

הלל

HALLEL PSALMS

Singing with Jesus at the Last Supper

STUDY GUIDE

S

Who is Like Our God?

Psalm 113

WELCOME & SHARING

Share any announcements, upcoming plans for your group, etc...

- **Ash Wednesday Worship, February 18th @ 7pm.** Ash Wednesday begins the 40 day season of Lent which is to be a season of reflection and preparation for the death and resurrection of Jesus. Childcare provided for ages 2 & under.
- **February Women's Sushi Night at Aroma!** Ladies, come and join us for a night out on Sunday, February 22, at 7 p.m. at Aroma in Kenwood Mall! All sushi is 1/2 off, and there are plenty of other options for those who aren't into sushi. Feel free to bring a friend – just be sure to RSVP on the City as soon as possible so we can know how many to expect! Hope to see you all there!
- **Baby Bottle Campaign** New City is again supporting Life Forward Pregnancy Care of Cincinnati in its annual baby bottle fundraiser. Take an empty bottle on Sunday, fill it with coins, cash, or checks and return the bottles by Sunday, March 1st. The funds collected go toward providing free pregnancy tests and life-affirming guidance to women in need.
- **The Man Who Ate New Orleans Film Screening & Theology Lab.** Ray Cannata (pastor of Redeemer New Orleans) is coming to Cincinnati. There are 2 great opportunities to learn from him: (1) We are screening the film *The man Who Ate New Orleans* (about Ray's attempt to eat at all 700 non-chain restaurants in New Orleans) at the 20th Century Theatre on Friday, February 27th at 7pm. Tickets are \$5 (plus service fee) online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1220237> Q&A will follow the film screening. (2) On Saturday, February 28th from 9-11am Ray will be facilitating a 2 part theology lab. Part 1 - Signs Amidst the Rubble: Church Planting in a Beautiful and Broken City. Part 2 - Gospel Neighboring. RSVP on the City.

Opener Question: What's your favorite or A favorite jam (aka. song) right now? Favorite of all time?

Intro: Throughout Lent, which begins Ash Wednesday, we are reading through and studying the Hallel Psalms, 113-118. Hallel means "praise", i.e. Hallelujah, which means "praise the Lord." Jesus himself would have prayed and sang these songs at the Last Supper/Passover/first Lord's Supper. We want to worship as Jesus worshipped!

STUDY/DISCUSSION

>>Read>> Psalm 113

1. What stands out to you from this passage on first read through? What is interesting? Encouraging? Challenging? Confusing?
2. In an introduction to the book of Psalms Bono wrote: “Words and music did for me what solid, even rigorous, religious argument could never do, they introduced me to God, not belief in God, more an experiential sense of GOD.” How does this psalm give you an experiential sense of God?
3. What are some of the metaphors the psalmist uses to describe life and faith?
4. This psalm describes the transcendence of the Lord (vv. 4-6), which says the Lord is “up there” but also his immanence, which says the Lord is “right here.” What are the dangers of emphasizing one or the other, not keeping the two ideas in healthy tension?
5. Throughout the Bible we see God’s special care for the poor. What promises does God make to the poor in this passage (vv.7-8)?
6. We might classify the 2 kinds of poor as the economically poor and the emotionally poor. In what ways have you, or are you experiencing, poverty of spirit?
7. This Psalm, and most of the psalms, call us to praise the Lord, to worship. in what ways can you grow in your worship of God during this Lenten season? (i.e. read and pray the Lenten psalms for morning and evening prayer, be more expressive in our worship gatherings, gather for family worship regularly, other?)
8. How can you apply this passage to what’s happening in your life right now?
9. How does this passage inform the way you interact with and love and serve your family, neighbors, co-workers, classmates, etc.?

PRAYER

Take some time and pray together: You can pray as a large group, break into smaller groups, split up into men and women, etc. If you share prayer requests, post them to the City so that your group can continue to be praying for each other.