

Day 35: **Wade In** – Psalm 150:1, **Jump In** – Psalm 150, **Dive In** – Psalm 150

Praise the Lord. First, the psalmist asks us to praise God because he is powerful and great. Second, the psalmist asks us to use all that we have to praise Him. He lists musical instruments and our breath. So, clap, play the drums, dance, sing! I especially appreciate that the psalmist never asks us to keep correct time, stay on the correct pitch, stick to the melody, or remember all the words. We are just to praise God. This is a good thing because I am a really terrible singer, I can't play an instrument, and really, I am not graceful. This psalm tells me I'm to join in the choir whether I'm good at it or not. The point is not the perfection of the praise, the point is the praise. Praise ye the Lord.

Diane Dyk

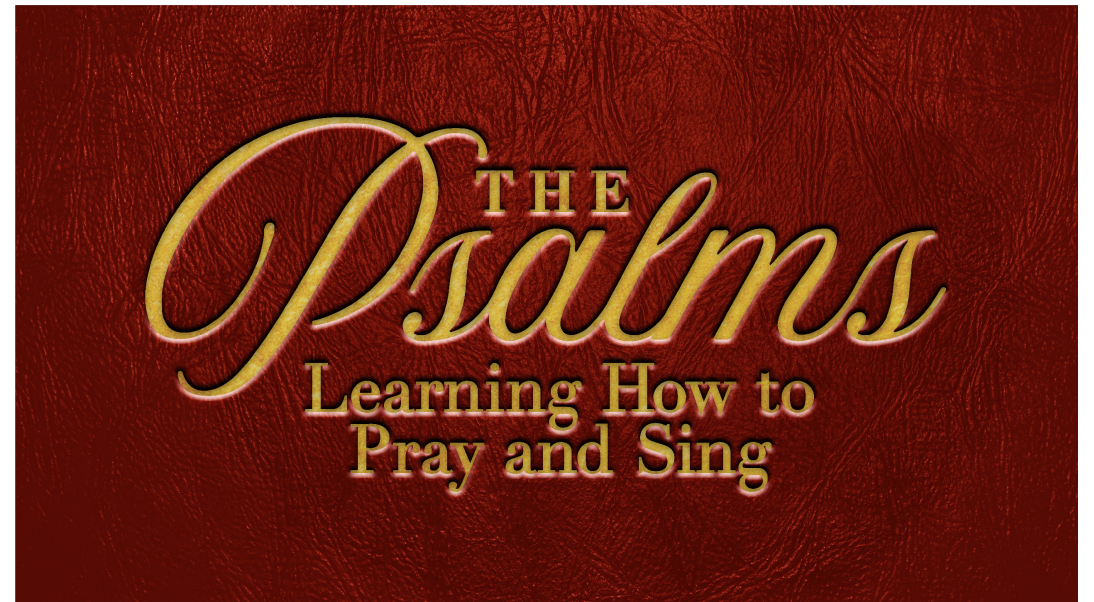
Many thanks to our writers who made this devotional possible and to our proofreader, Breanna Brothers.

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If you are interested in being a part of the team, please contact amanda@legacyumc.org.

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Week 7 Devotional - When the Song Ends

Praise the Lord, Oh my soul.

Praise Him with songs of joy and thanksgiving.

Praise the Lord who holds our right hand and walks with us in our sorrow and joy.

Lord, we thank you for the beautiful Psalms of Praise! They guide us each day to give You honor in all things. Thank you for giving us Your peace as You lead us to our heavenly home. Praise the Lord! Amen.

Rita Lepp

Wade In - If you are unfamiliar with the Bible, new to following Jesus or just want to renew your faith, wade into the shallow end with the Bible by reading one or two verses.

Jump In - If you're growing in your faith and getting to know God better through your daily Bible reading plan but you know you still have a lot to learn and experience in God's Word, then jump in with a short passage of the Bible.

Dive In - If you've ready to get in the deep end of the pool, join us in reading longer sections of Scripture.

Day 31: **Wade In** – Psalm 146:1-2, **Jump In** – Psalm 146, **Dive In** – Psalm 146

I love fireworks! The lights and movement, the stories they can tell, the smell of smoke drifting through the cool night sky, reflections of light off of the lake or the faces of my kids, sticky with s'mores. This year we had the opportunity to celebrate the 4th of July and enjoy what ultimately became a 360-degree fireworks display at a family lake cabin. Just as what was left of the day's bright, bright sun gave way to dusk and darkness, it began. One big, beautiful firework shot straight up into the sky and exploded with color and sound. Then one by one, families and communities all around the lake chimed in. Each unique firework bringing something unexpected to the show. Upon ignition, some whirled into blazing rocket-like spirals, others floated toward the ground in a twinkling glitter shower, while still others filled the horizon as dazzling, colorful waterfalls.

Each display in and of themselves was fantastic. It didn't really matter that some were much smaller than the others, or that the home which started the whole show ran for the entire duration. What they had created together was so much more powerful than any one show. My favorite part of any fireworks celebration is the climactic ending. Firework displays usually build, saving the best for last and this lake community did not disappoint!

Psalm 146 is the beginning of the section of the book which are known as the Hallelujah Psalms. Each of the last five chapters begin and end with an exclamatory "Praise the Lord" or the Hebrew form, "Hallelujah!" The entire book of Psalms carries a theme of praise, but these final chapters are saturated with it. Their entire purpose is to be a climactic ending of this book of praise. As you read Psalm 146 again, use all of your senses and jot down words that the Psalmist uses to describe the greatness of our God.

Amanda Rue

Day 32: **Wade In** – Psalm 147:1, **Jump In** – Psalm 147:1-11, **Dive In** – Psalm 147

Psalm 147 Begins and ends with the phrase Praise the Lord and lists several reasons to lift up our praise. I read a devotion a while ago about what Christians can learn from cheerleaders. They cheer from the start to the end of every game regardless of the team's talent or standings. They know that their one and only job is to cheer, encourage, and support their team. As Christians we should set our purpose in life to praise the Lord, to glorify God, celebrate his forgiveness and enjoy his love forever.

Verses 10-11 remind us, "His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of the man. The Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love."

What will your praise song sound like?

Lori Campbell

Day 33: **Wade In** – Psalm 148:5, **Jump In** – Psalm 148:1-6, **Dive In** – Psalm 148

Praise the Lord. The psalmist speaks to all of God's creation – angels, nature, all creatures of the earth, sea, and sky, and man. The fabulous colors of the sunset praise God. The miracle of a rainbow praises God. A patch of sunshine in the cool grass praises God. Whales breaching – leaping above the water, praise God. Thunder and lightning praise God. Song birds, a roaring lion, a barking dog, the splash of a fish in a lake, a breeze rustling the tall grass, a voice raised in song, all praise the name of the Lord.

None of us and nothing in nature is exempted from praising God. As I read this psalm, and think about its meaning, I think we are also to listen to the praises around us, appreciate them, and then join in the song. Praise ye the Lord.

Diane Dyk

Day 34: **Wade In** – Psalm 149:4, **Jump In** – Psalm 149, **Dive In** – Psalm 149

Ah, humility, my old friend. You've come knocking on my psyche yet again, I see. Telling me I'm letting pride get in my way yet again. I'd offer you something to drink, but I know you'll refuse. Instead, you'll sit on my medulla oblongata, poke my cerebral cortex, and a bit too gleefully point out all the times I let pride get the best of me. I want to ignore you, but you're far too annoying, and all that poking is the worst kind of distraction. You certainly know how to get my attention, don't you? I joke, but why does the Bible stress humility over pride, calling the former a virtue and the other a sin?

The first sin started with a seed of pride when the serpent tempted Eve with: "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God" (Genesis 3:5, ESV). Other consequences of pride unchecked is we soon believe we no longer need to learn and grow, and we certainly can't abide any correction. When we become proud, we also start believing that we are in charge of our own destiny—perhaps even our own salvation. As such, we no longer have room for God in our lives. We become our own god.

While the above seems extreme, a lesser extreme example is thinking we can earn our salvation. Doing so makes salvation less about God than about us. We become "me focused" instead of "God focused." So, if I want God to grace me with salvation, I must embrace my friend, humility. That humility will quit poking my brain afterward is merely an added benefit.

Andra Marquardt