**Celebration Sunday**

Lifegroup Study (AM) – 23 Sept 2018

**INTRODUCTION**

Celebration Sunday is an annual event at our church. It’s our chance to reflect on all the amazing things God has done in and through us over the past year. God loves celebrations! He commanded the Israelites to hold festivals and to rejoice in the goodness of God. Jesus loved to crash the party and would light up the room. Despite the difficulties and challenges in this life we can be full of joy because of who He is and what He has done for us. It’s important to take time to acknowledge what He has done and give Him the glory with hearts of gratitude and thanks. We revel God’s His love and He delights in His children. We praise Him and glorify Him because He is worthy of it all.

**KEY SCRIPTURE**

**Read Psalm 145**

A psalm of praise. Of David.

**1**I will exalt you, my God the King;  
    I will praise your name for ever and ever.  
**2**Every day I will praise you  
    and extol your name for ever and ever.

**3**Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;  
    his greatness no one can fathom.  
**4**One generation commends your works to another;  
    they tell of your mighty acts.  
**5**They speak of the glorious splendour of your majesty—  
    and I will meditate on your wonderful works.   
**6**They tell of the power of your awesome works—  
    and I will proclaim your great deeds.  
**7**They celebrate your abundant goodness  
    and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

**8**The Lord is gracious and compassionate,  
    slow to anger and rich in love.

**9**The Lord is good to all;  
    he has compassion on all he has made.  
**10**All your works praise you, Lord;  
    your faithful people extol you.  
**11**They tell of the glory of your kingdom  
    and speak of your might,  
**12**so that all people may know of your mighty acts  
    and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.  
**13**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
    and your dominion endures through all generations.

The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises  
    and faithful in all he does.   
**14**The Lord upholds all who fall  
    and lifts up all who are bowed down.  
**15**The eyes of all look to you,  
    and you give them their food at the proper time.  
**16**You open your hand  
    and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

**17**The Lord is righteous in all his ways  
    and faithful in all he does.  
**18**The Lord is near to all who call on him,  
    to all who call on him in truth.  
**19**He fulfils the desires of those who fear him;  
    he hears their cry and saves them.  
**20**The Lord watches over all who love him,  
    but all the wicked he will destroy.

**21**My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord.  
    Let every creature praise his holy name  
    for ever and ever.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. If you were at church for Celebration Sunday was there anything God spoke to you about personally or you experienced?
2. Within these passages, what personal insights into God’s character do you find?
3. What do these passages teach you about God's purpose for his people?
4. What are some ways you can live with constant praise in your heart and on your lips?
5. What do you want to give God praise and glory for in your own life?
6. **James 1:22** says “*Don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves*.” Is there anything that God is asking you to stop, start or continue in these passages? What is the next step you need to take in response to God’s word? (i.e. obedience)

**PRACTICAL APPLICATION**

* Spend time in prayer and worship together declaring God’s awesomeness and praising Him.
* Speak to someone this week about why you follow Christ and what it is you love about Him.