

## The One We Worship

(15–20 minutes, easy set-up)

*Use this outline and the Biblical Commentary to prepare to share the truths of this passage with learners. Encourage learners to take notes on their copies of the Learner Worksheet as you teach. The underlined words in the Master Teacher Outline correspond to the blanks on the worksheet.*

**Introduction:** Why study creation? “To learn about, speak about, and release praise to God!” the psalmist would say. From his contemplation of the earth and its inhabitants, the psalmist learned about God’s infinite wisdom, loving care, and unlimited power. To say something about God, the psalmist looked to the grandeur of the heavens to provide him with majestic metaphors. Today, the psalmist invites you to join him as he bows under and exalts over the utter goodness and greatness of our God.

### 1. Contemplation of God’s heavenly majesty stirs our inmost praise (Psalm 104:1-4).

- The psalmist called upon his soul to praise God and reflected on God’s greatness (v. 1).
- Because God is majestic, the psalmist used heavenly imagery describing Him as having clothes, a dwelling place, a mode of transportation, and angelic servants, as befitting a king. (vv. 2-4).

**Illustration:** Puritan theologian Matthew Henry said, “The grandeur of the prince is the pride and pleasure of all his good subjects.” [Henry; available on-line] In other words, when a prince’s subjects recognize and highly value his stunning princely attributes, they take pleasure in knowing he is their prince—his grandeur becomes their pleasure and their pleasure in him is evident in their spontaneous praise of him.

### 2. Contemplation of God’s creative wisdom and earthly providence stirs our inmost praise (Psalm 104:24-30).

- The psalmist reflected on the magnitude and diversity of God’s creation and marveled at it (vv. 24-26).
- The psalmist reflected on God’s care of his creatures and saw God’s sustaining hand (vv. 27-30).

**Illustration:** In his notes on Psalm 104, Charles H. Spurgeon, referencing English churchman William Barrow, wrote that even men like Aristotle, Pliny, and Galen broke forth in thankful praise upon their study of creation. He asked, should not our hearts, like theirs, “be affected with thankful sense, and our lips break forth in praise” upon contemplation of “the glorious splendour and uniform motion of the heavens; the pleasant fertility of the earth; the curious figure and fragrant sweetness of plants; the exquisite frame of animals; and all other amazing miracles of nature?” [Spurgeon; available on-line]

### 3. Contemplation of God’s unlimited power stirs our joyous inmost praise (Psalm 104:31-35).

- The psalmist reflected on God’s power and desired God’s glory and joy to continue (vv. 31-32).
- The psalmist vowed to sing joyful and lifelong praise to God that would please Him (vv. 33-34).
- The psalmist desired that the earth would be freed of anyone who does not praise God (v. 35).

**Illustration:** Scottish preacher William Binnie wrote of walking on a “beach of surpassing beauty” one day when Psalm 104 spontaneously came to mind. Scene after scene unfolded before his eyes when he was interrupted by seemingly intoxicated persons engaged in a brawl. Binnie concluded that a prayer for the removal of the wicked was in perfect harmony with a desire for the earth to be filled with a joyful song of praise to the Lord [Binnie, p. 287].

**Conclusion:** The psalmist has shown us that creation can teach us about God and can call us to contemplate His greatness. God has given us, who are dwellers in God’s vastly beautiful and complex creation, an example of how to use our study of creation to discover what God is like. When we do, like the psalmist, we will surely find ourselves overflowing with praise from the core of our being.