

# 04 WORTHY OF PRAISE

KEY TEXT: PSALM 96:1-13

## CENTRAL truth

The prayers and songs in the book of Psalms are moving poetry that teach God’s people about who the Lord is, what He has done, and how we must respond to Him. As we learn about God’s character this week, we will be reminded that **He alone is worthy of our praise and worship.**

## key question

**What does it mean to bless the Lord’s name?**

Another way of saying “bless [the Lord’s] name” this is that people “speak well of [H]is character as they continually proclaim [H]is acts of deliverance.”<sup>1</sup> The psalmist reminds readers of the Lord’s grace and saving power. Who God is and what He has done on their behalf are the reasons they should respond with worship. These truths should lead us to worship Him as well.

## keep in mind

- In this psalm, the author calls our false gods for what they truly are—worthless idols—and calls all people to give their allegiance to the one true God. Students may be tempted to think that idolatry was something that only took place in ancient times. However, it’s important to help them see that even today, anything that is worshiped in the place of God or at an equal or higher value to God is idolatry.
- The psalmist uses words that the people of Israel associated with the temple (or the tabernacle, which preceded it). Using this session’s **Theology Note** to guide you, encourage students with the reminder that today we don’t need to gather to a specific place to enjoy the Lord’s presence. The Holy Spirit resides within us, and believers are now God’s temple (see 1 Cor. 6:19).

## application

**What are some ways we can praise the Lord this week?**

## the win

**FOR THE STUDENT:** In this week’s session, students should learn that only the Lord is worthy of our ultimate devotion, praise, and allegiance, and therefore, our words and actions ought to reflect this truth.

**FOR THE LEADER:** This psalm calls all people to worship the Lord. Through this teaching, equip students with the understanding that we are called to follow the Lord and share the good news of His rule with others.

<sup>1</sup> Daniel J. Estes, *Psalms 73–150*, New American Commentary, E. Ray Clendenen, ed., vol. 13 (Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2019), Logos Bible Software version, 217.