**1. Motivate**

What song often gets stuck playing over and over in your head?

* “It’s a Small World After All” (when you ride that attraction at Disney World)
* your school’s fight song
* certain Christmas carols
* hymns that I sing to myself (in my head) as I’m going to sleep
* the song you just heard this morning on the radio
* music that I’ve just been practicing on my instrument
* the piano piece your kids have been practicing over and over and over again

**2. Transition**

The Psalms were used in worship by Old Testament believers as songs of praise.

* David authored many of them, moved by the majesty and glory of God
* Today we consider the truth that God is majestic and exalted by everything He does.

A video introduction to the Bible Study is available. View it at <https://tinyurl.com/yt37vh6a> If you don’t have wi-fi where you teach, it is best to download the video to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/u2kxjm4z>

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 God’s Love and Truth

Listen for what happens when you pray.

Psalm 138:1-3 (NIV) I will praise you, O LORD, with all my heart; before the "gods" I will sing your praise. 2 I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word. 3 When I called, you answered me; you made me bold and stouthearted.

What are some words and phrases which describe David’s worship?

* praise with his whole heart
* singing praise
* bowing down
* praise God’s name

What were some of the things which motivated David’s worship?

* God’s love
* God’s faithfulness
* God’s exalted name and word
* when David called, God answered
* God made him bold and stouthearted

What do you think David meant when he said he praised the Lord “before the ‘gods’ ”?

* we might say, “in their face”
* to people who worshiped other deities
* before people of other cultures
* people who worshiped physical objects (which they, themselves, had crafted)

In what *circumstances* today might we choose to worship the Lord before other "gods"?

* give thanks to God for successes, spiritual victories won
* declare your trust in God, even though tragedy has struck
* take the opportunity to pray with someone who is struggling with some problem … don’t just tell them you will, stop right there, even in public and pray with them
* letters to the editor expressing your faith in God’s power, authority, and love – in the context of an ongoing current event
* prayer before a meal in a public restaurant
* asking your server in a restaurant if they have a prayer request as you pray before your meal

In what ways could we follow David’s example in praising God?

* our singing
* our testimony, what we say about God
* how we can meditate seriously about the attitude we have towards God
* our attitude before we worship or enter a time of Bible study or a prayer time
* remember Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting (Tabernacle) because of the presence of God’s *glory* … it had *filled* the tent … somehow it was too much for Moses (light? sound? spiritual presence that was tangible in some way)
* contrast that with how we enter a church service … joking, talking, even trying to make business connections

Verse 2 in the KJV reads, *I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.* What do the words “lovingkindness” and “truth” mean in relationship to God?

* God is faithful in His love for us
* He demonstrates it to us daily
* God is true to His word, His promises
* God does what He says He will do
* we can depend on Him
* we can depend on demonstrations of His kindness and provision

How has God displayed love and truth in your life recently?

* answers to prayer
* protection
* meet daily needs, daily “bread”
* physical healing, recovery
* helped the kids, grandkids in school, with their relationships

3.2 God’s Promises

Listen for responses to God’s promises.

Psalm 138:4-5 (NIV) May all the kings of the earth praise you, O LORD, when they hear the words of your mouth. 5 May they sing of the ways of the LORD, for the glory of the LORD is great.

Whom did David want to join him in praise to God? To whom would that apply today?

* all the kings of the earth
* today it would be all the presidents
* all the prime ministers
* all the dictators
* all the business tycoons
* all the political leaders

What might influence the kings or peoples of the earth to praise the Lord?

* we as believers living lives that glorify and praise the Lord
* God demonstrates His power, authority, and love
* John 13:35 (NIV) *By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*  … when we demonstrate God’s love to them
* when we take the Good News of the Gospel to them – we obey the Great Commission
* God uses the preaching of His Word to convict/convince people of their need for Him

What would it be like if “all the kings of the earth” praised the Lord and sang of God’s ways?

* peace
* integrity in government
* the gospel would be preached without official opposition
* would it be approaching a “theocracy”?
(a form of government in which God is recognized as the supreme civil ruler, God's laws being interpreted by the ecclesiastical authorities)
* someday this will happen … the 1000 year rule of Christ, then the New Heavens and New Earth … *forever*.

 Note the synonyms of “glory”.

* Magnificence
* Splendor
* Beauty
* Wonder
* Grandeur
* Brilliance

According to this passage, what things display God’s glory?

* what God says, God’s ways, what God does
* His creation
* His workings in our lives
* His workings in the life of the Church – local congregation, the Body of Christ around the world

3.3 God Cares for the Humble

Listen for a promise David claims.

Psalm 138:6-8 (NIV) Though the LORD is on high, he looks upon the lowly, but the proud he knows from afar. 7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes, with your right hand you save me. 8 The LORD will fulfill [his purpose] for me; your love, O LORD, endures forever-- do not abandon the works of your hands.

What testimonies are given to God’s faithfulness?

* God is of ultimate authority, yet He is interested in our lowly existence – as we trust and submit to Him
* He is not so high and mighty that He cannot/does not know our individual needs
* God reaches down to rescue, preserve
* God has a purpose for each person … He works to fulfill that purpose
* God’s love endures forever, no matter what we do, how we

How have you found God’s words and ways to be reliable?

* scripture gives assurance
* Bible passages hold Truth that convicts/convinces us of Who God is and what He is doing
* God’s promises can be depended on
* the Good News (Gospel) of salvation changes people’s lives

When has God protected you without your awareness at the time?

* God intervenes, changes your schedule to cause you to miss being in an accident
* when a parent intervened without your knowledge
* a mentor, boss, or supervisor who put in a good word for you outside your knowledge
* a teacher defended you when you were suspected of less than stellar work or behavior

What can you point to as evidence that God has not abandoned you?

* answers to prayer
* protection
* God’s sufficiency in all situations
* answers to prayer, before you even prayed

How has God answered some of your personal prayer requests throughout your life?

* healing
* provided a job the very next day after praying
* helped a teaching situation go well
* gave me a specific verse that spoke to a specific concern I had
* guided us to the right doctor
* given us wise counsel when we needed it
* provided needs, even without high paying jobs over the years

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Consider.

* Think about how God displays His majesty around you.
* Write down items that are important to you. Look for opportunities to share about these blessings with others.

Hear.

* Create a playlist of songs that lift up the majesty of God.
* Listen to this playlist throughout the week to draw your attention to God.

Worship.

* Get alone and have a time of praise for God’s majestic name.
* Get with your family and share a devotional focused on God’s majesty.
* Get with your church and join in worship of our God.

Double Puzzle

This is a mess. My decryption team has deserted me to go to a junior high winter retreat. The two parts of the message are from operatives in Treaimyan. We need you to unscramble the words on the left, then use the numbers to fill in the message form below. These words are **from your Bible study passage,** Ps 138 (NIV). When you have decoded the full message, pass it on to your church gardening club. Tech help and other fun Family Activities are available at <https://tinyurl.com/u2kxjm4z>