

## **GROWTH GROUP STUDY GUIDE**

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**For the week of April 13, 2008**

**Getting started:** Make a statement—any kind of statement—about your experience of praising God.

### **Open your Bible to Psalm 146 and read it aloud**

- When you were to spend time praising God are these the kinds of things you would likely say? What themes or patterns of speech are here that you do use or don't use?
- V.6 says that God is our help and hope. Then there are four phrases describing God. How do those qualities underscore our confidence in God as our hope?
- Vv.7c-9 identify various groups of people who have God's attention. This is the very definition of Jesus' mission (Luke 4:16-21; 7:18-23). Think of ways when Jesus did each of the things listed in Ps. 146 in his ministry.
- Which of those listed fits your story best?
- Imagine that you heard or read this psalm every day. What might change in you—in your thinking, feelings or actions?
- C. S. Lewis wrote, "Praise almost seems to be inner health made audible." What aspect of spiritual health is represented in this psalm?



### **Please pray for...**

- Chaplain Jeff Granger deployed to Iraq with the Air Force
- Open doors for the gospel in your individual lives—opportunities to share or show the love of Jesus.

Free tapes or CDs of sermons are available at the Information Desk. The sermon in print or audio form and this Growth Group Study Guide can be found each week at [www.eVCL.org](http://www.eVCL.org)

C. S. Lewis wrote, “ \_\_\_\_\_ almost seems to be inner \_\_\_\_\_ made \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Praise the LORD the right way (vv.1-2)**

- Praise at its best is praise done \_\_\_\_\_
- Praise at its best comes from \_\_\_\_\_
- Praise at its best is \_\_\_\_\_
- Praise at its best is \_\_\_\_\_

**Praise the LORD that we do not need to \_\_\_\_\_ on people to \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.3-4)**

**Praise the LORD for the blessing of having him as our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.5-10)**

- “Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob” (v.5a)
- Blessed is he...whose hope is in the Lord his God” (vv.5b-7b)
  - “who made the heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,”
  - “who keeps faith forever;”
  - “who executes justice for the oppressed,”
  - “who gives food to the hungry.” [ESV]
- God’s hope is for people with real needs (vv.7c-9)