

" P R A I S E "

ASCEND: A JOURNEY WITH THE PSALMS OF ASCENT | PASTOR MATT ERICKSON | PSALM 134
DECEMBER 16/17, 2017

*"Praise the Lord, all you servants of the Lord
who minister by night in the house of the Lord." (Psalm 134:1)*

Bless the Lord (vs 1)

"Come..."

The invitation one to another

Praise the Holy God with holy hands (vs 2)

"Lift up your hands..."

"In the sanctuary..." or "the holy place..."

Blessed by the Lord (vs 3)

Blessed from Zion

Blessed by the Maker of heaven and earth

Trailblazing with God

Living to bless God and living blessed by God

Living the call and living the response

STUDY GUIDE

1. When have you been most motivated to praise God in your life? What led you to that point?
2. This weekend we conclude our "Ascend" series by studying Psalm 134. Begin your study by waiting on the Lord. Take a minute or two to quiet yourself, then ask God to speak to you during this time. Next, read Psalm 134 aloud.
3. Psalm 134 is one of the shortest of the Psalms of Ascent, but provides a focused end to the journey of these psalms. The psalm pulsates with the theme praise the Lord or bless the Lord. Why do you think this theme is a fitting conclusion to the ascents journey?
4. It is likely that Psalm 134 was a call and response from the congregation of people and the Levitical priests serving in the Temple day and night (see 1 Chronicles 25 and Deuteronomy 10:8). They may have grown weary during their night duties. When have you felt weary in serving or praising the Lord? How have others helped you persevere like the congregation speaking to the Levites here?
5. Lifting up holy hands in the holy place (or sanctuary) was a sign of being set apart unto God (see 1 Timothy 2:8). Why do you think this phrase is here and what does it mean?
6. While the first two verses speak of praising/blessing God, the final verse speaks of God blessing His people. What would you say is the difference between our blessing of God and God's blessing of us?
7. What is one or two things that God has been speaking to you through this journey through the Psalms of Ascent? If you are on your own, write it down and pray about it. If you are in a small group, take time to discuss this with one another before praying together.

DAILY READINGS

Throughout this series we will have a daily reading plan that allows us to reflect more deeply on the themes of each psalm we study. Join with the broader Eastbrook community each week via the print schedule below, our app or social media.

Monday, December 18: Psalm 134

Tuesday, December 19: Psalm 132

Wednesday, December 20: Psalm 63

Thursday, December 21: Psalm 126

Friday, December 22: Psalm 99