



## **Leader Guide — Weekly Gathering**

**Psalm 145 • for groups gathering February 24–March 1, 2008**

**by Steve Fawver and Kathy Watson**

### **Opening (5 minutes)**

Take time as leaders to welcome people and set a tone of joy and openness in community.

### **Check-in Time (15 minutes)**

Have people get with a partner and share about the following question: “Who has been a voice in your life, telling you of God’s greatness?”

### **Centering Worship (10 minutes)**

Listen to the song “Great is the Lord” by Michael W. Smith and take a few moments to reflect on it.

### **Sharing (15 minutes)**

Questions you might use during this time:

- Where have you experienced God this week?
- What stood out to you as you used the exercises this week?
- What exercise or section of Scripture caught your attention and why?
- Ask group members to look back over their journals and share some things that catch their attention.
- Ask group members to look back at the last worship gathering on Sunday. Where did they experience God?
- What did you notice (sense, feel, think, learn) this week as we gathered for worship?
- How did God show up in your life this week?
- How have you been intentional in creating space to listen to Christ this week?
- How have you noticed Christ calling you to “live out love” this week?

### **Group Listening Practice (40 minutes)**

Read Psalm 145 a couple of times through. You may want to use the following translation from *The Message* version:

#### **Psalm 145 David’s Praise**

1 I lift you high in praise, my God, O my King! and I’ll bless your name into eternity.

2 I’ll bless you every day, and keep it up from now to eternity.

3 God is magnificent; he can never be praised enough.

There are no boundaries to his greatness.

4 Generation after generation stands in awe of your work; each one tells stories of your mighty acts.

5 Your beauty and splendor have everyone talking; I compose songs on your wonders.

6 Your marvelous doings are headline news; I could write a book full of the details of your greatness.

7 The fame of your goodness spreads across the country; your righteousness is on everyone’s lips.

8 God is all mercy and grace—not quick to anger, is rich in love.

9 God is good to one and all; everything he does is suffused with grace.

10-11 Creation and creatures applaud you, God; your holy people bless you.  
They talk about the glories of your rule, they exclaim over your splendor,  
12 Letting the world know of your power for good, the lavish splendor of your kingdom.  
13 Your kingdom is a kingdom eternal; you never get voted out of office. God always does  
what he says, and is gracious in everything he does.  
14 God gives a hand to those down on their luck, gives a fresh start to those ready to quit.  
15 All eyes are on you, expectant; you give them their meals on time.  
16 Generous to a fault, you lavish your favor on all creatures.  
17 Everything God does is right—the trademark on all his works is love.  
18 God's there, listening for all who pray, for all who pray and mean it.  
19 He does what's best for those who fear him—hears them call out, and saves them.  
20 God sticks by all who love him, but it's all over for those who don't.  
21 My mouth is filled with God's praise. Let everything living bless him, bless his holy name  
from now to eternity!

Now invite people to take some time to draw a picture of God:

"If you were to draw a picture of God what would you draw? Don't worry about 'getting it right,' but simply express your heart and experience in this image. Remember that this is a time of prayer. Listen for the images that come to the surface as you take time to be with God."

Leave 10-15 minutes for people to draw and reflect.

Now invite people to gather back as a group. Take a few minutes to share about the experience with one another.

- What was it like to pray this way?
- What images came to the surface?
- Do you find it easier to "write about God" or "draw images of God?"

Invite each person to take just a few more minutes to look at the image they drew. Ask: "What does your picture say about your experience of God?"

Leave 2-3 minutes for reflection and then share with one another.

Close by reading Psalm 145 one more time.

### **Closing (5 minutes)**

Remind people to continue to be intentional in creating space for listening in their lives.