

“Making Our Hearts Sing” | Worship as singing

GETTING STARTED: What was the first record/8-track/cassette/CD that you owned? How would you play it? Do you still like that particular album/song?

EXPLORE THE TOPIC:

1. What are some times and places when people sing with one another?
2. How would you explain singing during Sunday morning worship services to someone that had never been to church before? What might their initial impression be if they walked into one of our worship services this Sunday?
3. Read Ephesians 5:18-19a. According to Paul, what actions did some choose to engage in as they worshiped false gods? What should they do instead?
4. What is significant about that phrase, “to one another” (see above passage)? Why might Paul have elected not to lead out with “to the Lord” in his challenge?
7. How does singing impact others that are nearby? When have you had a positive experience worshipping while listening to someone else sing?
5. Read Ephesians 5:19b-20. How does singing open us up to God? How does signing help us to better articulate truths like “God cares” much more vividly in Psalm 57:1, or that “God rescues” in Psalm 18:2?
6. How does a person meet the mark of “always giving thanks to God” (Ephesians 5:20) in worship? Is this an obtainable goal? Why might those words have been included in Paul’s writing?

8. How has music become a commodity? Consider how music has played a role in social interactions over time. How has the way we listen to music today (Pandora, Spotify) changed the way we participate with others?
9. Have you ever sang songs of praise in private? Why might a person choose to sing in private?
10. Read Revelation 5:13-14. What few details are given about this worship scene? What details are left out? What does this tell us about the priority of singing together as worshippers?

APPLY THE TRUTH:

Which of the two camps of singing do you find yourself in most time – like or do not like? The Bible contains over 400 references to singing and 50 direct commands to sing. We're commanded twice in the New Testament to sing, and Jesus himself sang hymns with his disciples. How does that impact your view of singing as an act of worship? What is your next step in engaging in worship as a joyful singer?

PRAY:

Take time to pray for our church as a body of singers this week. Pray for joy-filled unity as we engage in worship as singing on Sunday mornings – that preferences would sink to the background and God-honoring worship would be heard in our building and encourage our Christ-following family as we head to our homes, neighborhood and community.

NOTES:
