

**=Story Behind the Psalm=**

Psalm 117

**NOTE:** *These lessons are designed simply as a guideline. As a Sunday School teacher part of your job is to study the lesson and develop it for the pupils in your class according to their age and spiritual development.*

**Scripture:** Psalms 117

**AUTHOR:** Unknown

**The Story Behind the Psalm**

It was written to be a chorus. Just like we have choir arrangements, congregational songs and choruses, this, the shortest chapter in the Bible and the shortest of the Psalms, was sung like we sing our choruses.

**The Way It Was Used by God's People**

It was used around the family circle and in informal gatherings as well as occasionally in a public worship in just the same manner that we would use choruses today.

**LESSON:**

Though this psalm is the shortest of all psalms it is packed with much meaning and truth.

Choruses often stress the main theme of the song (psalm). This little chorus seems to stress three main subjects of the Christian life.

**1. Praise the Lord**

- a. God wants all nationalities and all people groups to praise the Lord. God is not prejudice towards race, social standings, ability, or financial status (Romans 2:11; Ephesians 6:9)
- b. Every individual can praise God in a way unique to him. I can praise the LORD in a way that nobody else can. Therefore, if I fail to praise the LORD there will be a void in the heart of God.
- c. Praising the LORD is not merely saying the words "Praise the LORD".

- i. We praise the Lord with our words (Psalm 42:4). We should tell others of the goodness of God and all He has done for us. God has blessed each of us in a special and unique way and when we share that God is praised.
- ii. We praise the Lord with song (Psalm 28:7; Psalm 40:3). We sing many songs from our hymnal but the best songs are those that come from an overflowing heart. The psalms (which are songs intended to be sung) were all written in times of triumph or tragedy from an overwhelmed heart.
- iii. We praise the LORD with thanksgiving (Psalm 147:7). God loves to hear us say “thank you” for all He has done for us.

## **2. The mercy of the LORD**

- a. Grace is giving someone what they do not deserve; mercy is not giving someone what they do deserve. We deserve the wrath of God and His punishments for all our evil deeds; however, God is merciful.

## **3. The truth of the LORD**

- a. The Word of God is truth (John 17:17). Our logic, thoughts (Isaiah 55:9), ways, desires and understanding all need to be refined by the truth of God’s Word. God’s Word is superior to all other teachings and thoughts. Any area of our life that differs from the Bible must be conformed to fit the Word of God.
- b. God cannot lie (Titus 1:2). We can rest in the Bible and rely upon it as 100% truth. If God said it, then we can believe it!
- c. The only safe way to live is to build your life upon truth (the Bible). Any other foundation is doomed to crumble.

**Memory Verse:** *“O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people. For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the LORD endureth for ever. Praise ye the LORD. Psalm 117:1-2*