

PRAISE GOD! (Doxology for Kids)

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Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!
Psalm 150:6

1. Praise God! Praise God!
Ev'ry blessing comes from Him
Praise Him, people on the earth
Birds that fly and fish that swim

REFRAIN

**Ev'rybody now praise Him here
Ev'rybody now praise Him there
On land and sea and air
All creatures in His care
Ev'rybody now praise Him here
Ev'rybody now praise Him there
All creatures ev'rywhere
His goodness we declare! [2nd time to ENDING]**

2. Praise God! Praise God!
All the angels up above
Praise the Father, praise the Son
Praise the Spirit, three in one [to refrain]

ENDING [following 2nd refrain]

**From the mountains to the plains
When the sun shines, when it rains
North and south, east and west
Praise Him for His faithfulness
Up above and down below
Praise Him ev'rywhere you go**

**Praise God! Praise God!
Ev'ry blessing comes from Him!**

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Teaching Resources

Background

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

These are the familiar words of “The Doxology” that is sung frequently in Protestant churches around the world. The tune for the “Doxology” is known as “Old Hundredth,” because it was the melody created by Louis Bourgeois in the 1500’s that was used in the Genevan Psalter to sing words from Psalm 100, although originally, the tune was associated with Psalm 134.

The “Doxology’s” words and melody are an elegant and powerful affirmation of God’s goodness and providence for us, as well as for all creatures who dwell on earth. The words remind us that all our blessings flow from God’s hand. The song exhorts us – and all creatures – to praise God. The words exhort the angels in the heavenly realm to join in praising God. The words remind us of God’s triune nature and exhort us to praise Him as Father, as Son, and as Holy Ghost. In short, the “Doxology” tells all of God’s creation –both earthly and heavenly – to praise Him for all His blessings.

I love singing the “Doxology.” It is simple, elegant, and powerful.. But one day I began thinking . . . how meaningful is the traditional “Doxology” for children? “From whom all blessings flow?” “All creatures here below?” “Ye heavenly host?” These are tremendous phrases – for adults to sing, but do children really understand what these phrases mean?

As children grow in their knowledge, understanding, faith, and vocabulary, eventually (and hopefully) the “Doxology” can become a powerful tool for their worship. But until then, maybe a lively rhythm, some word changes, and a catchy beat could provide a more approachable and accessible (to their developing minds) “Doxology.”

So I set about creating a “Doxology for Kids” that expresses exactly the same theological truths as the traditional “Doxology,” but with kid-friendly words, catchy rhyming, and a lively “island” beat. I hope you like it. Most of all, I hope the song helps you and your children **praise God** with meaning, energy, and enthusiasm!

Preparing Activities

1. If your children are accustomed to hearing the traditional “Doxology,” sing it for them or listen to a recording and talk about the meaning of each key phrase . . .
 - Praise God (what does it mean to praise God?)
 - From whom all blessings flow (how does God bless us?)
 - All creatures here below (who are the creatures on earth?)
 - Ye heavenly host (who are the heavenly host?)
 - Father, Son, and Holy Ghost (how can God be all three at once?)
2. What does the word, “blessing,” mean? A blessing is a favor or gift from God that brings us happiness, provides for our needs, or supports our welfare. What are some of the blessings we experience in our lives? How can those blessings be traced to God’s care for us?
3. Encourage children to think about how they might re-phrase the points above in words and language that makes sense to them.
4. If you use the word, “doxology,” explain what a doxology is. Basically, a doxology is simply a short hymn of praise to God. The “Doxology” that we hear often in churches is only one example – perhaps the best known – of a doxology. In fact, the Bible has other scriptural examples of doxologies (see *extending activities* below).

Extending Activities

1. For thought and conversation . . . When we say “praise God,” is that the same as actually praising God? When someone praises us for doing something well, do they say, “praise Sally!” or “praise Joel?” No, they usually make a comment about what we have done to merit praise:
 - “Sally, you played that piano piece really well!”
 - “Joel, I saw how you helped your friend when he fell and hurt himself. You are really kind!”

Make a list of all the things we might say to – or about – God that would be examples of our offering praise to Him:

- a. State His characteristics as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
- b. State what He has done for you
- c. Thank Him for specific blessings

2. The song says that all creatures should praise God. It's easy to think of examples of how people can praise God, but how do birds, fish, porcupines, and spiders praise God? Here's the way I see it . . . every living creature is so miraculously crafted, with complex cells, organs, systems, reproductive abilities, and so on, that simply by virtue of their existing and functioning, it brings praise to God, the One who created them. A fish praises God simply (or profoundly) by being a fish! A bird praises God by being the bird created by God.

As I am writing these words late on a summer night, the light on my desk has attracted a big green katydid to the window. From inside the window, I watch with fascination as this magnificent insect clings to the outside of the window and walks slowly across it, skillfully using its large jointed legs to maneuver and bringing bits of food to its mouth with its front legs. It is truly an amazing sight! I have to praise God, the creator of the katydid for this marvelous creature. The katydid – simply by being a katydid – brings praise to God, its creator!

This is how I believe non-human creatures praise God. But maybe you have a different explanation. How do you see it?

3. There is no single “doxology,” even though the song we sing to the tune “Old Hundredth” has become known as the Doxology. Read Romans 11:33-36 and II Peter 3:18. Why could these scripture passages be considered doxologies? Have some fun and try to set these scriptural doxologies to music. Encourage children to make up their own melodies to sing the words. Actually, I am aware of existing musical versions of the Romans doxology. So I would suggest letting the kids try to create their own musical versions of the Romans doxology, and then play (or sing) for them some of the existing versions that are out there.

4. God also created us with the capacity to be creative – to sing, play instruments, compose inspiring music, and express ourselves through the arts. One of the most stirring arrangements of the doxology known as “Old Hundredth” (*All creatures that on earth do dwell . . .*) was composed by Ralph Vaughn Williams and performed for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. Do some internet searching and find a video of this arrangement (from the coronation or otherwise) to play for your children. Exposing young children to high-quality musical arrangements is good for them!

For conversation . . . How is this doxology different from our *Doxology for Kids*? How is it the same? How does this musical arrangement enhance our ability to praise God? How can

we use the performing arts (e.g., music, dance) and the visual arts (e.g., drawing, painting, sculpting) to praise God?

Related Scripture

- Psalm 34:1
- Psalm 100
- Psalm 117
- Psalm 134
- Luke 19:40