

Study Series: Sing!

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Lesson Title: “Sing! . . . with the Local Church” (pp. 55-65)

Session 5

January 2, 2022

**The main point of this lesson is:** God wants His people, who make up His church, to sing together.

**Focus on this goal:** To help adults commit to shape their legacy and testimony by their congregational singing

**Key Bible Passage:** Ephesians 5:18-20

**To the Leader:** Lyrics, music, and videos of “The Church’s One Foundation” and “In Christ Alone” can be found online. Search the song title.

Before the Session

**1. Prepare** for the group to sing “The Church’s One Foundation.” (Step 4)

**2. Invite** one or more participants to sing (or prepare to view a video of) “In Christ Alone” by Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend. (Step 7)

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

**Welcome** participants. **Call attention** to the session title (p. 55). **Ask** participants to brainstorm emotions they have experienced when they sing in a large gathering or have heard a large gathering of people singing together.

**Ask:** *Which setting is easier for you to be passionate about lyrics and tunes: when people sing secular songs or when people sing songs of our faith? Why?*

**Call attention** to the Day One pull quote (p. 55) beginning, “The church is the only structure that will stand forever….” **Invite** participants to discuss how this statement impacts what and how we sing together with other believers.

**Explain** that the main point of this session is that God wants His people, who make up His church, to sing together. **Lead** in prayer.

Step 2. Together, Part 1

**Invite** a volunteer to read 1 Peter 2:2-3. **Explain** it is important for believers to celebrate the relationship we can have with the Lord “so that [we] may grow up into [our] salvation.”

**Lead** participants to read verses 4-6 and identify words or phrases that help them celebrate Jesus and those that help them focus on the significance of being a “spiritual house.”

**Call attention** to the first paragraph in Day Two (p. 56-57). **Lead** participants to discuss: *How important is it to believers today to sing together about the Lord? How important is it to residents in heaven for all eternity to sing together about the Lord?*

**Read (or invite** a volunteer to read) Revelation 7:9-10. **Examine** the significance of singing together now as well as when we worship Jesus in heaven. **Draw from** session content as helpful.

Step 3. Together, Part 2

**Read** Ephesians 5:15-20.

**Form** two groups, each to discuss one of the following questions: 1) What are actions and attitudes we can demonstrate as part of a congregation to put Ephesians 5:15-20 to practice? 2) What are actions and attitudes Ephesians 5:15-20 helps us consider that we will demonstrate when we see Jesus’ face to face in heaven? **Call for** reports.

**Lead** participants to discuss what keeps some believers from singing with passion to the Lord when they are with other believers.

Step 4. No Man Is an Island

**Call attention** to Day Three, activity 2 (p. 59).

**Invite** participants to sing “The Church’s One Foundation” as though they were gathered with the multitudes of believers in heaven.

**Ask:** *How can we influence the way other believers sing to the Lord by how we sing as a congregation during our lifetime?* **Declare** that we are leaving a legacy for other adults, youth ,and children by how and what we sing.

Step 5. Singing and Reclaiming the Millennial Generation

**Call attention** to the content in Day Four (pp. 60-61) about Creativity, Communication, and Community. **Lead** a brief overview of each of the three categories that younger adults are looking for and ways we can shape our Christian legacy and testimony to impact younger adults.

**Lead** the group to brainstorm ways they can help reach young adults without compromising the gospel message.

Step 6. Which Kind of Church?

**Invite** a volunteer to read Philippians 2:5-11, a hymn in the early church. **Lead** participants to identify words or phrases from this passage that help us think about Jesus. Also, **invite** participants to consider emotions and responses we will have when we worship together with others in Jesus’ presence.

**Read** Ephesians 6:10-18. **Call attention** to the statement by Martin Luther (first Day Five pull quote, p. 63), and **lead** participants to consider ways to respond to Day Five, activity 2 (p. 63).

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

**Read** Colossians 1:15-20, what many people understand was another hymn sung in the early church. **Lead** participants to identify three to four words or phrases from that hymn that help them celebrate Jesus and impact what and how they sing to Jesus with others.

**Invite** participants to review some of the attitudes and actions highlighted throughout the study of *Sing!* that help them commit to shape their legacy and testimony by their congregational singing.

**Call attention** to several contemporary Christian songs written by Keith and Kristyn Getty (including but not limited to “Is He Worthy?,” “O Church Arise,” “The Power of the Cross,” “By Faith,” “The Lord is My Salvation,” and “In Christ Alone”). **Invite** enlisted participants to sing (or listen to a video of) “In Christ Alone” by Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend. **Ask:** *How does a song like this help us sing with others to and about the Lord?* **Close** in prayer.

