

w/b 13<sup>th</sup> May 2018 THEME: LET ME COUNT THE WAYS

INTRODUCTION: On Sunday, Max Swart preached on the importance of the gospel going way beyond a transaction that simply gets us a ticket to heaven. As part of this he read out part of psalm 103. This study explores the benefits and privileges of a relationship with God won so dearly for us on the cross.

PASSAGE: PSALM 103

LAUNCH

What activity or hobby do you enjoy doing so much that you can say that you do it with “your whole heart” or with “all that is within you”? Why do you like this activity so much?

DISCOVERY

Give Psalm 103 a title or write a short summary sentence that captures what you think is the essence of this Psalm.

Share a verse from this Psalm that jumped out at you as you heard or read it. Why did it speak to you so powerfully?

UNDERSTANDING

Who is David addressing in these verses?

Why would David tell himself to praise God? Do we need to do this too? Why?

Is it possible to praise God half-heartedly and unenthusiastically? Why or why not?

According to the following verses, what are some specific ways we can praise God?

Psalm 27:6, Psalm 35:18, Psalm 66:16, Psalm 104:34, Psalm 106:1

What is your favourite way to praise God? Why?

At a recent elders' meeting, we identified that it is often worship that gets marginalised in our small group meetings. Why do you think this is? What are some of the creative ways your home group could be more worshipful?

What is another instruction David gives himself in 103:2? Why do you think it is necessary for David to remind himself of this?

What conclusions can you come to about God's person & character based on his actions in 103:3-5?

What "pit" (103:4) has God redeemed you from?

In 103:5, why would God satisfying our desires with good things cause our youth to be renewed like the eagles? What do you think is the connection between these two things?

According to 103:14, what two facts does God keep in mind about us? What does this mean for you? Are you insulted or comforted?

APPLICATION

Spend time praying for one another that personal worship will become an increasingly important part of our lives. Also pray for worship to grow and develop in your home group and in the life of the church as a whole.

*A number of questions sourced from Isaiah 61:3.com, a bible study website in the US. Some have been shortened.*