

Taking It Home:

- Think back to a difficult time in your life when you thought God had abandoned you or where your actions drove you away from Him. How did God restore or rescue you?
- When we trust Jesus, God rescues us from sin and death and places us into a new Kingdom. (Romans 3:23; 6:23; 5:8, Ephesians 2:8-10; Colossians 1) Our response is to be a life of praise to Him. That praise could look different at times but it can always come from the heart without restraint.
- What is one way you can share a rescue or restore story this week? If you are on social media, consider posting a public praise of God's work. Tag your post with #celebrate #bethelfc and see who else responds.
- A seminary professor recently remembered one of his co-workers who died from cancer this way: "Steve was never about himself. Even in his pain there was an effervescent praise of our Lord and a positivity of faith that was contagious." Sometimes the rescue hasn't been fully realized and we are commanded by the Lord to praise Him during a storm. If that is you, may your faith be strong and contagious and your joy effervescent.

Book 4: Make a Joyful Noise

Notes:

Growth Group Homework

For the week of June 16, 2013

Psalm 98

Quick Review: Psalm 98 recounts the story of God’s faithfulness to the people of Israel as a righteous King who has delivered them from their troubles. Israel is put on display in front of all the nations as an example of God’s faithful enduring love. The psalmist declares the good character of God and commands the people to respond in praise with worship that flows free from their hearts without restraint. The joyful response of God’s people following his rescue draws the nations to Him. Today’s study invites you to likewise respond with joyful uninhibited praise to a God who rescues and restores those who turn to Him.

My Story:

- How is the style of celebration different in each of these events: birth of a child, golf tournament, Bison football game?
- Recall a time when you saw God work in a big way in your life. How did you respond? If you celebrated His work, what did it sound like?
- When has God recently rescued you from a difficult situation (financially, spiritually, physically, emotionally)? How did you celebrate the rescue?

Growing Deeper:

- Briefly summarize each of these sections of Psalm 98:
 - 98:1-3
 - 98:4-6
 - 98:7-9
- Based on 98:1-3, what are two or three things you can say about the character of God?
 - God is _____
 - God is _____
 - God is _____
- There are many parallels between Psalm 96, 98, and Isaiah 52. Notice that the strong arm of God is a consistent theme (98:1, Isaiah 52:10). What else stand out to you?
- God is a God of justice and righteousness. Consider reading these verses and speaking praise to God for His justice and His righteousness. (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 11:7; 89:14; 98:9; Romans 3:23-26).