



Small Group Study Guide for February 10, 2019

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: The Lutheran Church has been not throughout history as “The Singing Church.” Martin Luther brought music into the worship services like never before. The Old Testament mentions songs and psalms and musical instruments to be used in worshipping God. The New Testament says to teach one another “through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit” with gratitude in our hearts. We sing a new song because God has done marvelous things – and we are thankful!

Getting Started:

1. What are some of the first songs you remember learning as a child?
2. What are your favorite songs to sing in church? What is it about them that you like?

In the Word: Colossians 3:15-17

3. Verse 15 mentions peace twice and then ends by saying “be thankful.” What do you think is the connection between peace and thankfulness?
4. How do we let the “message of Christ” dwell in us richly?
5. We are to both “teach and admonish” one another with all wisdom – God’s wisdom. When is it easy to teach and admonish each other, and when is it more of a challenge?
6. We are to teach each other through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit (vs. 16). What does this say about the purpose of music in our churches?
7. What are you grateful for as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs?

Read Luke 7:29-35

8. This passage speaks to the similarities and differences of John the Baptizer and Jesus. What was the effect of John's baptism on certain people mentioned in verse 29?

9. How are the Pharisees mentioned in verse 30 contrasted with the people mentioned in verse 29?

10. Jesus speaks a parable using music as a metaphor. He mentions children in the market place playing a pipe (joyful music) and a dirge (mournful music). Then he mentions John the Baptist's ministry and His ministry. Which ministry goes with which kind of music?

11. We speak of God's Word as containing both Law and Gospel. How is God's Law sometimes like a dirge (mournful music) and how is the Gospel like a pipe (joyful music)?

12. Notice the response of the Pharisees to both John and Jesus in verse 33 and 34. How are the ministries of John and Jesus contrasted in these verses?

13. To ignore God's law in John's preaching of repentance (the dirge) and then to also ignore God's Gospel in the joyful announcement of the Kingdom in Jesus (the joyful music) is foolishness. How is "wisdom proved right by all her children" as Jesus says?

Worship Connection

14. How does music help us capture all the emotions that we can feel as we go through life?

Prayer: Thank God for the gift of music, and ask the Holy Spirit to help us each "make a joyful noise" and sing with gratitude in our hearts to God, whether or not we think we are good singers! Ask God to strengthen and bless our worship time as a congregation as we lift up our praises to God.

Next Week – The Way We Worship: Another way we respond to God's gifts of grace is through our prayers and our offerings. This too, is not about quality, but about a joyful response to God's goodness. We don't pray and give to earn God's grace – that would be putting the cart before the horse.