**Kingdom Cultures: God’s Compassion gives us Joy and Hope**

(Slide 1)

**Purpose:** To explore how our joy and hope are affected as we experience a compassionate God who doesn’t treat us as we deserve.

**Watch: God Tube clip; Grace**

<http://www.godtube.com/watch/?v=WLGDWWNX>

1. What do we think happens next (stop clip showing father’s face towards boys)?
2. What did the boys faces tell us before the father responded as he did?
3. What kind of Heavenly Father do you have and why?
4. What does the mud represent?
5. What is it about the way God treats us that causes us to respond in joy?

(Slide 2)

(Slide 3)

(Slide 4)

**Key verses:**

(Slides 5-8)

**Psalm 145**

1I will exalt you, my God the King;
    I will praise your name for ever and ever.
2Every day I will praise you
    and extol your name for ever and ever.

3Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
    his greatness no one can fathom.
4One generation commends your works to another;
    they tell of your mighty acts.
5They speak of the glorious splendour of your majesty –
    and I will meditate on your wonderful works.
6They tell of the power of your awesome works –
    and I will proclaim your great deeds.
7They celebrate your abundant goodness
    and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

8The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
    slow to anger and rich in love.

9The Lord is good to all;
    he has compassion on all he has made.
10All your works praise you, Lord;
    your faithful people extol you.
11They tell of the glory of your kingdom
    and speak of your might,
12so that all people may know of your mighty acts
    and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.
13Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
    and your dominion endures through all generations.

The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises
    and faithful in all he does.
14The Lord upholds all who fall
    and lifts up all who are bowed down.
15The eyes of all look to you,
    and you give them their food at the proper time.
16You open your hand
    and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

17The Lord is righteous in all his ways
    and faithful in all he does.
18The Lord is near to all who call on him,
    to all who call on him in truth.
19He fulfils the desires of those who fear him;
    he hears their cry and saves them.
20The Lord watches over all who love him,
    but all the wicked he will destroy.

21My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord.
    Let every creature praise his holy name
    for ever and ever.

**Psalm 103**

8the Lord is compassionate and gracious,
    slow to anger, abounding in love.
9He will not always accuse,
    nor will he harbour his anger for ever;
10he does not treat us as our sins deserve
    or repay us according to our iniquities.
11For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
    so great is his love for those who fear him;
12as far as the east is from the west,
    so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

**God is a kind and compassionate Father**

(Slide 9)

* He doesn’t condemn us but cleanses us

(Slide 10)

* The cross has provided for our cleansing, we just need to respond

(Slide 11)

* We are showered in God’s grace

**Our mission culture: What kind of God are we representing?**

(Slides 12-13)

Back to loving our neighbour as we love ourselves

How have we misrepresented God?

**Our joy and praise (therefore hope) are linked to celebrating a kind and compassionate Father**

(Slide 14)

Think about God’s compassion. What aspects of this contribute to generating joy and hope in you?