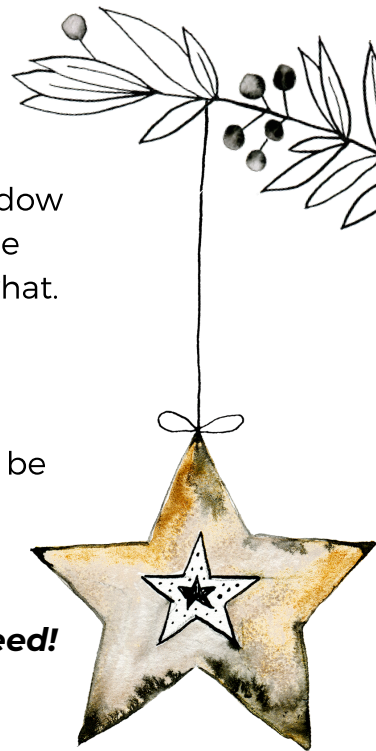
Maybe David's prayers were less about being bossy and more about being intimate. Think about it. How many times in our own relationships do we issue directives?

Hand me the salt. Grab the clothes from the cleaners when you're in town. Don't talk to me that way... it hurts my feelings when you do. Come get me; I have a flat tire.

The directives aren't necessarily a reflection of a bossy ingrate. They're a window into a relationship. One in which each party knows they are safe. They can be who they are. They know the other party will be there for them no matter what. Based on that kind of faithfulness, blunt conversations can happen.

I praise God that He is the One who first modeled authenticity to us. His example and that of David's encourages us in our own authenticity. We can be real with God. We can be our true selves. I have a feeling that's why David ended His psalms in praise.

God's authentic nature and His call for us to be genuine are a gift indeed!



PRAISE GOD FOR *Good News*

"BUT THE ANGEL SAID TO THEM,
"DO NOT BE AFRIAD. I BRING YOU GOOD NEWS THAT WILL
CAUSE GREAT JOY FOR ALL THE PEOPLE."
LUKE 2:10

25 Days of Praise | Day 13
Praise God for Good News
Donna Fender

Congratulations, it's a healthy baby boy/girl...Good News!

Whoo-hoo, you will be considered a college senior in January.... Good News!

I now pronounce you husband and wife....Good News!

We lost 3 good, good men today. The good news is that these good, good men knew the good, good Father and for that we can rejoice... Good News!

Wait..... what? Good news?

"But the angel said to them, Do not be afraid. I bring you Good News that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:10-11

Yes, the best news ever!

Let the sorrow, the stress, the fear and whatever else that has stripped you of your faith fade away and listen to the angel's proclaim the Good News. Open your eyes and see the gift that was given for you. Joy... behold a baby boy! Good News!

"But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone." Hebrews 2:9

Yes, the best news ever! Let the sorrow, the stress, the fear and whatever



else that has stripped you of your faith fade away and bow your head on bended knee to see the Child grown up to bear the cross and pledge His life for you. Joy... behold Christ, a baby boy! Good News!

Good news! Good news!
I meet you with good news!

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
Matthew 28:19-20

Lord, we rejoice in the good news of Jesus. Lord, thank you that even when it's bad news, that when we are in Your presence it can be good news. Lord, help us to go and share the good news! Amen.



Donna is a wife to Justin and mother to 3 growing children, Cailee, Austin, and Sara. She works full time in Roanoke Rapids, NC as a physical therapist, singing to anyone who will listen, including her patients. Donna is known for her ability to bring laughter and joy to a room with her thoughtful stories and beautiful voice. Her gift of sharing God's love through song leaves women resting at the foot of the cross as they grow closer to Jesus, note by note. When she is not singing you can catch her leading bible study within her home and local community. Learn more about Donna at faithfullyfollowingministries.org





Lord, I praise you...