

Sing: A Theology of Song

Life Group Leaders Guide

Objective

This guide contains the information and questions you will need to lead a life group study during our current sermon series. Our aim is to spark Spirit-led, Bible-centered conversations that anyone can participate in regardless of how biblically literate they may or may not be. **The win** that we want you to experience is when your group members **connect** more closely with each other and with God so that they are encouraged to move forward in living out their faith.

Directions

The *Purpose* and *Move* sections are for the leader to read to the group to provide clarity. **Do not feel pressured to cover all the questions.** Decide which ones may work best for your group. You will see brief notes interspersed between groups of questions to help give the group context for their answers. The *Notes and Commentary* section (when included) is optional reading for the leader to get background information and better understanding of the passages before leading the discussion.

Series Overview

Every week at The Point Church we sing songs together. Singing isn't something we do to check a box. It's an obedient response to who God is. In this series, we will take a deeper look at the PURPOSE and POWER behind singing together.

Sing: A Theology of Song Series Schedule

Week	Sermon Date	Topic of Sermon & Life Group
1	3/10	Why We Sing
2	3/17	What We Sing
3	3/24	How We Sing

The Point Church Life Group Curriculum

Why We Sing

The Big Idea

Singing is a vital part of worship.

Flow of Study

Icebreaker: What is your favorite song of all time? What do you like about it?

Move #1: Let's try something different this week and begin our study in worship.

Note to leader: Choose a song to sing together from the Point Worship playlist on Spotify: [pointchurch.com/sing](https://open.spotify.com/playlist/37i9dQZF1DWW8uG8838111). You can do a search on YouTube and find a music video to sing along to if you don't have worship leading skills.

Move #2: Let's begin the discussion with some questions regarding this Sunday's sermon.

1. Did anything stand out to you from the message this weekend?
2. Do you normally sing during the worship service? Why or why not?

Move #3: Next we'll explore why we sing by reading and discussing part of the psalm that David gave Asaph, one of his chief worship leaders, after the ark of the covenant was brought to Jerusalem.

Read 1 Chronicles 16:7-11 (NIV)

7 That day David first appointed Asaph and his associates to give praise to the Lord in this manner:

8 Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.

9 Sing to him, sing praise to him;
tell of all his wonderful acts.

10 Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

11 Look to the Lord and his strength;
seek his face always.

3. What stands out to you from this passage about this topic of worship in song?
4. How can singing God's praises be a testimony?
5. Who does this text say that we are singing to in worship? What are some implications of that?

Read 1 Chronicles 16:23-36 (NIV)

23 Sing to the Lord, all the earth;
 proclaim his salvation day after day.
 24 Declare his glory among the nations,
 his marvelous deeds among all peoples.
 25 For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
 he is to be feared above all gods.
 26 For all the gods of the nations are idols,
 but the Lord made the heavens.
 27 Splendor and majesty are before him;
 strength and joy are in his dwelling place.
 28 Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations,
 ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
 29 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
 bring an offering and come before him.
 Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.
 30 Tremble before him, all the earth!
 The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved.
 31 Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
 let them say among the nations, "The Lord reigns!"
 32 Let the sea resound, and all that is in it;
 let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them!
 33 Let the trees of the forest sing,
 let them sing for joy before the Lord,
 for he comes to judge the earth.
 34 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
 his love endures forever.
 35 Cry out, "Save us, God our Savior;
 gather us and deliver us from the nations,
 that we may give thanks to your holy name,
 and glory in your praise."
 36 Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
 from everlasting to everlasting.

6. What stands out to you from this passage about worship in song?

Note: It may be harder to want to sing in worship when we do not "ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name," or acknowledge who he is and what he has done.

7. What reasons does David give for God being worthy of praising in song?

8. Which of these reasons for God being worthy of praising resonates most with you, and why?

9. What does it look like to cry out to God in song (verse 35)? Have you ever done this?

10. Notice all the language of joy and celebration in this psalm. How can singing help us celebrate God?

11. What barriers do we have to enjoying singing and how might we overcome them?

Next Steps: The following are things you could challenge your members to do in order to take what you studied in this curriculum farther.

1. Commit to sing. If you haven't in the past, I hope that this discussion has helped you to see the reason and true motive for singing in worship so that you will want to participate.
2. To help you better worship in song, listen to the playlist from Point Worship this week. It will help you learn some of the songs we sing on Sundays and also give you a chance to worship privately during the week. Go to pointchurch.com/sing.

Prayer: End your study with a time of praying with and for each other. Take requests, but be sure to pray also about what you've discussed today.

Notes and Commentary

The following are pieces of commentary, facts, and links based on the passages of this study in order. Use them to help supplement your group time or for your personal preparation.

Worship in the Bible is the due response of rational creatures to the self-revelation of their Creator. It is an honoring and glorifying of God by gratefully offering back to him all the good gifts, and all the knowledge of his greatness and graciousness, that he has given. It involves praising him for what he is, thanking him for what he has done, desiring him to get himself more glory by further acts of mercy, judgment, and power, and trusting him with our concern for our own and others' future well-being. Moods of awestruck wonder and grateful celebration are all part of it: David danced with passionate zeal "before the Lord" when he brought up the ark to Jerusalem, and sat in humble amazement "before the Lord" when he was promised a dynasty, and his worship evidently pleased God on both occasions (2 Sam. 6:14–16; 7:18). Learning from God is worship too: attention to his word of instruction honors him; inattention is an insult. Acceptable worship requires "clean hands and a pure heart" (Ps. 24:4) and a willingness to express one's devotion in works of service as well as in words of adoration.

The basis of worship is the covenant relationship whereby God has bound himself to those whom he has saved and claimed. This was true of Old Testament worship as it is now of Christian worship. The spirit of covenant worship, as the Old Testament models it, is a blend of awe and joy at the privilege of drawing near to the mighty Creator with radical self-humbling and honest confession of sin, folly, and need. Since God is holy and we humans are faulty, it must ever be so in this world. As worship will be central in the life of heaven (Rev. 4:8–11, 5:9–14; 7:9–17; 11:15–18; 15:2–4; 19:1–10), so it must be central in the life of the church on earth, and it should already be the main activity, both private and corporate, in each believer's life (Col. 3:17). (J.I. Packer, *Concise Theology*)