

King Hezekiah Worships God Through Music

Overview



Materials You'll Need

- paper plates
- bells
- crayons and markers
- chenille wires
- glue or tape
- hole punch
- streamers



Scriptures

2 Chron 29:25-31

Bible Truth Objective(s)

God is pleased when we worship Him

Behavioral Objective(s)

To recognize that we are worshiping God when we sing praises to Him

Memory Verse

"Come before Him with joyful songs."
(Ps 100:2)



Bible Knowledge

Hezekiah

Hezekiah was the son of Ahaz. He succeeded his father as king of Judah (around 716 BC). Hezekiah became king when he was twenty-five years old.

In the first month of the reign of King Hezekiah, he began the temple's restoration. He removed the idols that were housed in the temple and sanctified the temple vessels that had been desecrated during his father's reign. He also led the people in worship through instrumental and vocal music.

Hezekiah became very ill in 701 BC. The prophet Isaiah warned the king to prepare for his death but Hezekiah prayed to God instead. God listened to the king's prayer and extended his life fifteen more years. Hezekiah's miraculous recovery brought him much attention from surrounding countries (2 Chron 32:33).

Hezekiah died in 687 or 686 BC, and his son Manasseh took over the throne. Incidentally, the Book of Matthew lists Hezekiah in the genealogy

of Jesus (Mt 1:9-10).

Music at the Temple

After Hezekiah restored the temple, the sacrifices were initiated with the sounds of music.

The priests played trumpets. These were short, straight instruments with a range of four or five notes. Their traditional use in Israel is described in Numbers 10:2-10.

The cymbals were similar to the instruments of the same name still used today. They were large, circular plates of brass or other metal that produced a clanging sound when struck together.

The stringed instruments were also called the nevel. This was a guitar-like zither or lute. It is described as having ten or twelve strings.

The harp was rectangular in shape, with two curved arms joined at the top by a crosspiece. The strings were usually the same length. It was frequently used to accompany singing.

After restoring the temple worship, Hezekiah invited the Israelites from the north to join in the celebration of the Passover at Jerusalem.



Understanding Your Students

We know that children grow up surrounded by music. In fact, today many parents expose their fetuses to certain types of music because it supposedly helps the brain to grow. Something about music makes learning fun and beneficial.

In church, music is a great way to help a child praise God. Before even learning how to read, our students can already be praising God through hymns. Explain that hymns are like prayers, and that they can praise God with hymns when they feel like talking to God. Little children truly enjoy singing. Although they may not understand all of the words, they can experience the power of worship through music. What we can do when we introduce a new song is to discuss the lyrics so that the message will

be held in the hearts and minds of the children. Four- and five-year-olds love the familiar, so make a habit of reviewing previously learned hymns that they've enjoyed. We should also not shy away from using instruments along with the piano to create beautiful songs of worship in each class. Whenever possible, have a few pre-selected children's hymns that are lesson related to play before, during, or after each lesson. This is a wonderful way to help the students remember the story.

Although the children in kindergarten are still young, they may already be exposed to a lot of inappropriate music. They may also wonder why some songs aren't appropriate for church. Take this opportunity to explain to them that when we come to church to worship God, we need to bring in the correct worship attitude.



Vocabulary

Offering
a gift to God

Praise
to show or tell God we love Him; we can praise

God with our words, or with songs and music

Instruments
objects that make music when played (e.g. trumpet, harp, cymbals)

Musicians
people who play instruments and make music



Before You Teach

"I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your Name, O Most High" (Ps 9:1).

This was a psalm of David. David was well known for his songs of praise. But what exactly is praise? Basically it is saying thank you to God for who He is. It is acknowledging the fact that He is the almighty God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth. When we recognize who our God is, we cannot help but praise Him. How can we praise God?

Today's lesson focuses on music. Certainly we can sing to praise God. Many people have been moved to tears by the words of a hymn, demonstrating the power of music and praise. Of course,

we can also praise God in our prayers. When we pray to Him we are able to accomplish several things: 1. We can take our minds off worldly things and meditate on the things of the heavenly kingdom; 2. We can ponder the greatness of our Lord Jesus; 3. We can give thanks to God for all that He has given to us freely; 4. We can draw closer to Him.

Praising God does not only involve lip service. To truly praise God is to offer ourselves as living sacrifices to Him. "Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name" (Heb 13:15). To praise God is a spiritual offering. Once we believe in God, our lives must be transformed. We should bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit and tell others about the wonderful news of Jesus Christ. When we do things that are pleasing to God, that is the "sacrifice of praise."



Bible Story

Singing to God

Have a selection of music on CD or cassette tape ready to play in class:

1. Slow, sad music (e.g. *The Doll's Funeral* by Tchaikovsky);
2. Bouncy, joyous music (e.g. *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba* by Handel);
3. Solemn hymn music sung by a choir.

Before we begin the Bible story today, there is a little treat for everyone. We're going to listen to some music. Close your eyes and think about how it makes you feel. [Play excerpt 1.] What did you feel when you heard the music? (Let students answer.) Use your face to show how it makes you feel. (Children should be making sad faces as you play more of the excerpt.) Okay, shake all your sadness away. (Have students shake their heads and hands.)

Let's listen to this next piece of music. [Play excerpt 2.] How do you feel now? (Let students answer.) Show how it makes you feel. (Allow students to get up and move around as the music continues.)

Let's listen to one last piece of music. [Play excerpt 3.] What does it make you think of? (Allow responses.) It makes you think of coming to church and worshipping God, right?

Music is special because it can make us feel a certain way. It can make us happy and it can make us sad. It can also make us want to draw closer to God, to pray to Him and to come to church. God wants us to use music when we worship Him, whether we are in church, at home, or anywhere else.

Do you know how the people in the Bible let God know that they loved Him? Some people liked to bring their offerings to show their love for God. Some people liked to read the word of God, which was written on big scrolls at that time. Some people liked to pray. They would say, "We love you, Lord!" And some people liked to sing. Today, we are going to learn about a king who loved to use music to show God how much he loved Him.

King Hezekiah Loves God

In our last lesson, we learned about King Joash.

He became king when he was only seven years old. But with the help of his uncle, the high priest, he became a good king. One of the things he did when he grew up was repair the temple. He did it because he loved God. There were many kings in the Bible who loved God. Another king of Judah who loved God very much was King Hezekiah.

When Hezekiah became king he decided to fix and clean God's house because it had not been looked after properly for a long time. The king before him did not love God like he did. Many people had stopped coming to worship God at the temple. King Hezekiah wanted to change all of that because He loved God. He opened the doors of the temple and saw they needed to be repaired. King Hezekiah brought in a lot of people to help clean up God's house. There was a lot of work to be done and it took many days, but finally it was ready! At last, people could come to worship God in the temple. But before the people came, King Hezekiah wanted to praise God in a special way. He began to think of all the ways he could tell God how much he loved Him. He thought and thought. Then Hezekiah thought of a great idea! The people who came to the temple could praise God with music!

There were so many things King Hezekiah could use. He began to think.

"There will be singing of course," he thought, "and I know the priests have trumpets for special occasions. The priests were commanded to blow trumpets by God a long time ago. What else can I use? Harps make a beautiful noise. King David used to play the harp a long time ago, and God was very pleased with his music. Now we need something to make the music sound magnificent. Hmm...I know what! Cymbals! That's what we'll use."

The People Play Different Instruments

The day came when the temple was fixed and ready to be used again. King Hezekiah got up early that morning. It was going to be a very special day. King Hezekiah invited the important people to the temple. King Hezekiah had thought hard about how to praise God. He got his musicians together and had them take their place in the temple. Priests with their trumpets stood together on one side. The people playing cymbals stood together and the harpists were together. The singers prepared their

throats for their first note. They were silent and ready. All their eyes were fixed on King Hezekiah. They were waiting for the right time to begin.

At last the signal came. King Hezekiah told the priests that it was time to start the worship and singing. The priests played their trumpets. Toot-ta-toot. Hezekiah liked the way the trumpets sounded!

Some of the people played harps. Plink-plunk. Plink-plink-plunk. Plink-plink. Plink-plink-plunk. King Hezekiah liked the way the harps sounded!

Some of the people played cymbals. Clang-crash-bang! Clang-crash-bang! King Hezekiah liked the way the cymbals sounded!

Some of the people sang praises to God. They might have said, "Praise the Lord for He is good!" They sang together as a choir. They sang hymns that King Solomon's father, King David, had written. King Hezekiah liked the way the people sang praises to God. The music was so beautiful and grand.

The singers sang while the players played. Magnificent music filled the whole place while the people worshiped in the temple. The people who heard the music felt how awesome God was. They praised God for being so wonderful and for loving them. They praised God for giving them the temple so they could worship Him. They thanked God for His love and for giving them the gift of music.

In heaven, God probably looked down and saw what they were doing. He heard the music of His people and felt their hearts. He felt the praise and love they had for Him. He heard their music and was very pleased.

We Can Sing to God

Today, we can praise God with music and singing too. When we sing, it is a way to talk to God. We are using words put to music. God likes to hear our voices. So the next time we are singing hymns, let us remember to use our voices and sing to God.



Check For Understanding

1. **How did the people in the Bible show love to God?** (They made offerings, they read the word of God on big scrolls, they prayed to God, they sang hymns, and they played musical instruments.)
2. **Who was the king who wanted to praise God with music?** (King Hezekiah of Judah.)
3. **There was another king who lived a long time before King Hezekiah who used music to praise God. Who was he?** (King David.)
4. **What was the special occasion for King Hezekiah to praise God with music?** (The temple had just been fixed and cleaned, ready to be used again.)
5. **What kinds of instruments did they use to praise God in the temple?** (They used

trumpets, harps, cymbals, and other stringed instruments.)

6. **Do you think God liked the way the people praised Him?** (Yes.)
7. **In our lesson today, we learned that different kinds of music can make you feel different inside. Music can make you feel happy, sad, angry, and even scared (e.g. music during movie scenes). How does God want us to feel when we are singing to Him?** (He wants us to be happy.)
8. **How can we use music to worship God?** (Allow students to share.)



Life Application Story

Worship With Song

There was something special going on in Mrs. Marsh's kindergarten class today. Laid out on the table were all sorts of instruments. Today, the class was going to worship God through music! The students chatted amongst themselves. They were really excited.

"I wonder which instrument I will get to play?" they whispered to themselves.

When it was time to begin the class, Mrs. Marsh clapped her hands to settle the class down. When everybody had quieted down, Mrs. Marsh spoke to the class.

"When we worship God, we often think of praying and reading the Bible. Today, we're going to be worshiping God through music. I know that we usually sing hymns with the piano but we will do something a bit different in this lesson, and it requires you to pay attention to what I am saying to you."

Then Mrs. Marsh began to pass out all the instruments. She gave Michelle and Julie wooden blocks with sticks. The inside of the wooden blocks were carved out. When Michelle and Julie hit the blocks, they went, "Bok! Bok! Bok!"

"Let's wait until everyone has their instruments before we play them," Mrs. Marsh explained.

Mrs. Marsh gave John and Rachel silver triangles with silver sticks.

Juan got the tambourine. The tambourine is a small, thin drum. It has flat, silver disks all around it. When someone hits the tambourine, it goes, "Cling-a-ching! Cling-a-ching!"

Tommy got the maraca. The maraca is a stick with a wooden ball attached to it. Inside the wooden ball are usually small beans. When someone shakes the maraca, it goes, "Shik-a-shik-a, shik-a-shik-a!"

As soon as Mrs. Marsh handed out the last of the instruments, John and Rachel hit the triangles with the silver sticks, and they went, "Ting-a-ling! Ting-a-ling!"

"I know you are all excited. I am almost done taking out all the instruments," Mrs. Marsh

explained.

"What could the last instrument be?" the children wondered.

Then Mrs. Marsh brought out her own instrument. It was in a large, black, and long box. It was a guitar.

As Mrs. Marsh put the guitar strap around her, she explained, "Music is a great way to praise and worship God. Many people in the Bible used music to show their love for God. Now that we all have instruments, let's pick a hymn to praise Jesus!"

Everybody agreed. They were excited about their new instruments. They couldn't wait to praise God! They picked the hymn "Jesus Loves the Little Children."

While they sang, everybody played their instruments. Mrs. Marsh signaled them when they should hit or shake their instruments. Michelle and Julie went "Bok! Bok! Bok!" on their wooden blocks. John and Rachel went "Ting-a-ling! Ting-a-ling!" on their triangles. Juan went "Cling-a-ching! Cling-a-ching!" on his tambourine. Tommy went "Shik-a-shik-a, shik-a-shik-a" on his maraca. While they were playing their instruments, they sang with their best and loudest voices. They were so happy to be worshiping God.

After they finished singing the hymn, John said, "Praising the Lord is a lot of fun!"

Juan said, "It sure is! Do you think Jesus liked the hymn we sang with the instruments?"

"I'm sure Jesus loved it, because you sang from your hearts," Mrs. Marsh replied. "Let's sing another one to praise our Lord!"

Questions to Think About

1. **Have you played an instrument before to praise God?** (Allow students to share.)
2. **Why is singing to God the same as worshiping Him?** (When we sing, we are showing God we want to be close to Him and that we love Him.)
3. **When can we sing to God?** (We can sing anywhere. We can sing in class, in the chapel (at appropriate times), in the car, and at home.)
4. **How does God feel when we sing praises to Him?** (God is happy because we are singing about how much we love Him.)
5. **What is your favorite hymn or song to sing to God?** (Allow students to share. If time allows, sing some of those songs as part of the activities.)



Activity 1

Hezekiah Worships God With Music

Can you find these instruments in the picture? Find a trumpet, a harp, cymbals, and a stringed instrument. Circle the instruments.



Activity 2

Singing With Tambourines

Materials:

1. paper plates
2. bells
3. chenille wires
4. hole punch
5. streamers
6. markers or crayons
7. tape or glue

Directions:

1. Give each student two paper plates. Have them decorate the bottoms of each plate. Some ideas: the memory verse for today's lesson could be written on one of the plates, the students can draw musical notes, etc.
2. Have the students place their plates together with the bottoms facing the outside. Punch six holes around the edge of the plates.
3. Give each student six bells and six pieces of chenille wires ((three inches long).
4. Help the students lace one wire through the loop of a bell, then through one set of holes in the plates. Twist the ends of the wire together to secure the bell. Repeat with the remaining bells.
5. Provide students with four pieces of streamers (about six inches long) and have them glue them to the edges of the plates.
6. Be sure to sing some hymns using the tambourines the students have just made. Discuss how King Hezekiah, the priests and the singers might have worshiped God through music and celebrated with their instruments.

Activity 4:1

Hezekiah Worships God With Music

Can you find these instruments in the picture? Circle the instruments.
Trumpet, harp, cymbals and a stringed instrument.

