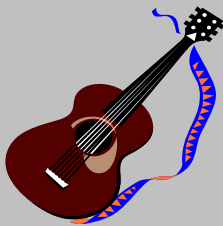


Unit One
Jesus
is
Lord

A New Year Celebration!

Lesson 1



WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

By the time the group has finished this lesson, they should:

- be able to praise God for the new year.
- thank God for his faithfulness.
- act by sharing what you know of God's faithfulness with others.

WHAT DO I NEED?

- Bibles
- devotional notebooks & biros
- musical instruments
- simple refreshments if possible
- invite friends.

ACTIVITIES FOR FUN!

10 MINUTES

Praise worship

Open with a time of joyful praise and worship.
 Choose songs related to the theme of God's faithfulness such as:

- ◇ **Great is thy faithfulness....**
- ◇ **I will sing of the mercies of the Lord....**
- ◇ **Thou art worthy.....**
- ◇ **I will call upon the Lord....**
- ◇ **What a mighty God we serve...**



TALK ABOUT IT!

15 MINUTES

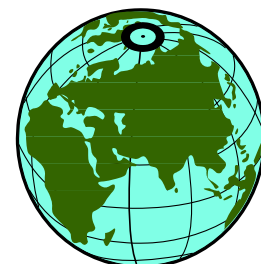
"I will praise you, my God ..."

Ask what the word 'praise' means.
 Why do you think we need to praise God anytime a year is finished?

As we come to the end of one year and begin another it is a good time to celebrate God's faithfulness.

Think of two or three major events that have happened in the past one year.
 After each group of events, have a brief prayer of thankfulness to God for the positive events and pray for change where the events have been negative.

- a) in world affairs
- b) in Africa
- c) in scientific development
- d) in the world-wide church
- e) in your denomination.



“Great is the Lord..”



Read Psalm 145:1- 7

1. Why do we praise God's Name?

2. What three aspects of God's greatness can every generation celebrate?
3. What four different ways can we share the news of God's goodness with our friends?

Sing: “His Name is wonderful”

Read Psalm 145:8-16

4. What five different aspects of God's character are mentioned?
5. Some people may doubt the truth of verse 9. What would you say to them?
6. How is God's kingdom described in verses 10-13?
7. What is your experience of verses 13-14? Give an example.

Prayer: Two people thank the Lord for the experiences they have had of God's faithfulness.

Read Psalm 145:17-21

8. How does God express His righteousness to us?
9. What three things do we have to do?
10. We sing praise to God, but what other ways can we “speak in praise of the Lord”?

Sing: “Holy, holy holy,
Holy, holy Lord God Almighty;
And we lift our hearts before you ...”

I will tell



Ask two or three members to share one special experience they have had of God's faithfulness during the past year.

After each one have a short prayer of thanksgiving.

In what way can you use these experiences to tell others of the goodness and faithfulness of God?

Write your own experiences in your devotional notebook in the coming weeks. It is helpful to be able to look back and read what God is doing in your life.

Ask several members to choose worship songs related to God's faithfulness, giving a reason for the choice.

Take time to fellowship with each other and get to know new people who have come along.

Enjoy refreshments, if you have them. Close in prayer expressing trust in God for His faithfulness in the coming year.



Go and tell others
about God's goodness
and faithfulness

THIS WEEK'S ASSIGNMENT:

Start a new page in your notebook.

List the ways in which you experienced God's faithfulness last year.

As you read a few verses of this Psalm each day write one sentence about what God is saying to you.

Day 1.
Psalm 145:1-3

Day 2.
Psalm 145:4-5

Day 3.
Psalm 145:6-7

Day 4.
Psalm 145:8-9

Day 5.
Psalm 145:12-13

Day 6.
Memorise:
Psalm 145:13b-14.