

Raise A Hallelujah Study Guide

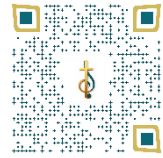
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and Seventeen : Eleven Young Women's Studies

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Verse 1

I raise a hallelujah in the presence of my enemies

What exactly does Hallelujah mean?

Can you remember a time when you or someone you knew was in a bad predicament and someone was threatening you?

Read and discuss Daniel chapter 6, and highlight verse 10

I raise a hallelujah louder than the unbelief

Do you ever have moments when you believe in Jesus, but you still doubt just a little?

How can we overcome those nagging doubts? Read and discuss Mark 9:14-29, highlighting v. 24

*I raise a hallelujah my weapon is a melody
I raise a hallelujah Heaven comes to fight for me*

Read and discuss the story of Jehosaphat facing a number of enemies in 2 Chronicles 20. Highlight verses 21-22. After God spoke to him through a prophet, what did Jehosaphat do? And what was God's response?

Read Psalms 150 (there's only six verses) and then read and discuss the story of the battle of Jericho in Joshua 6. Highlight verse 4. What instructions did the army follow to secure victory over Jericho?

Both of these stories describe how God moves when people worship with song. This is not new. In fact, it goes back to the very creation of our world. In **Job 38:6** God challenges Job with this question: “On what were (earth’s) foundations set, or who laid its cornerstone, *while the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?*”

Read and highlight the first three verses of Psalm 22. David is feeling rejected and abandoned and yet what does He say God “inhabits” (KJV) or is “enthroned” by? Does this sufficiently explain why we can expect God to move when we praise and worship Him? Is this exclusive to Israel or does it include all believers?

Chorus

*I’m gonna sing in the middle of the storm
Louder and louder, you’re gonna hear my praises roar*

Read Acts 16:16-34, highlighting verses 25-26. What was the storm of life that Paul and Silas were experiencing, and what was their response to their crisis? What did God do next, and more importantly, why?

*Up from the ashes hope will arise
Death is defeated the King is alive*

John chapters 19 & 20 recount the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Where He was during the 3 days in between is a bit of a mystery. On the cross He tells the thief that truly on that day he would be with Jesus in paradise (Luke 23:42-43). But elsewhere in scripture, (1 Peter 3:18-20) scripture seems to indicate that he spent some time in hell or Hades proclaiming something to the spirits imprisoned there. We are not told exactly what was proclaimed, or whether it was to the spirits of dead humans or to demonic spirits. What we do know for certain is that when He arose from the fiery pit, Jesus was alive and well and death had been defeated once and for all. Not physical death, but eternal death.

Greek mythology tells of a beautiful creature called a phoenix that rises from its own ashes, symbolizing rebirth and immortality. How does this compare to what we just read in John 19 & 20?

And then there is also the human element. Read and discuss the first three verses of Isaiah 61. In Biblical times, those in mourning would mark their foreheads with ashes. Highlight verse 3. What are the ashes replaced by? And why?

Verse 2

I raise a hallelujah with everything inside of me

Read and highlight the following verses: Psalm 86:12, Psalm 111:1, Psalm 119:145, 1 Cor 14:15, and John 4:24. What does it mean then, to praise God with everything inside of us? How do we do that?

I raise a hallelujah I will watch the darkness flee

Read, highlight and discuss Psalm 119:105, John 12:46, John 8:12, Ephesians 5:8 and finish with John 11:10. What (or who) is able to overcome darkness? What does John 11:10 mean?

I raise a hallelujah in the middle of the mystery

Read and discuss Isaiah 55:8-11, highlighting verses 8 and 11.

I raise a hallelujah, fear you've lost your hold on me.

Read and highlight 1 Peter 3:12-14. The first part of that sounds as if anyone who lives for the Lord is never going to have anything bad happen. But v. 14 starts with "But even if..." How then should this be understood in context?

No matter what we are facing in our lives, good or bad, we are caught in the middle of a spiritual war between good and evil, our flesh and soul, the world and God's kingdom, and ultimately between God and Satan. In all circumstances, what should our battle cry be?

If you have additional thoughts or observations, use the space below.