

🎵 Handout Outline: “Sing! The Theology and Practice of Music in Worship”

Week 1 — Why We Sing: The God Who Sings Over Us

Key Scriptures

- Zephaniah 3:17
- Psalm 96
- Ephesians 5:18–20

Main Themes

- God as the first Singer
- Singing as participation in God’s joy
- Worship as response, not performance

Discussion Questions

- Where have you experienced God’s joy “singing over you”?
- Why do you think Scripture commands us to sing?
- How does singing shape your faith differently than spoken prayer?

Week 2 — The Psalms: Our First Hymnal

Key Scriptures

- Psalm 150
- Psalm 42
- Psalm 23

Main Themes

- The emotional breadth of biblical worship
- Lament and praise as faithful expressions
- Singing as honest prayer

Discussion Questions

- Which psalm best reflects your current season of life?
- Why is it important that worship includes both lament and praise?
- How does singing help you express emotions you might not otherwise voice?

Week 3 — Spirit and Truth: Worship as Formation

Key Scriptures

- John 4:23–24
- Colossians 3:16
- Romans 12:1

Main Themes

- Worship as encounter with God
- Music as a means of grace
- Singing Scripture into the heart

Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to worship “in spirit and truth”?
- How has a particular song shaped your understanding of God?
- What’s the difference between emotionalism and Spirit-led worship?

Week 4 — The Sound of the Church: Diversity in Worship

Key Scriptures

- Revelation 7:9–12
- Acts 2:1–11
- Psalm 117

Main Themes

- Worship as global and multi-ethnic
- The Church’s song across cultures and generations
- Humility and unity through diverse musical expression

Discussion Questions

- How does Revelation’s vision of worship challenge our preferences?

- What musical styles have helped you encounter God?
- How can our congregation better reflect the diversity of the global Church?

Week 5 — Worship vs. Performance: The Heart of Music Ministry

Key Scriptures

- 1 Samuel 16:7
- Matthew 6:1–6
- Psalm 115:1

Main Themes

- Worship as surrender, not spotlight
- Congregation as participants, not spectators
- Excellence offered to God vs. perfectionism

Sample Discussion Questions

- What helps you shift from “watching” worship to “participating” in it?
- How can musicians lead without performing?
- What does it look like to give God excellence without striving for perfection?

Optional Week 6 — Worship as a Way of Life

Key Scriptures

- Romans 12:1–2
- Psalm 34:1
- Hebrews 13:15

Main Themes

- Worship beyond Sunday
- Gratitude as daily liturgy
- Carrying the song into the world

Discussion Questions

- How does Sunday worship shape your week?

- What practices help you “keep a song” in your heart?
- Where might God be inviting you to worship in your everyday life?