



SING TO THE LORD CHILDREN'S VOICE SERIES

SONGS UNPACKED

To support your group in learning about the themes and teaching that underpin this year's *Sing to the Lord* songs, we have produced the following material. For each song there is a Bible reading, prayer, activity and an application for you to communicate to your group which will hopefully bring even more meaning to the songs they are singing.

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BIBLE READING

For each song there is a Bible verse which will enable the children to help make the connection with what they are singing and God's word.



PRAYER

The suggested prayers can be used as part of the rehearsal and are linked to the Bible verse.



ACTIVITY

For each song there is a short activity to help the children explore the theme in an interactive and engaging way.



APPLICATION

This section provides you as the leader with some thoughts to share with the children as to how the activity links to the Bible verse and prayer.



SONG 1



BIBLE READING

1 Peter 4:10-11 **(International Children's Bible)**

'Each of you received a spiritual gift. God has shown you his grace in giving you different gifts. And you are like servants who are responsible for using God's gifts. So be good servants and use your gifts to serve each other. Anyone who speaks should speak words from God. The person who serves should serve with the strength that God gives. You should do these things so that in everything God will be praised through Jesus Christ.'



PRAYER

Dear God,
Thank you for giving us special gifts. Help us to remember that these gifts aren't like the ones that we get on our birthday and that they are part of us and they make us unique. We know that we should give these gifts, and ourselves, back to you. We are sorry for the times that we don't give these gifts back to you, and please help us to be the best versions of ourselves for you!
Amen.



ACTIVITY

'What makes you, you!':

Each child should be given a plain piece of A4 paper, a bit of sticky tape and a felt-tip pen. The paper should be stuck to each person's back. Then, they should walk around the room stopping people as they go to write one thing that is special about that person on their A4 sheet. After a few minutes, each child can take the piece of paper from their back and read the things that other people love about them.



APPLICATION

Each one of us has been created as a person who has lots of lovely things about them. Some of us are good at maths, some of us are good at painting, some of us are good at making people laugh. We all have a talent! It's really nice to hear what we're good at, but it's important to remember that we should do all of these things because we love God. When we do these good things because we love God, we are giving him back all there is of us!



SONG 2



BIBLE READING

Psalm 96:3 (ERV)

'Tell all the nations how wonderful he is! Tell people everywhere about the amazing things he does.'



PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for the church that we are a part of, for all of the amazing things that you have done in the name of The Salvation Army and for all the amazing things that you have planned. Help us to keep listening to you so that we can continue to be effective in reaching out to those in our community and telling them about you.

Amen.



ACTIVITY

Ask the children to get into small groups of three. Set a timer so that each person has 30 seconds to share their favourite activities – food, school lessons, sports teams, celebrities, TV shows, YouTubers, games and anything else that they love doing or are big fans of.



APPLICATION

When we love something and are excited about it, we quite often like to share this with other people. Hopefully our relationship with God gives us the same excitement and is something that we want to share with others. By sharing what is important to us with other people in ways that we feel comfortable with, we could see other people catch on to that same excitement and see God's Kingdom build up and up!



SONG 3

BIBLE READING

Luke 2:13-14 (ICB)

Then a very large group of angels from heaven joined the first angel. All the angels were praising God, saying: "Give glory to God in heaven, and on earth let there be peace to the people who please God."

PRAYER

Dear God,
We thank you for the excitement, joy and wonder of Christmas time. Please help us to keep our celebrations and focus on you and the amazing gift of your son Jesus. Help us to remain enthusiastic and excited about Jesus at all times.
Amen.

ACTIVITY

Get your group to split into smaller groups, and ask each group to make a plan for the biggest and best celebration ever! They have limitless resources so can just let their imaginations run wild! Then each group can feed back to each other sharing the different ideas that everyone has come up with and why they think those ideas would help to make the most amazing party ever!

APPLICATION

Christmas is a time of great celebration, the most wonderful and amazing thing has happened in that God has sent his son Jesus to earth. We are all welcome to the party and should make sure that we pass out invitations far and wide so that as many people as possible can share in the life-changing amazingness of knowing Jesus!



SONG 4



BIBLE READING

John 8:12 (ERV)

'Later, Jesus talked to the people again. He said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never live in darkness. They will have the light that gives life.'"



PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for your light and the example that you have set for us. We pray that wherever we are and whatever we do, we will shine brightly for you, that we will show others the difference that you have made in our lives by the way we act and the people we are. Help us always to live in your light.

Amen.



ACTIVITY

Ask the children to stand in a circle. Instruct everyone to close their eyes and reach their hands forward to the middle of the circle. Everyone needs to find another hand to hold. Once everyone is holding hands, ask them to open their eyes. Without letting go, the children need to untangle themselves from this human knot and form a circle again.



APPLICATION

Not only is it important that we shine as individuals, but sometimes we also need to work together to be stronger and brighter. By spending time together learning more about God we can build up supportive relationships. Just in the same way we had to hold on tight and not let go in the game, we need to stick together, hold on tight when things are tough and learn from each other so that we can be strong and effective lights in the world.



SONG 5



BIBLE READING

Psalm 139: 1-6 (ERV)

'Lord, you have tested me, so you know all about me. You know when I sit down and when I get up. You know my thoughts from far away. You know where I go and where I lie down. You know everything I do. Lord, you know what I want to say, even before the words leave my mouth. You are all around me – in front of me and behind me. I feel your hand on my shoulder. I am amazed at what you know; it is too much for me to understand.'



PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for always being there with me wherever I go and whatever I do. May I always remember that I can talk to you and that you will be there to comfort and guide me.

Amen.



ACTIVITY

Ask for a volunteer who is willing to be blindfolded. Set up a route from one end of the room to the other with a few small obstacles along the way. Ask for another volunteer to give them instructions to help direct them safely to the end of the route.



APPLICATION

It can feel quite daunting not to be able to see where we are going, especially when there are obstacles in our way. But God is always there to guide us and comfort us no matter what the circumstances are. He knows the route that is set out for us and will be there every step along the way.

SONG 6



BIBLE READING

Matthew 7:7 (ICB)

'Continue to ask, and God will give to you. Continue to search, and you will find. Continue to knock, and the door will open for you.'



PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you that you are there for me and that with your strength and help I can do anything. I pray that I will continue to ask you for your support and guidance in every area of my life. May I find comfort and peace in knowing that you are always there for me.

Amen.



ACTIVITY

Hide jigsaw pieces around the room and give the children a set amount of time to find them all and put the jigsaw together. Try and make the task tricky, but not completely impossible!



APPLICATION

It is important that we remember to keep seeking and searching for God in every area of lives and in everything we do. He will give us the strength and support that we need to face whatever comes our way. Knowing that with God all things are possible doesn't necessarily mean that things will always be plain sailing and that everything will go the way that we want it to in life, but we should always remember to put our trust in him as he will see us through whatever it is we are doing or facing.

SONG 7

BIBLE READING

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 **(Easy-to-Read Version)**

'Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, and it is not proud. Love is not rude, it is not selfish, and it cannot be made angry easily. Love does not remember wrongs done against it. Love is never happy when others do wrong, but it is always happy with the truth. Love never gives up on people. It never stops trusting, never loses hope, and never quits.'

PRAYER

Dear God,
Thank you for loving us more than we can ever imagine! We know that it upsets other people when we are rude, selfish and angry. Help us not to be grumpy, but instead to make people feel loved by showing them kindness. Show us new ways to love others at school, at church and at home so that we can share your love with them.
Amen.

ACTIVITY

This activity is a version of Charades where we encourage the children to act out and guess 'actions of love'. Some of these actions will work best with two people acting. Write these prompts, and any others you want to include, on small cards:

- Hug someone.
- Set the table for dinner.
- Clean the house.
- Pray for a friend.
- Help a friend with their homework.
- Make a meal for someone.
- Encourage someone. (Suggestion: Cheering on a friend who is running a race)
- Write and post kind letters to friends.
- Help someone who is hurt.
- Read the Bible to someone, or bring them to church.
- Donate pocket money or buy someone a gift.
- Hold the door open.

APPLICATION

All of these actions are examples of how to love others as God loves us. This is what we call true love. Just as when we couldn't guess the actions in the game straight away, sometimes people won't understand why you're showing love. Even when it is difficult, we should serve others with love. When we love everybody in our lives in the way that God wants us to it makes us very happy because we know that God is pleased!