

Psalms 66:1-20

International Bible Lesson Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further

Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The ***Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further*** below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the *International Bible Lesson Study Guide*, which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

1. How can making a joyful noise to God bring happiness to God and to you, even when you do not feel joyful? How can you become joyful when you do not feel joyful?

Making a joyful noise or shout to God brings God happiness because He loves to do what will make His children happy as their Heavenly Father. Our noises and shouts express our rightful appreciation and thanks to God for His many blessings to us. When we do not feel joyful because of less than happy circumstances and problems, by focusing on God and remembering to thank God for Who He is and for many of the things He has done for us through Jesus Christ, we will remember some of the reasons we have to praise God—which can bring some joy back into our lives. Reading some Psalms with the purpose of using them to praise God no matter how we feel can help us become more joyful. The Bible is full of reasons to pray, praise God, and live joyfully. We can also read one of the gospels in the Bible, and pause and thank Jesus for everything He has done and said as we read—thanking and praising Jesus as we read the Bible can bring us joy.

2. Think of some of the reasons and ways you praise others. How might you improve the ways you praise God?

Usually for their achievements, for doing the right thing, for overcoming some adversity. I can improve the ways I praise God by reflecting on and thanking and praising God for being Who God is; for God's achievements in my life, in the lives of others, and in the world; for always taking right and loving actions; for helping people overcome adversities (especially the adversity of sin and its results); for helping me and others receive God's forgiveness and eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ.

3. What does the psalmist say we should say to God?

How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you. All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name.

4. What are some of the awesome deeds that God has done that makes God worthy to receive our praise and the praise of all the earth?

He turned the sea into dry land and His people passed through the river on foot. He rules by his might forever. He keeps watch on the nations. He keeps our souls among the living and has not let our feet slip.

5. Why is it important for God to test His people?

So His people can see whether or not they are making spiritual progress toward becoming more conformed to the image of Christ.

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