

Let's Sing to the Lord Together!

A Family Study from Today in the Word

This Family Study is a companion to the *Today in the Word* devotional *Sing to the Lord: Music in the Bible* (May 2024). The whole family can learn from God's Word together. In each of the four lessons, you will:



Read

Read a passage
in the Bible



Understand

Understand the biblical
text in a deeper way



Imagine

Imagine the lesson
with hands-on activities

About Music in the Bible

Music is an important way that we, as Christians, can joyfully worship and praise the Lord. Throughout Scripture, we will learn that God created music. It is mentioned at creation and also at the end of the Bible. In God's Word we learn about the many ways songs and music are used to worship Him. In the Psalms, we find songs of lament (sadness) and songs of joy. Music in the Bible is used to praise the Lord for who He is and what He has done. When we sing to the Lord we bring Him glory! Singing directs our minds and hearts to God.



This *Today in the Word* family study was written by Moody Bible Institute students Haylee Grindal, Ashleigh Hiderandt, and Annie Cornette under the direction of Elizabeth Smith, Program Head and Associate Professor of Moody's Children and Family Ministry program. Please visit moody.edu/academics/programs/children-family-ministry for more information.

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10 Special Songs

in the Bible

1

After the Lord parted the Red Sea, Miriam (the sister of Moses) led the Israelites in a song of praise to the Lord (Exod. 15:21).

2

Moses sang to warn the Israelites to stop disobeying the Lord (Deut. 32:1–3).

3

Deborah (the prophetess) and Barak (the Israelite general) sang a victory song after winning the battle at Mount Tabor (Judg. 5).

4

David sang to thank the Lord after he was saved from people who wanted to harm him (2 Sam. 22).

5

The prophet Isaiah sang to remind the Israelites that the Lord is righteous, even when it may not seem like it (Isa. 5:1–7).

6

King David sang to the Lord when they dedicated the temple (Ps. 30).

7

When the Israelites were climbing a hill to go to the Temple in Jerusalem, they sang “songs of ascent” (Ps. 122 is an example).

8

Mary, the mother of Jesus, sang a song of praise thanking God for His miraculous gift (Luke 1:46–55).

9

Zechariah sang praise to the Lord that his son John the Baptist would prepare the way for Jesus (Luke 1:68–79).

10

In John’s revelation, he heard all of heaven singing a song of praise to Jesus for His sacrifice on the cross (Rev. 5:9–14).

Sing with Joy!

Memory Verse

*Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music.—Psalm 98:4*



Read Psalm 98

Have you ever wondered why we sing songs in church? We sing songs because music is one of the ways we can worship God! Our memory verse today says to “burst into jubilant song with music” (Ps. 98:4). The word “jubilant” means joyful. As Christians, we can sing songs of worship to the Lord as a joyful response to all the amazing things He has done!



Understand

1. What does the word “jubilant” mean?
2. Verse 1 tells us why we sing to the Lord. What are the reasons the psalmist was singing to Him?
3. What instruments are mentioned in Psalm 98?
4. Verse 8 tells us that even the rivers and mountains joined in! How did they participate?
5. Why do we sing songs in church?
6. What are we giving to God when we sing with joy?



Imagine

Parents, help your children learn the memory verse by creating a jubilant, joyful song! Have your child make up a tune that fits the memory verse. They can use a piano or musical instrument to make a melody or even just hum some tunes. When you decide on one melody, have them create their own hand motions or even a dance to go with it. They can use items around the house as musical instruments to play along (pots and pans as a drum, a container of salt as a shaker). Have them practice this “new song” until they are confident, and then perform it for other friends and family (or capture a video and share it on social media—tag #todayintheword).



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Prayerful Worship

Memory Verse

Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.—Ephesians 5:19b-20



Read Ephesians 5:1-2; 15-20

God wants us to praise and worship Him with prayerful hearts. This means we should sing to Him even when we may not want to. Singing to God is one way we show Him we love and appreciate all that He has done for us. God knows our hearts. When we get distracted or are in a bad mood, we need to ask Him to help us worship with the right attitude.



Understand

1. What kind of attitude does the Lord want us to have as we worship Him? (see verses 1-4)
2. When we sing in church, Who is listening? How should that change the way we sing?
3. Why do we sometimes sing with the wrong attitude?
4. How can we remember to worship God with the right attitude?
5. Can you think of some reasons you can give thanks to God today?



Imagine

Parents, have your child create their own musical shaker! Use a plastic bottle or container (like an oatmeal box) and fill it with rice, beans, sand, or any other items that you think would make a cool sound. After you have filled it with a small amount of beans or rice, put the cap on and tape it shut. Help your children decorate the outside with paint or colorful paper. They can even write our memory verse on the outside. Now they have their very own instrument to make beautiful music for the Lord. Spend some time singing your favorite worship songs, letting your children sing and play along with their shakers.



King David's Psalms

Memory Verse

*I will praise you as long as I live,
and in your name I will lift up my hands.—Psalm 63:4*



Read Psalm 63

The word “psalm” means a sacred song or hymn. Did you know that King David wrote more than half the songs in the book of Psalms? Even as a young person, he was such a skilled harp player that he was asked to be the king’s personal musician. David wrote many kinds of songs to God about different things in his life. He would often sing about God and His greatness. From David we learn about the power music and worship can have on our relationship with God. Singing songs to God can bring us closer to Him and can show Him praise for all He has done!



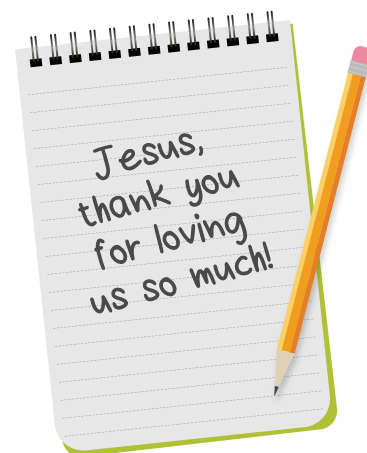
Understand

1. Who was David? What was he really good at doing?
2. David wrote songs to God when he was happy and when he was worried. Why do you think he wrote both kinds of psalms?
3. What did it mean that David “thirsted” for God? (see verse 1)
4. Why did David praise God? (see verses 2 and 3)
5. Why should we praise God?
6. Does praising God only happen when we are happy? Why or why not?



Imagine

Parents, help your child write their very own psalm! Guide them through writing a four-line poem or song about the goodness of God. The lines do not need to rhyme but can just express their feelings. The first line can describe something your child is thankful for. The second line can be about something hard the child is going through. The third line can tell how God will help them get through this problem. The fourth line can praise or thank God for the ways He helps and loves us. Name the psalm: The Psalm of [Child’s Name]. When they are done, maybe at dinner, have them take turns reading their psalms out loud.



The Heart of Worship

Memory Verse

*Let everything that has breath
praise the LORD.—Psalm 150:6*



Read Psalm 150

Psalm 150 teaches us how to praise God. The psalmist tells us where to praise God—in His sanctuary, or church, and outside of it! Everyone is called to praise God. Every person who breathes is given life by God and therefore should praise Him. We are told that we can praise God by singing of His greatness and all He has done for us in the past. Our praise is accompanied by all sorts of instruments, making beautiful music, which gives glory to God.



Understand

1. Who should praise God?
2. Where should we praise God?
3. In this psalm, what phrase is repeated over and over?
Count how many times the word “praise” is used.
4. How can we praise God?
5. Can you find the instruments in this psalm that are used to praise God?
6. What are some reasons you praise God? What has God done for you?



Imagine

Parents, let's make some music with your children! Find about six water glasses (or even more) and fill them with varying amounts of water. You can even use food coloring to color each glass a different shade (just for fun). Then, let your child test out the different sounds of the glasses by tapping them with a utensil. You can add or subtract water to change the sounds. Encourage your child to try and make a melody to sing their praise to the Lord. It is fun to worship God with all kinds of instruments!

