



Sermon Discussion Guide for Groups

Why Do Christians Sing?

Preached by Daniel Grothe

July 5, 2026

Summary

Have someone in your group read the following summary aloud.

This sermon explores what it means to be the worshiping people of God. Pastor Daniel addresses the question "Why Do Christians Sing?" by drawing from Colossians 3:16 and Ephesians 5:18-20, showing that singing is not merely a warmup to the "real" part of church but is itself a powerful, God-ordained practice with deep spiritual purpose.

Pastor Daniel outlines four key reasons Christians sing: singing strengthens communal bonds, singing is the surest way to transmit truth (describing songs as "portable theology"), singing carries us through suffering (pointing to Jesus singing before the crucifixion and Paul and Silas singing in prison), and singing points us toward God's glorious future. He closed with a reflection on the hymn "It Is Well with My Soul," written by Horatio Spafford in the aftermath of devastating personal loss, as a model of singing by faith toward the promises of God even before circumstances change.

Key Passages

- Colossians 3:16
- Ephesians 5:18-20
- Matthew 26:30
- Acts 16:25-26
- Psalm 121:1-8

Opening Prayer

Open your session in prayer, using the words below or your own

Heavenly Father, we come before You today as a group of people with different stories, different struggles, and different seasons of life. Just as Your Word calls us to let the message of Christ dwell among us richly, we ask that You would let it dwell richly in this room right now. Open our hearts and our minds to what You want to speak to each of us today. Holy Spirit, guide our conversation, soften any hardness, and give us ears to hear not just what we want to hear, but what You want us to receive. May this time together draw us closer to You and to one another. In Jesus' name, **Amen**.

Getting Going

Allow time for each member to answer the following questions before moving on.

What is a song, whether a hymn, a worship song, or just a song from your childhood, that has stuck with you and still comes to mind from time to time?

Discussion Questions

Answer as many of these questions as time and interest allow.

1. Pastor Daniel said that 'neuroscience is increasingly concluding what the scriptures have already told us for thousands of years,' which is that communal singing is one of the most powerful activities for bringing people together. Have you experienced a moment where singing with others created a sense of unity or belonging? What was that like?
2. The sermon describes songs as 'portable theology,' meaning they carry truth in a form that gets embedded in us over time. Can you think of a song or hymn whose lyrics have shaped the way you think about God or life, without realizing it at the time?
3. In Colossians 3:16, Paul writes that we should 'teach and admonish one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.' What does it look like for a community of believers to teach and encourage each other through song?
4. Jesus sang a hymn with His disciples right before going to Gethsemane and the cross. Why do you think he used singing to prepare Himself for

suffering? How does that change the way you think about worship in hard times?

5. Paul and Silas sang at midnight in prison, and the scripture says the other prisoners were listening. Pastor Daniel suggested that your worship might not only help set you free but could also help free the people around you. Do you believe that? Have you ever seen someone else's faith or worship impact your own situation?
6. The sermon draws a distinction between spending energy complaining versus spending energy praying and worshiping during difficult seasons. How do you navigate that tension? Is it easy or hard for you to worship when you are suffering?
7. Horatio Spafford wrote 'It Is Well with My Soul' not because everything was well, but as an act of faith straining toward God's promised future. What does it look like to sing or speak truth by faith before your circumstances have changed? Is that something you find difficult?
8. The pastor said, 'You won't make it through accidentally. You're going to make it through with the people of God, singing the truth, and straining toward that great and glorious day.' How does being part of a community of faith help you endure the hard seasons of life? What role does that community play for you right now?

Making It Personal

Take the opportunity noted below to apply this week's sermon to your everyday life.

This week, choose one song or hymn that speaks truth about who God is and what He has done. Make it a daily practice to sing it, listen, or speak the lyrics out loud, especially on a day when things feel hard or discouraging. Pay attention to how it affects your perspective, your emotions, and your sense of connection to God. At your next group meeting, be ready to share what song you chose and what you noticed.

Key Takeaways

Commit to memory one point from the message before dismissing.

- Singing strengthens communal bonds. When believers gather and sing together, something shifts spiritually and relationally. Communal worship has always been one of God's primary tools for uniting His people around a shared identity and vision.
- Singing is the surest way to transmit truth. Songs are portable theology. They embed the truths of Scripture into our hearts and minds in ways that outlast formal teaching, making them especially powerful for passing faith from one generation to the next.
- Singing carries us through suffering. Jesus sang before the cross, and Paul and Silas sang at midnight in prison. Worship is not a response to

good circumstances but a weapon and a lifeline in the middle of hard ones.

Worship breaks shackles and can stir up freedom for those around us.

- Singing points us toward God's glorious future. Like Horatio Spafford writing 'It Is Well with My Soul' in the depth of grief, Christians sing by faith looking to the day when God will make all things new. Worship is how we strain toward that hope and endure the present.
- The biblical story is framed by songs, from the morning stars singing at creation in Job 38 to the redeemed singing in the new creation in Revelation 21 and 22. Our calling is to sing and worship our way through the middle of that story together.

Closing Prayer

Have someone from your group close your time in prayer, using the words below or your own.

Lord, thank You for this time together and for the gift of Your Word. Thank You that You have not left us alone to figure out this life on our own, but that You have given us each other, and You have given us songs. As we leave today, we ask that You would plant the truths we have discussed deep in our hearts. When the midnight hours come, remind us to pray and to worship. When we are tempted to rehearse our pain more than Your faithfulness, redirect our voices toward You. Give us the courage to sing by faith even before our circumstances change, trusting that You are the God who shakes foundations and sets captives free. May our praise belong to You alone, in every season, in every valley, and

on every mountain. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
Amen.