WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Connect Group Sermon Aligned Discussion Guide.

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Series Title: Don't Stop Praising
Key Scripture: Psalm 137:1-4
Recorded Sermon: www.woodvale.ca/pastservices/v/dont-stop-praising
Date + Speaker: Pastor Mark Scarr – February 1, 2026

Starter:
What's a small habit or practice that helps lift your spirits when you're down?

Discussion:

1. Read Psalm 137:1-4. What stands out to you in these verses? Do you understand the context?

   Read 2 Chronicles chapter 20:1-30. (Pastor Mark said this is probably the best Old Testament scripture on praise and spiritual warfare.)

2. Jehoshaphat was a king of Judah. What was his first action when he heard a "vast army" was coming against his country?
3. What stands out to you about Jehoshaphat's prayer in verses 5-12? If you took this prayer as a pattern, what elements would you include?
4. Verse 13 points out that all the people congregated together for the prayer. God's reply came through Jehaziel, who was in the crowd. What do you think would have happened if Jehoshaphat had prayed alone in secret instead of gathering the people?
5. What would it have felt like to be the men singing at the front as they "went out at the head of the army"?
6. Read Acts 16:16-31. What do you think you would have done in Paul and Silas' situation?
7. Have you experienced a change in your life when you have praised and worshipped God? Share an example.

8. Pastor Mark pointed out that we need to praise God so that others will be positively impacted. How can our praise change the culture and people around us?
9. Psalm 150 is about praising God. Read this Psalm together in closing.

Diving Deeper:
Memorize Psalm 68:4 this week.

Notes:

1. *Context: Due to increasing idolatry, God allowed the nation of Babylon to invade and take captive the Jewish people. In Babylon, they would have worshiped by a river to use the water in their ceremonial washings. But instead of worshiping, they wept in sorrow for all they had lost.*
2. *Context: When we read the Old Testament, we need to understand that the culture of that day approached war differently than we do today. See the additional resources for more study.*
3. *Possible elements:*
    a. ***Remember who God is***
    Acknowledge God's authority, character, faithfulness, and past promises.
    b. ***Name what's happening***
    Honestly lay out the situation and ask God to step in.
    c. ***Admit our need***
    Confess our dependence on God and our inability to handle it on our own.

Additional Resources:



Additional resources appealing to those concentrating on service, tasks, and activities.

On Sunday, we sang the song, "Praise," together at the end of the service. Join together in worship with this lyric video:
music.youtube.com/watch?v=r7gM7Y2nPi0

 Additional resources appealing to those groups with a more studious or intellectual bent.

Epic of Eden, by Sandra Richter, is a study that gives an overview of the Old Testament with a view to cultural understanding that deepens understanding of Scripture. You can find it in the Woodvale library!