

Family Devotional Guide 5.31.2020
The Heart of Worship: Return - "Singing and Making Melody in Your Heart"

For Fun to get started: Go to firstconyers.com go under online resources and FC Families, and click on the "Making Melodies" button (this is not video, just audio) and have a fun family singalong, doing the motions that the song tells you to do!

Ask:

- Why do we sing as a part of worship?
- Does God CARE if I sing as an act of worship?

Say: Last week we talked about worshiping in spirit and truth – that God wants our head (truth as revealed about God in His Word) and our heart (our emotions that God created in us). Since our heart matters in worship of God, it matters that we "feel" as a part of worship. God doesn't just intend for us to know about Him – He wants us to know Him, enjoy Him, fear Him, be captivated by Him, and tremble at Him. We must THINK and FEEL about God.

Say: Songs help us describe and express the truth about God that connects our heads and our hearts, our thoughts and our feelings, in truth and in spirit. The realities of God are too great to just talk about them.

Ask: Have you ever sung a song in worship to God that said more than you could say by speaking (that just said it better than you could've said it on your own by talking)?

Say: Music and song are necessary and are Biblically mandated from Genesis to Revelation because the realities of God are too big to just talk about.

Ask: Can you think of a time you've read about in the Bible where songs were sung? Tell about what you remember about that.

***Singing is to be an expression of the Holy Spirit living in us (Ephesians 5:18).**

Say: When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, singing flows out of us. It is supernatural, not natural. Just because you sing a Christian song doesn't it mean it's pleasing to God.

Read: Amos 5:23-24

Ask: Was God pleased with these songs?

Say: God wants our singing to be evidence (proof) of the work of the Holy Spirit in our life.

Ask: What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

Read: Ephesians 5:18

Say: This verse talks about being drunk with wine. When you are drunk with wine, the wine takes over. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit takes over. To be filled with the Holy Spirit means to be controlled by the Holy Spirit.

Ask: How is one filled with the Holy Spirit? (the Word of God, through prayer and reading and meditating on the Word – in Acts, they were "filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the Word of God with boldness)

Say: Our worship reflects whether or not we are being controlled by the Holy Spirit.

***Singing is to be from the heart (Ephesians 5:19b)**

Say: The opposite of this is to be singing out of determination or willpower to sing. With your heart means you mean it and you feel it. If you are worshiping in spirit and in truth, it is not the right words, or the right technique, or even a great voice. It's how you value / treasure God in your heart.

***Singing is to be "to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:19)**

Say: in corporate worship with the Body of Christ, you sing to one another and to the Lord – both happen at the same time.

Ask:

- Would singing to the Lord be God centered (putting God first) or others centered (putting other people first)?
- Would singing to the Lord be focused on God or focused on others?
- Would singing to the Lord mean that we want God to be pleased (and not others) even though we are singing together?
- When you are singing to the Lord are you aware of God's presence?
- When you are singing to the Lord can you envision God hearing it and seeing it?
- When you are singing to the Lord, do you want God to approve and be pleased with what He is hearing?

Say: There are two kinds of singing: singing to one another and singing to the Lord. Examples of songs that could be singing to the Lord are the songs, "I Love You Lord" or "Great is Thy Faithfulness", "Holy, Holy, Holy", or "I Exalt Thee, I Exalt Thee". These songs create a close time with the Lord even when we are in a large group.

***Singing is to be to each other and in different forms (Ephesians 5:19)**

Say: All of life is worship – not just what happens in church or on Sunday mornings. But this verse says to speak to ONE ANOTHER with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. So, we should sing together when we gather to worship corporately. Instruments are good. Singing together is good, as we lift our voices to the Lord with real, genuine, heartfelt emotion as we respond to the truth of WHO God is.

Read: Psalm 118:28-29

Say: This is a Psalm, but it is singing to God AND acknowledging to one another that He is good.

- Chris Tomlin's song, "Forever" says, "Give thanks to the Lord, our God and King, His love endures forever for He is good, He is above all things, His love endures forever." (Listen to it if you can get it and sing along.)
- Hymns such as "Crown Him with Many Crowns" are sung to God but are encouraging one another to give Him the allegiance He is due. (If you don't know it, find it on YouTube and listen.)

Singing is not to be a performance for us to be the passive, disengaged audience who is being entertained, but it is to lead us to worship God.

***Singing is to be undergirded (reinforced / held up) by a deep Biblical theology (study of the nature of God) - of God's Sovereign Goodness (Ephesians 5:20)**

Say: Knowing WHO we're singing to and about will lead us to worship. God is still in control and He is always good. Because of that, I can sing and give thanks. He does what He does and allows what He allows for His glory and our good.

Check yourself:

- While singing as a part of corporate worship, do you find yourself being a participant or an audience?
- Does that matter to God?
- Does your singing flow from your heart as you consider who God is and is it true about God as He is revealed in Scripture?
- Pray and ask God to give you a heart that worships Him in spirit and in truth