

Lesson 13 / August 30, 2009

# Soul Music

for use as

## STEP 1

Lesson 13

### Focus:

Praise God with Music!

Lesson 13

### Bible Basis:

Psalm 150; Revelation  
15:2c-4

Lesson 13

### Memory Verse

Sing to the Lord a new  
song; sing to the Lord,  
all the earth.

-Psalm 96:1

**Your teens will discuss their musical taste in popular music and praise music.**

#### Materials:

- Computer with speakers and Internet access

**T**oday's topic is music. Like food, we all have our preferences and we like to consume regularly. With the recent death of Michael Jackson and the 40th anniversary of Woodstock, there has been much news lately about music. A recent survey found a few preferences of different age groups. Over 65: Frank Sinatra and Classical. 50-65: The Beatles. 30-60: the Eagles. Under 30: Michael Jackson. You can read the list of the top 20 performers from the website below. Print out a copy to share with your students and be a discussion-starter.

[http://ca.news.yahoo.com/s/capress/090812/entertainment/us\\_battle\\_of\\_the\\_bands\\_glance](http://ca.news.yahoo.com/s/capress/090812/entertainment/us_battle_of_the_bands_glance)

- 1 Why do you think musical styles have changed over the years?
- 2 What style of music do you like best? Why?
- 3 Do you think that God has a favorite musical style? (This may lead to an interesting discussion.)

Many would say that music is mostly for entertainment or for setting or matching your mood. In the Bible, music is often used for celebration, though it is also used for times of mourning. However, the most common use of music in the Bible is for praising God.

- 4 When you hear the phrase "praise music" what do you think?

As the country has shifted from Sinatra to Rock, the church has also shifted from hymns to praise songs. There is a magazine called "20 the Countdown Magazine" that has determined the 20 top praise songs: Print out a copy to share with your students as a discussion-starter.

<http://www.20thecountdownmagazine.com/chart.php?chartID=438ef30a569d99d535a40cd7d5518eae>

(You may want to choose one of these to play for class.)

Today we will look at two praise songs from the Bible and compare them to our experience today.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your *High School Teacher's Guide*; your Step 4 appears below.)

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# Soul Music

 for use as  
**STEP 4**


Lesson 13

## Focus:

Praise God with Music!

Lesson 13

## Bible Basis:

Psalm 150; Revelation  
15:2c-4

Lesson 13

## Memory Verse

Sing to the Lord a new  
song; sing to the Lord,  
all the earth.

-Psalm 96:1

**Your teens will think about simple choruses of praise and sing together, and maybe even compose.**

### Materials:

- Computer with speakers, Internet access, CD player (optional)

**M**artin Luther, the leader of the Reformation of the Church in the early 16th Century, said this about music: “Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. She is mistress and governess of those human emotions which control men or more often overtake them. Whether you wish to comfort the sad, to subdue frivolity, to encourage the despairing, to humble the proud, to calm the passionate or to appease those full of hate... what more effective means than music could you find?” He also may have said: “Why should the devil get all the good tunes.” ([www.hornpipe.com/ba/ba3c.htm](http://www.hornpipe.com/ba/ba3c.htm))

### ▶ What do you think of Luther’s quote?

Throughout history, Christians have composed simple songs of praise to God. Often these songs have just one single line of melody. This was how the early Pilgrims sang, and this is how a Roman Catholic group in France worships. (If you have internet access, you might want to play a sample song.) [http://www.taize.fr/en\\_article681.html](http://www.taize.fr/en_article681.html) The Underground Church in China also uses simple praise songs for worship. A peasant girl in China named Xiao Min, who is a high school dropout with no musical training, has composed almost 1,000 simple hymns that are sung today across China and the world.

Here is her story: <http://waysoflife.info/Canaan%20Hymns.html>

Our memory verse today talks about singing a new song to God. This is what they are doing in China through the compositions of Xiao Min. This is what we often do in church or youth group.

▶ **What are some new praise songs that you have heard?** (If you have a new praise song on CD, you could play it for the class.)

▶ **If you were to compose a new praise song, what are some Scriptures, themes, or ideas that you might use for lyrics?** (At this point, you could break up into groups with a composition assignment and a demonstration/sharing at the end.)

Close with a prayer thanking God for the gift of music.

(David C. Cook is not affiliated with and does not endorse any website listed on these pages.)