

Study Series: Sing!

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Lesson Title: “Sing! . . . with Your Family” (pp. 43-54)

Session 4

December 26, 2021

**The main point of this lesson is:** Children need parents and other adults to sing songs of faith with them in and out of church.

**Focus on this goal:** To help adults sing songs of faith with children

**Key Bible Passage:** Deuteronomy 6:5-7; Psalm 78:2-4

Before the Session

**Provide** 3-4 blank index cards or slips of paper per participant. (Step 7)

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

**Invite** participants to brainstorm names of children in their home (including grandchildren living elsewhere), in their church, and in their neighborhood. **Ask:** *What are consequences of these children not learning the stories of the Christian faith from you or other adults?*

**Call attention** to the session title (p. 43) and main point (p. 53). **Explain** that this session will help adults provide a nurturing atmosphere for children where they can learn the stories and songs of faith. This session will help adults sing songs of faith with children.

Step 2. Singing and Skiing, Part 1

**Invite** participants to read Deuteronomy 6:5-7 (p. 43) in unison. **Explain** that this is identified as the most important of all the laws and commands (see Matt. 22:36-38). **Ask** participants to discuss: *Why would Jesus say this is the most important of all the laws?*

**Invite** participants to discuss phrases and ideas from Deuteronomy 6:5-7 that are important particularly as we focus on singing songs of faith with children. Make sure to **emphasize** phrases such as: these commands “are to be on your hearts,” “impress them on your children,” and “talk about them.”

**Say:** *This session will help us examine a few Scriptures that emphasize the need and opportunity to sing songs of faith with children.*

**Guide** participants to read Psalm 78:2-4 to themselves. **Call attention** to phrases that emphasize the importance of sharing songs of faith with children. **Explain** that both the Deuteronomy and Psalm passages declare the importance of passing on to future generations the stories of faith and what God has done.

Step 3. Singing and Skiing, Part 2

**Read** the statement from Day Two (p. 45): “We live in a performance culture, where experts play and we listen ….” **Ask:** *What are some challenges as well as some opportunities for Christian parents and grandparents in light of this?*

**Call attention** to the fact that Scripture records several significant events where God was at work when individuals (and groups) sang about the event.

**Invite** participants to find Exodus 15. **Explain** that the “Song of Moses” (15:1-18) which is also celebrated in the Song of Miriam (15:20-21) are examples of remembering a remarkable event through music.

**Invite** participants to brainstorm a list of events when they experienced personally or heard of a work of God. **Ask:** *How can we help future generations know about and celebrate these kinds of events?*

Step 4. A Solid Start

**Invite** participants to find Exodus 12. **Explain** this is where God instructed His people to celebrate and remember how He delivered them from the death angel by faith.

**Invite** a volunteer to read 12:26-27. **State** that we are to teach people of faith and future generations about God’s actions in providing salvation.

**Lead** participants to discuss ways we can teach younger generations in conjunction with observing the Lord’s Supper and believers’ baptism.

**Call attention** to the Day Three information (pp. 46-47) about the difference in our faith being “taught” and “caught.” **Discuss** examples of songs that help children “learn” Christian faith and opportunities that help them “catch” our faith.

Step 5. Preparation for Life

**Call attention** to the Day Four headings (pp. 48-50). **Review** the four suggestions about singing with teenagers (p. 49). **Invite** participants to share any additional suggestions they made (activity 1, p. 49).

**Overview** Israel’s crossing the Jordan on dry land (Josh. 3–4). **Ask** a volunteer to read Joshua 4:4-7.

**Discuss** opportunities as well as challenges in teaching teenagers and young adults of ways God has been at work.

Step 6. Ten Practical Ideas

**Lead** participants to review the Ten Practical Ideas from Day Five (pp. 50-52). **Urge** participants to choose one or two ideas that are particularly meaningful to them and explain why the idea would be helpful in their situation.

**Read** Ephesians 4:7-8,12. **Lead** participants to discuss some of the spiritual gifts they have (or affirm gifts in each other) that are designed to help equip the saints. **Ask:** *What are some of the spiritual gifts you recognize and want to nurture among Christian teenagers and young adults in our church and/or your family?*

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

**Distribute** 3-4 blank index cards or slips of paper to each participant. **Invite** adults to list the names of children, teenagers, or young adults from their family or the church (one per card or paper).

**Guide** participants to write the following statement on each slip: *I want to help you learn stories and songs of our faith.* **Encourage** participants to give the cards to those persons during the coming days. Close in prayer.

