

BiG IDEA SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Small groups that focus on the Big Idea for the week can use this guide to apply the message to life and take action. Feel free to use whatever parts of this guide best fit your group personality and time frame. All verses, unless otherwise noted, are from the New International Version (NIV).

3.14/15.09 // WHY DO WE DO THAT? SINGING

BiG IDEA: Singing is for God, not just self.

// Ice Breaker _____

Option 1: What songs are you most likely to be caught singing in your private day-to-day activities?

Option 2: What are some songs that take you back in time, so that you remember the first time you heard them...or you remember where you were and who you were with when a certain song was playing?

// Questions for Discussion _____

- 1. Many of us were brought up in churches that followed the traditions handed down by other churches, who followed the traditions handed down to them. Tradition has a great deal to do with why we do what we do. How much do you think tradition has influenced your view of worship?**
- 2. Everyone has their own opinions on music. What style of worship resonates with you? What is it about your favorite worship songs that make them your favorite?**
- 3. King David danced in celebration and sang before the Lord with all his might. How do you celebrate before God?**
2 Samuel 6:5
"David and the whole house of Israel were celebrating with all their might before the LORD, with songs and with harps, lyres, tambourines, sistrums and cymbals."
- 4. Singing is a relational thing for God. What is the difference between singing for your own pleasure, or any audience other than God, and singing for God?**
1 Corinthians 14:26
"When you come together everyone has a hymn or word of instruction... for the strengthening of the church."
- 5. When you have difficulty worshipping, what do you think makes it difficult?**
Acts 16:25
About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.
- 6. Worship isn't about preferences or past experiences. It's about pleasing God! So how can we change our worshipping practices to be more God focused, than familiar and "me" focused?**
1 Corinthians 14:15
So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.
Ephesians 5:19-20
19 Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, 20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **In what ways is singing for the benefit of others more than for self? What makes communal singing important?**

Psalm 34:3

O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

8. **Why do you think it's difficult for some to show tolerance for new songs?**

Psalm 33:3

Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.

9. **How do we avoid boring, empty ritualistic worship?**

10. **In what way does praise and worship help express deep emotions that words alone might not?**

Psalm 150:3-5

Praise Him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise Him with the harp and lyre, praise Him with tambourine and dancing, praise Him with the strings and flute, praise Him with the clash of cymbals, praise Him with resounding cymbals.

11. **What has God done in your life recently that deserves celebration through singing?**

James 5:13

"Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise."

// Application _____

Commit to memory Psalm 33:3

"Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy."

This week listen to one or more worship songs that you normally do not listen to.

In what way can you glorify the Lord more in your worship this week?

How will you begin to celebrate God alone as you worship, still remembering who you are, and reverently keeping in mind who He is?

// Prayer _____

Ask God to show you how you can better worship Him.

Pray that we would all come to church each week, prepared to worship, and that all would be able to say, "Surely the Lord is in this place."

Pray that you will enthusiastically and boldly invite people to Southpoint to experience God's presence in a powerful way.