



Date: _____
Series: Prayer Walk Mall
Fall Year 2, Lesson 21

Praise Warehouse – Praying With Praise

Take Home Point: *Pray with praise – see a BIG God. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Selected verses from Psalms.

Key Verse: Psalm 89:15, “Blessed are the people who know how to praise you. They walk in the light of your presence...”

We will help kids know:

- Praise tells God how wonderful he is. It mentions both who he is and what he has done.
- Worship tells God, “I love you,” after first experiencing his love for us.
- When we praise God, we not only glorify him, but we see him in a bigger way.

We will help kids feel:

- Special when they receive praise from others.
- Loved by God and inspired to praise him.
- Awed by God after seeing God in a bigger way through praying with praise.

We will help kids do:

- Praise each other for who they are and what they have done.
- Pray for ten minutes praising God for who he is and what he has done.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<p>Small Group Warm-Up</p> 	3	Students give and receive praise from each other.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praise Present Paper Fold for each student (<i>p. 11-12 copied front to back</i>)
<p>Large Group</p> 	4 7 7 10	<p>Overview</p> <p>Introduction of Presenter: Oley S.D. Lord (male) or Alena N. God (female) from Prayer Walk Mall helps shoppers discover how big God really is in the Praise Warehouse store.</p> <p>Praise Contest: Oley or Alena creates teams and invites volunteers to be objects of praise. He/she will count how many of these phrases can be thought of and spoken in one minute to determine the winning team.</p> <p>Closing Praise: Students listen to the lyrics of music related to praise, such as the song, "Shout to the Lord."</p>	<p><i>Mall Props:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any props that help picture a store called Praise Warehouse, such as a sign, cashier's table, or shelves • presentation sized map of Prayer Walk Mall with stores labeled (<i>see lesson 20</i>) An arrow says, "You are here" pointing to Praise Warehouse (This map is just outside the "store.") • shelf filled with any type of musical instrument such as rhythm instruments or horns • binoculars or telescope on the table or shelf (<i>optional</i>) • a wrapped present w/bow • a coupon --- praise warehouse from prayer journal (<i>see lesson 20</i>) • small candy prizes • praise music playing lightly in the background. (At the closing, sing a familiar praise tune.) • presenter costume • oversized nametag
<p>Small Group Application</p> 	4	After having shopped the Mall and the Praise Warehouse, kids are prepared to make a Praise Present for God. They also can journal some of the meaningful praises.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer Journals • praise phrases cut into strips (<i>p. 13-15</i>) • colored poster board • decorative bow • glue or double sided tape • pens or pencils

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: Get pointed in the right direction! Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

As kids gather: Listen to memory verses from last week and give coupons for memory verses, remembering to bring your Bible, and bringing a guest.

Supplies needed: Praise Present Paper Fold for each student

As students arrive in small group, give each a word of praise telling them what you like about them. It can be as simple as praising them for wearing their name tag, remembering to bring their Bible, greeting other adults, or for their wonderful smile. Whatever you choose, make a point to compliment each one.

When you came in, you probably noticed that I gave you praise for things I noticed about you. How does that make you feel?

Did any of you get any special praises from others this week?

Did you praise anyone else for what they did this week?

Today let's make a Praise Present for each person. It will help us feel what it's like to give and receive praise.

Pass each child a Praise Present Paper Fold handout. Ask each child to put his/her name on the top of the backside. Then have them fold the paper into quarters with the decorative side outward. Show them how to fold the paper so that they can choose which bow they like the best. Have them put their name on the tag of that bow. Now, have them open the paper with the blank side up, and pass it to the person on their right.

In front of you is another person's Praise Present. Their name is on it. Write a word or phrase praising that person for a certain trait. For example, you could write "cheerful attitude" or "funny" or "deep faith." I'll give you a few seconds to write as many descriptive phrases as you'd like. Then we'll pass the paper again to the right and we will write on another person's Praise Present.

After the Praise Presents have gone around the circle and arrived back to their original owner, let each person read his/hers.

How did you feel as you were giving praise to others by writing on their Praise Present? How did you feel as you read yours?

God wants us to praise him for who he is and what he has done. I wonder... what do you think God feels like when we praise him? How do you feel when you give God your praise?

Today we will discover that **when we pray with praise—we see a BIG God.*

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



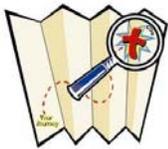
Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Introduction of Presenter: Oley S. de Lord (*male*) or Alena N. God (*female*) from Prayer Walk Mall helps shoppers discover how big God really is in the Praise Warehouse store.

Praise Contest: Oley or Alena creates teams and invites volunteers to be objects of praise. He will count how many of these phrases can be thought of and spoken in one minute to determine the winning team.

Closing Praise: Students listen to the lyrics of music related to praise, such as the song “Shout to the Lord.”

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion, but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Invite the kids to open their Bibles to the book of Psalms. Point out that this is the hymnal and praise book of the Bible. Have them turn to the end of it, specifically Psalms 145-150. Let the kids skim through those pages and find various verses that praise God for who he is or what he has done. There are hundreds to choose from, but a child can pick any verse of praise that helps get a bigger picture of who God is or what he has done.

Take turns sharing these verses and how they get a bigger picture of whom God is. Go around the group at least twice.

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

When Jesus taught us the Lord's Prayer as a model for prayer, he started it with praising the Father. What words of the prayer remind us to praise God? (*Our Father, who art in heaven.*)

Why do you think he started the prayer with praise? (*We get a big picture of God when we praise him. At the beginning of the prayer is the best time to get such a big picture.*)

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Application Activity:

Supplies needed: prayer journals and pencils, praise phrases, colored poster board, decorative bow, glue or double sided tape

The most important thing we can do today is not just talk about praise. We need to pray with praise. To help us pray with praise, we will make a Praise Present for God.

Affix the decorative bow onto the poster board to look like a gift. Then mark lines of glue to look like ribbon coming from the bow (*double sided tape will work, as well*).

Explain to kids that during this prayer activity, they will pick up slips of paper that describe praise for God. After reading it out loud, praising God in that way, they can quietly place the strip of paper on glue (or tape) lines to make a Praise Present to God.

Encourage kids to be serious and let every person listen to each praise and pray it in his or her heart.

Four times during this prayer, you will pass out a group of slips. Everyone should take some so that they are all gone each time. During the first part of the prayer, you praise God the Father for who he is and what he has done. The next two parts praise God the Son and then God the Holy Spirit. And finally you praise God in general for what he has provided us.

After explaining the directions, begin.

Dear God, hear our praises. In this first group of praises, we praise you as God the Father, for who you are and what you have done.

Put the slips of paper on the table so each child can gather some. You might want to continue praying with praise while the kids collect theirs so that the mood of prayer continues.

When finished with the first group, continue with the second:

Now we praise you, God the Son, Jesus our Savior.

Put slips of paper on the table that praise Jesus.

After completing that group, say:

We praise you, God the Holy Spirit.

Put slips of paper on the table that praise the Holy Spirit. Finally, say:

We praise you, God for what you have provided for us.

Put slips of paper on the table that praise God in general.

After all the praise sections have been prayed, invite the kids to pray for any other requests or thanksgivings they may have. After the prayer time then closes, look at God's Praise Present.

Our key verse today from Psalm 89:15 says, "*Blessed are the people who know how to praise you. They walk in the light of your presence...*"

Have kids write a few praises that were meaningful to them in their prayer journals on the praise warehouse page. Keep the Praise Present in your room throughout this series on prayer. Then conclude with:

We are blessed when we praise God for, as we learned today, **when we pray with praise—we see a BIG God.*

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Visiting Praise Warehouse in Prayer Walk Mall

Props needed for:

The mall

- *any props that help portray a store called Praise Warehouse, such as a sign, cashiers table, or shelves*
- *presentation sized map of Prayer Walk Mall with stores labeled (see lesson 20) An arrow says, "You are here" pointing to Praise Warehouse. This map is just outside the "store."*
- *shelf filled with any type of musical instrument such as rhythm instruments or horns*
- *binoculars or telescope on the table or shelf (optional)*
- *a wrapped present with bow*
- *a coupon --- praise warehouse from prayer journal*
- *small candy prizes*
- *praise music playing lightly in the background. At the closing, a familiar praise song kids can sing along with or pray the words.*

The character

- *Oley S. de Lord (male) or Alena N. God (female) is the store clerk. He/she needs an oversized nametag.*

Each week the Large Group Presenter is a different persona or character depicting who will help us on our walk through Prayer Walk Mall. The presenter for this week is Oley S. de Lord (male) or Alena N. God (female).

Name and Store Introduction

Kids, welcome to Prayer Walk Mall where you can develop a closer walk with God. Thanks for coming to my store today, Praise Warehouse. I am Oley S. de Lord. But my friends just call me Oley. That's right! Oley! Why? Maybe because I can see how big God is, which makes him holy to us and worthy of our praise! Anyway, it's the thing I can offer you today. At Praise Warehouse, where you can learn to pray with praise, you can cash in this coupon.

Show kids the coupon from the praise journal---Coupon Praise Warehouse

Volunteer Selection and Praise Contest

Let me see if I have some customers. I need three boys and three girls.

Select volunteers.

What I have for sale here is praise. You kids know what praise is? Let's see if you do. We will have a contest, boys against the girls. If the boys' team wins, all the boys receive candy. If the girls win, all the girls receive candy.

Show small penny candy to be passed out later as a prize. *(The losing team will receive some, as well.)*

Here's how the game works. First, each team must select someone to come up and be the person praised on that team...boys' team pick a boy and girls' pick a girl.

Have teams each select a volunteer.

Next, each team will have one minute to see how many things they can praise their person for. Each praise phrase must begin with the words, "I praise you for..." I will count how many of these phrases can be thought of and spoken in one minute. See if each team member can think of at least one phrase. Then the other team gets a chance. Which team wants to go first?

Play the game. Declare the winner. Then praise the other team for doing so well, or having such a great attitude. Give them candy as well.

What does it feel like to be praised? Does God need our praise?

Before we let our praised persons be seated, please share with us what it felt like to have so many praises said about you.

After each responds, ask them:

How do you think it makes God feel to have praises spoken to him?

Accept any answer.

Do you think God needs our praises so that he can feel good about himself? Response.

Thank you. You all may be seated. Let me explain something about God and praises.

Pick up wrapped box with a bow.

Praise is like a present. It is a gift that we voluntarily give to God because we love him. Praise is not something we are forced to do.

Then it's not a gift, but a payment. Does the gift of praise make God happy? Is he pleased with it? Of course, he is. He loves to hear us tell him that we love him. But does he need us telling him how he is such a great God so that he feels great about himself? Does he need our praise for that? Of course not.

What happens when we praise? We get a big picture of God.

Perhaps the biggest reason God wants us to praise him is not what it does for him, but what it does for us. It gives a big picture of God.

Show binoculars - *(optional)*

The more we praise God for who he is and what he has done, the more we see how big and powerful and wonderful he is.

For the following demonstration, the presenter will hold one arm fully outstretched in front with thumb and forefingers touching together so that they make a large "O." This will become a viewfinder.

Hold your hands out in front of you like this so that you have your own viewfinder. Focus through this and look at another person. How much of them can you see? Not very much. Is this how big you see God? Not very big, eh? You get to only look through this small opening so that you can't see very much of him at all.

But now start pulling your viewfinder closer to your face so that when you look through it, you see more and more. See how much more of the person you can see? This is how we can see more of God. Praise draws us closer to God so that we can see more of who he is and what he has done for us. Then we can get a big picture of him.

The Lord's Prayer begins with praise. We praise Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

How does the Lord's prayer begin? "Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name." What does this mean? This means that God's name is holy, but we pray that it would be holy among us. We praise God when we hold his name holy. A good way to do that is to honor God as the one true God in three persons. Praise him as the Father who created us, the Son who gave his life to rescue us, and the Spirit who leads us to faith and fills us with God's presence. In your groups today, you will do that.

Praise can be spoken or sung, shouted or prayed in our minds.

You will also notice all the instruments back here in my shop. And have you noticed the music in the background? Music is an important part of praise, but we don't have to use music. It's a powerful thing when all God's people praise him together in worship and really mean what they are singing!

Closing Praise

Let's close by listening to a praise song or maybe even singing along.

Select a praise song the kids might be familiar with and play the recording. For example, "Shout to the Lord," or "My Praises." Close with prayer and dismiss them to their group.

"Shout to the Lord"

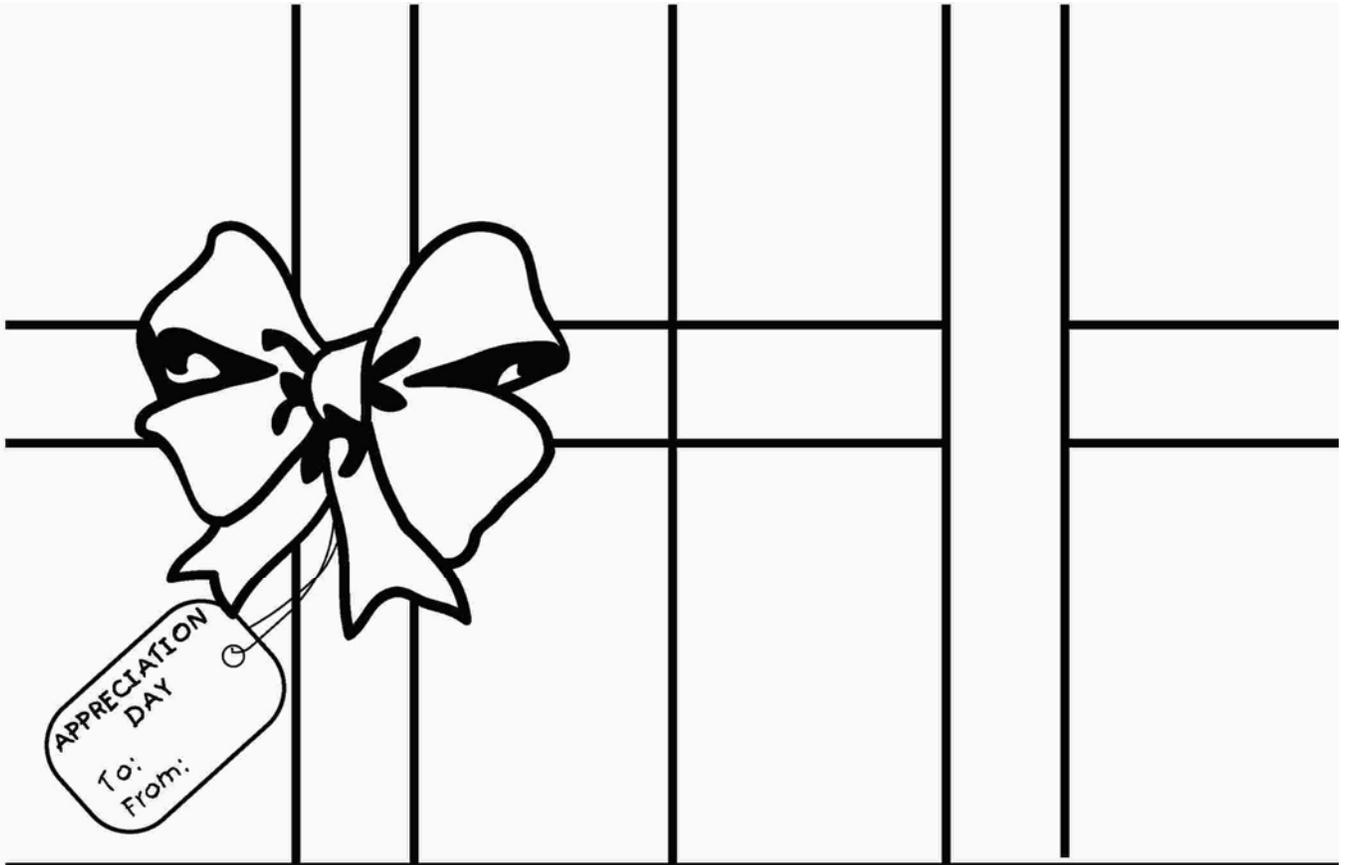
*My Jesus, my Savior,
Lord there is none like you.
All of my days, I want to praise
The wonders of your mighty love.
My comfort, my Shelter,
Tower of refuge and strength,
Let every breath, all that I am
Never cease to worship you.*

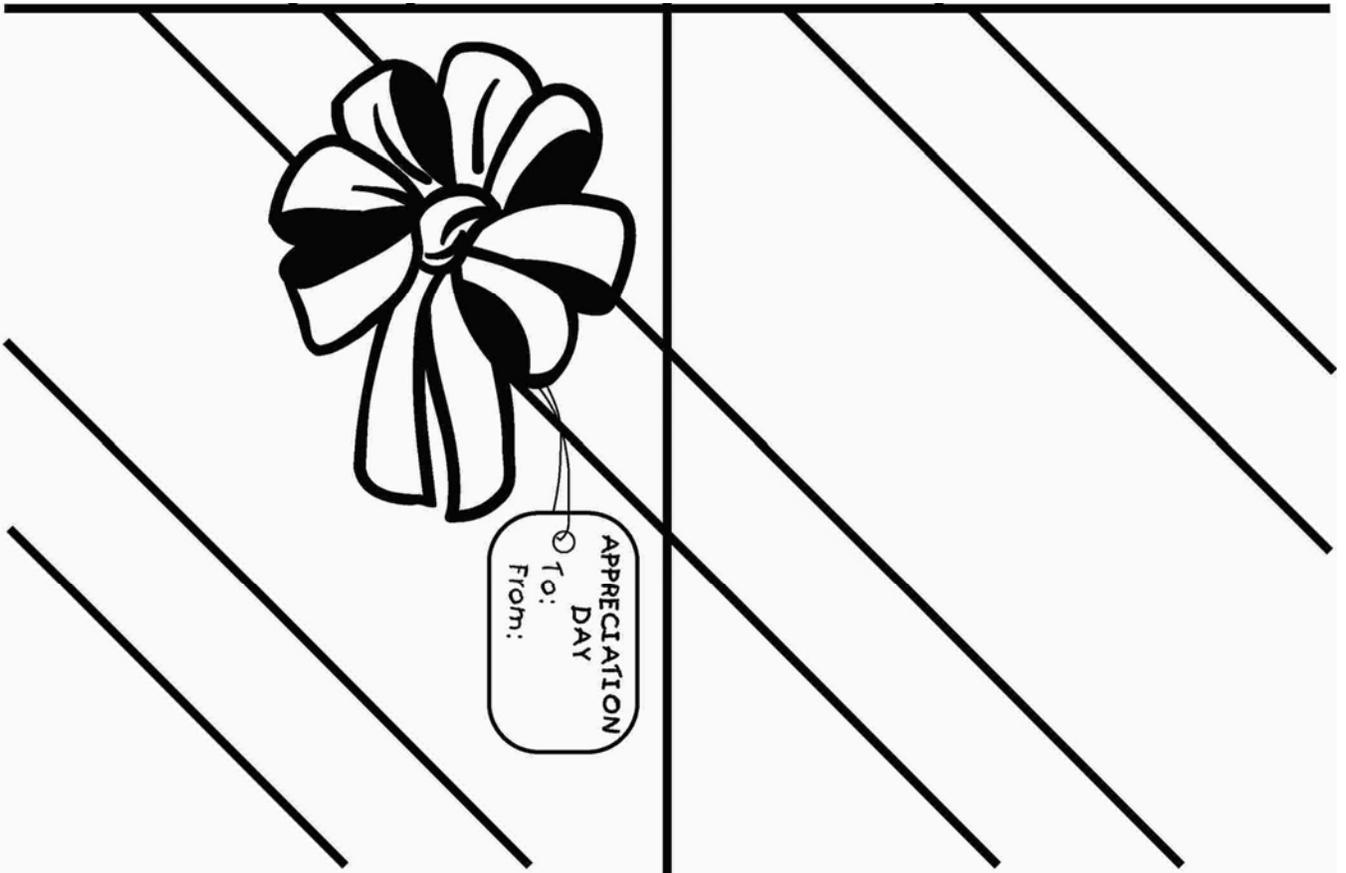
*Shout to the Lord, all the earth
Let us sing.
Power and majesty, praise to the king.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of your name.
I sing for joy at the work of your hands.
Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you*

"My Praises"

*~Phillips, Craig, and Dean~
Like the ocean breeze blowing on your face,
Like a summer sun with its warm embrace,
Like the gentle rain plays a symphony,
That's what I want my praise to be.
Like a fragrance rose in the early spring,
Like an eagle soars, when it spreads its wings,
Whatever Lord you need from me,
That's what I want my praise to be.*

Praise Present Paper Fold (*copy front to back*)





Cut into slips of paper for each praise phrase.

Group 1: Phrases for praising God the Father

I praise you, God the Father, for creating me and all that I have.

I praise you, God the Father, that you daily give me all that I need.

I praise you, God the Father, that you are a God without time, no beginning and no ending.

I praise you, God the Father, that you hold the whole universe together by your power.

I praise you, God the Father, that you know all things.

I praise you, God the Father, that you love me as your own child.

I praise you, God the Father, that you hear my prayers wherever I am.

I praise you, God the Father, that you have shown your salvation. (Psalm 98:2)

I praise you, God the Father, that you rule and are king over the angels in heaven and the earth. (Psalm 99:1)

I praise you, God the Father, that you are holy and just in all that you do. (Psalm 99:5)

I praise you, God the Father, that you are a forgiving God (Psalm 99:8)

I praise you, God the Father, that you are good and your mercy endures forever. (Psalm 100:5)

I praise you, God the Father, that you have clothed yourself in perfect light. (Psalm 104:2)

I praise you, God the Father, that you stretch out the heavens like curtains

I praise you, God the Father, for your vast creation, all that you've made. (Psalm 104:24)

Group 2: Phrases for praising God the Son, Jesus

I praise you, Lord Jesus, that you were born as one of us. (Luke 2:11)

I praise you, Lord Jesus, that you gave your life for us on the cross. (Philippians 2:8)

I praise you, Lord Jesus, that you lived a perfect life in our place. (Romans 8:3)

I praise you, Lord Jesus, that you made it possible to be saved. (Ephesians 2:8)

I praise you, Lord Jesus, that you love us and gave your life for us.

I praise you, Lord Jesus, that you are the king of glory. (Psalm 4:8)

I praise you, Lord Jesus, that you will be the judge over all.

I praise you, Lord Jesus, that you sacrificed your life for us. (Hebrews 10:12)

I praise you, Lord Jesus, that you took our sins and our sicknesses. (Matthew 8:17)

I praise you, Lord Jesus, for compassion on the weak. (Matthew 15:32)

I praise you, Lord Jesus, that you invite small children to you. (Mark 9:37)

I praise you, Lord Jesus, as our good shepherd. (John 10:11)

I praise you, Lord Jesus, for preparing a place for us in heaven. (John 14:2)

I praise you, Lord Jesus, because, though you were rich, you became poor for us. (2 Corinthians 8:9)

I praise you, Lord Jesus, because you lived through us. (Galatians 2:20)

I praise you, Lord Jesus, because you give the victory in our lives through what you have done for us. (1 Corinthians 15:57)

Group 3: Phrases for praising God the Holy Spirit

I praise you, Holy Spirit, that you dwell inside of us. (1 Corinthians 3:16)

I praise you, Holy Spirit, for bringing us to faith in Jesus as our Savior. (2 Thessalonians 2:13,14)

I praise you, Holy Spirit, for speaking to us through the word. (Romans 10:17)

I praise you, Holy Spirit, for opening our eyes to see God's truth. (Acts 26:18)

I praise you, Holy Spirit, that you fill us with God's peace and hope. (Romans 15:13)

I praise you, Holy Spirit, that you help us do good works for God. (Ephesians 2:10)

I praise you, Holy Spirit, for making us a new creation in Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

I praise you, Holy Spirit, for helping us do things that serve God. (John 15:5)

I praise you, Holy Spirit, for the fruits of the spirit in our lives: your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:22)

Group 4: Phrases for praising God for provisions

We praise you, God, for the gift of our families.

We praise you, God, for the gift of our church.

We praise you, God, for the people to help us grow in our faith.

We praise you, God, for giving us our friends.

We praise you, God, for answering our prayers.

We praise you, God, for the many things we have needed.