



SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

April 27, 2025

“Day of Music: Make a Joyful Noise”

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as we gather today, we reflect upon and utilize the gift of music. From days past, your people have offered up songs of praise, music from instruments, and their voices to glorify you. We, too, offer up our thanksgiving and praise, both spoken and sung. Receive our gratitude for your deeds in the past, your presence and power with us today, and for the great future that you are leading us to. Guide our study today that we might increase our faith and come even closer to you. All this we lift up in the boundless name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Psalm 98:7-9 (NIV)

⁷Let the sea resound, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.

⁸Let the rivers clap their hands,
let the mountains sing together for joy;

⁹let them sing before the Lord,
for he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

Psalm 150 (NIV)

¹Praise the Lord.

Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens.

²Praise him for his acts of power;
praise him for his surpassing greatness.

³Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,
praise him with the harp and lyre,

⁴praise him with timbrel and dancing,
praise him with the strings and pipe,

⁵praise him with the clash of cymbals,
praise him with resounding cymbals.

⁶Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord.

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INTRODUCTION

From our voices and clapping hands to the most intricately made instruments played by skilled musicians, music has been utilized in the praise and worship of the Lord throughout human history. We may place self-made roadblocks with statements such as “I don’t like my voice when I sing” or “other people are more skilled,” yet, what is requested is a “joyful noise” for the Lord. As we consider the questions below, offer up your praise and worship in whatever form you are led. Let your faith deepen as you study and meditate upon the Scriptures, music, and conversations that arise.

QUESTIONS

1. What is your favorite genre(s) of music? What most speaks to you about this genre(s) of music? Do you enjoy employing it in praise of the Lord? (example: you most enjoy Rock style music and enjoy listening to Christian Rock songs)
2. Psalm 98 calls on “all who live” upon the earth to praise the Lord. Do you struggle with offering individual praise to God? This Psalmist invites you to utilize what you already have in your praise. What do you have on hand to praise God in this very moment?
3. In a similar vein, Psalm 150 invites us to utilize all kinds of instruments and dancing in our worship of the Creator. The reason for this praise? God’s “surpassing greatness.” What great things do praise God for? Get as personal as you desire.
4. The refrain of the hymn “Great is Thy Faithfulness” (UMH #140) is “*Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see...*” What new mercies do you see God creating in your life, within your family, community, or church? How can you further these mercies and offer new ones to others?
5. As we close, what is your favorite hymn or praise song? Share why this hymn or song speaks to you. What message do you feel it conveys?

FINAL APPLICATION

Music can aid us in our worship of the Lord. From singing to dancing to learning an instrument and listening at home, in the car, or while we exercise, all can add something to our experience of worship. As you continue to utilize this gift, explore new and old songs - explore their meaning and melodies. Take time for silence as well, and find the Lord there, too. What music will you listen to this week and how will it help further your faith and witness?