



Leader Guide

Sing

June 25, 2023

Main Passage: Psalm 95:1-11; Acts 16:25-34; Ephesians 5:15-20

Theological Theme

Singing to the Lord in worship is a vital practice for the church. When God's people lift their voices to worship in song, powerful things happen.

Introduction

- ? What is your favorite worship/singing style? What is your go-to worship song?
- ? How does worship through song stir your affections for God in a unique way?

1. Called to Sing (Ephesians 5:15-20)

This passage focuses on the characteristics of a Spirit-filled life. Paul wrote this letter to the church at Ephesus as a means of encouragement and challenge the Ephesian church needed at that time. While originally written to a different audience, the message remains relevant to believers today. We are constantly bombarded with false teachings and aggressive information from the enemy set according to the world's rapidly declining standards. Anyone who wants to live wisely as a Christ follower should take Paul's words to heart.

- ? Why does a wise person make the most of every opportunity? When was a time you took a God-given opportunity when prompted by the Holy Spirit? When was a time you felt you missed an opportunity given by God?
- ? How have you seen that what you "fill up" with marks what comes out of your life? Give an example.
- ? Application: How can making worship in song a priority help you make the most of the time you've been given and live wisely before the Lord?

2. Power in Singing (Acts 16:25-34)

This account of Paul and Silas is one example of the power in singing and lifting our praises to God. They had been arrested, beaten, and thrown into prison for doing good and healing people. It was unfair and undeserved, yet they did not let it get them down. Imagine being chained in a prison cell but being so filled with joy you couldn't help but start a worship service!

- ? What is your typical response when something bad or unfair happens in your life? Complaining or praising? How might singing help you move toward worship in these moments?
- ? When have you experienced the power of God at work through the praises of His people?

- ❓ Application: What will you do to be intentional about giving a testimony of praise regardless of your circumstances going forward? (**Remember Jeremiah 29:11**)

3. A Heart That Sings (Psalm 95:1-11)

The Psalms are a great place to go when you want to worship the Lord, offering His own powerful words back to Him. In Psalm 95, there are numerous descriptions of ways that we can worship and praise the Lord.

- ❓ When is a time the Psalms spoke to you or gave you the words you needed to worship?
- ❓ What of the psalmist's description of God's greatness stands out to you most and why?
- ❓ Application: What do you need to change to get your heart right with God?

Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

1. What does this passage say?
2. What did this passage mean to its original audience?
3. What does this passage tell us about God?
4. What does this passage tell us about man?
5. What does this passage demand of me?
6. How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
7. How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC

Here's How to Become a Christ-Follower:

Read the following verses and ask after each one: "What does this say to me?"

- **All have sinned:** Romans 3:23 & 1 John 1:8
- **The wages of sin:** Romans 6:23 & John 3:18
- **But while we were sinners, salvation was provided:** Romans 5:8
- **Become a Christ-follower:** Romans 10:9-10 Confess and Believe

Accepting Christ is Just the Beginning:

Next Steps:

- Publicly profess your faith by being baptized (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 3:21; Romans 6:4).
- Join a church which follows the Bible, where you can grow in your faith through prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other Christians.
- Get involved in groups for encouragement and accountability.
- Begin a daily personal worship experience with God where you study the Bible and pray.
- Share with others what Jesus has done for you. Tell your story (Romans 10:14; Matthew 28:19-20).
- Begin to live for God (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18; James 1:19-27).