

Leading Kids in Worship Masterclass

Session 6: Teaching Kids to Sing

Key Theme

Singing is an integral part of worship, and it's one of the ways God designed us to love him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

God Sings...

God doesn't just observe music—**he enjoys it**. Music isn't only the way *we* have chosen to praise God; it's the way *he* has chosen to be praised.

Even more remarkably, **God sings**. Zephaniah 3:17 says, "He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."

We worship a singing God.

...So We Sing

Fifty times in Scripture we are instructed to sing, and the Bible contains more than *four hundred* references to singing.

Singing enables us to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. It is emotional, spiritual, mental, and physical—all at once.

Whatever other forms our worship may take, **we are *all* called to sing**.

It might seem unfair that God commands everyone to sing when not all of us have the same talent. But this is true of every command. Both the courageous and the timid are told, "Do not fear."

The skill of our offering is not the point. The point is our willingness to offer it. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "*The new song is sung first in the heart. It cannot be sung any other way. The heart sings because it is filled with Christ.*"

A Decline in Singing

We are witnessing a decline in singing in the church, especially among children. There are two main reasons.

First, kids are seeing **fewer examples** of singing. Children's environments often rely on screens instead of live singers.

Second, kids have **fewer opportunities** to sing. With many churches discontinuing children's choirs and placing less emphasis on development, there are simply fewer places for kids to learn.

Teaching Kids to Sing

The solution is simple—**more examples** and **more opportunities**:

- **It begins with *you*.** What would kids learn about worship by watching you?
- **Lead with singers.** A kids' worship environment is a great place for young vocalists to learn to lead. Even adding leaders who sing "off-mic" is better than simply playing a video.
- **Bring generations together in worship.** Kids need to see adults lifting their voices in praise.
- **Give kids opportunities to lead.** Seasonal choirs are an easy way to start.
- **Encourage participation.** Every worship service is a chance to reinforce the habit of singing.

The Power of a Great Song

One of the best ways to help kids participate is by choosing **great songs**—songs that make them *want* to sing.

A great worship song for kids' worship checks three boxes: it's **engaging**, it's **true**, and it's **singable**.

Engaging

When we call a song engaging, we mean it connects emotionally. **Music moves us because it makes us *feel*.**

This is a great opportunity to involve your kids or student leaders—ask what songs they love or let them help you choose between options. Ownership builds excitement.

True

Music is like a highway connecting truth to the heart. A song embeds its message deep inside, shaping us from within.

Because music will connect *something* to our souls, **what we sing must be *true***—about God, about us, and about the world.

Singable

A song can be engaging and true, but if it isn't **singable**, it still falls short.

Three things make songs easy to sing—**range, rhythm, and repetition**:

- **Range:** The ideal range for kids is the “golden octave” from middle C to the C above it. Songs that live mostly in this range will naturally encourage strong participation.
- **Rhythm:** Modern worship music often uses syncopation, and kids handle it well—but too many irregular rhythms make it harder to sing. Patterns that repeat help kids latch on quickly.
- **Repetition:** We learn music by rote—listen and repeat. Good worship songs repeat words, rhythms, and melodies enough that a child can go from not knowing it to singing it by the end.

The Beauty of Variety

“Great songs” may differ from one group to another, but that’s part of the beauty of worshiping the God of the universe.

If your list looks different from someone else’s, don’t criticize—**celebrate!** Praise the God who is big enough to be worshiped in such a wide variety of ways.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it reveal about God that he sings over his people? How might that shape the way we relate to him in worship?
2. Singing appears hundreds of times in Scripture. How should that shape our view of its importance in the life of the church—and in the lives of children?
3. How does singing help kids love God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength?
4. What are some practical ways you could increase both the *examples* and the *opportunities* for kids to sing?
5. How would you evaluate your current song list? Are your songs *engaging*, *true*, and *singable*?