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| **SERIES** | **PRAY** |
| **BIBLE** | **Psalm 95** |
| **TITLE/TOPIC** | **He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands. (Rejoice)** |
| **OVERVIEW** | After pausing, we rejoice. Psalm 95 gives us ways of and reasons for rejoicing. We rejoice with loud shouts of praise and thanksgiving as well as a humble posture of kneeling. We rejoice because God is King, Creator and Shepherd. Not only is God a King and Creator, with all of his creation in his hands, but he is our Maker and Shepherd, with us in his hands as well. We rejoice not just because of God’s greatness as king and creator, but also because we are in relationship with him. “Joy is relational.”  When we are confident of being in his hands, our heart remains soft and obedient before him. |
| **SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN** | **Psalm 95:1-2**  **Rejoice**  “Having paused to be still at the start of a prayer time, the most natural and appropriate response to God’s presence is reverence.” – Pete Greig  We take time to rejoice in who God is with shouts of praise and thanksgiving.  **Rejoice because he is King.**  **Vs 3 -** For the Lord is a great God,  and a great King above all gods.  **Rejoice because he is Creator**  **Vs 4-5 –** In his hand are the depths of the earth;     the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it,     and his hands formed the dry land.  **Rejoice because he is our Maker/Shepherd**  **vs 6-7 –** Oh come, let us worship and bow down;     let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God,     and we are the people of his pasture,     and the sheep of his hand.  **Rejoice because it keeps your heart soft and obedient.**  **Vs 8-11** |
| **GOSPEL** | How does this sermon bring people to the Gospel?  The story of the OT in part is a story of unfaithful shepherds leading the people of God. Jesus comes as the good Shepherd who has compassion on his people, laying down his life for his sheep, so that they might experience life and life everlasting. (Matt 9:34; John 10:10-11) But that requires that we follow him as our Shepherd. (John 10:9) He is our rock of salvation. (Psalm 95:1) |
| **NEXT**STEPS | Begin | Connect | Engage | Grow | Disciple  **BEGIN –** Have you trusted Jesus to be your Shepherd?  **GROW –** Are you regularly rejoicing in who God is and your relationship with him? |

**Resources:**

**“Psalms”** – Tremper Longman III

Chapter 3 from **“The Other Half of Church” –** Jim Wilder, Michael Hendricks