

## *Sing!* Facilitator Guide



### **BONUS TRACK ONE** – FOR PASTORS AND ELDERS (ALL MINISTERS) / PAGES 105–112

\*This material could be beneficial to include in minister meetings, or perhaps as a small group discussion with ministers. It can also be used simply to promote introspection and personal reflection. Please note that while this content is geared toward pastors (rectors), much of it can apply to all ministers.

#### **Introductory thoughts:**

*Good congregational singing begins with the pastoral leadership. Whatever the denomination, musical style, or cultural background, the singing is directly proportional to the pastor's or leadership team's care for the subject. It is not primarily the music, the musical leadership, or the budget. The leader(s) of the church (pastor/ministerial body) are ultimately responsible for how well the congregation is singing.*

#### **Important takeaways from this bonus track:**

- Since congregational singing is something we are created, compelled, and commanded to do, we need to be teaching about it.
- Ultimately, great songs are sung well. Every time you sing one of these great songs, your congregation grows in their joy of and commitment to singing together.
- Teaching new songs is important, but repeating good songs people have loved and known for a long time really encourages confidence. Better to know fewer songs and sing them well, than to sing a wide breadth of songs weakly.
- It is important that ministers have an awareness of the songs selected for a service they are holding so that music and message can blend.
- Ministers should sing visibly before the congregation. A minister who seems distracted or half-hearted is telling the congregation that singing is not that important to him. If you don't sing with passion, they won't either.
- Encouragement is oxygen to the creative soul. Make sure to encourage those on your music team.
- A church music team left unchecked can become like a monster in the church, wielding too much influence and causing grief. It's important that the relationships between the pastor/ministers and those on the music team are healthy ones.
- If you are leading the service, give short aspects of what has been sung or is about to be sung, and encourage the congregation to sing to one another as an expression of their unity.
- If you show intentionality and care about the singing in your church, sooner or later everyone else will.

#### **Questions to promote discussion:**

- Consider the first question asked in the bonus track, “Does our congregation know why they sing?” What would the answer be for your congregation? What are some practical steps that can be taken to help teach the value of congregational singing to the congregation?
- Does your congregation sing strong songs? What is it that makes a song strong?
- Do you sing with passion (noting that passion is not the same as perfection)? If not, why not? What would inspire you to sing more passionately?
- How is the relationship between the music team and the ministers in your congregation? If not ideal, what can be done to strengthen relationships, given the importance of this?
- How does your awareness of the songs selected for a service you are holding help bring music and message together?

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### **BONUS TRACK TWO** – WORSHIP AND SONG LEADERS / PAGES 113–122

\*This material could be beneficial to include in music team meetings, or perhaps as a small group discussion with your music team. It can also be used simply to promote introspection and personal reflection.

#### **Introductory thoughts:**

*Christ is our ultimate worship leader, the Choirmaster of heaven and earth. We must make sure we serve people in their singing in such a way that points the congregation clearly to Him and not to us.*

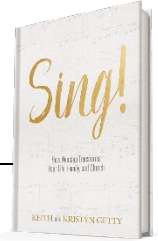
#### **Important takeaways from this bonus track:**

- There is no place in musical leadership for those who do not follow the leaders of their church as they seek to serve the members of their church.
- Your passion for leading sung worship in your church (whether as a director or worship leader) will only ever be healthy if your relationship with God is healthy.
- Lead with joy and thankfulness. There should be a steady beat of joy in your demeanor and expression that inspires people to sing to the Lord and each other. Thankfulness to Christ should shape the disposition of your spirit and your talents.
- It is essential to develop a good system of communication with those who regularly hold services in your congregation.
- When it comes to the music team, there should be an environment of mutual encouragement, friendship, and enthusiasm for each other's gifts.
- Give much prayer and thought to song selection. Are you choosing good songs—songs with lyrics rich in substance and with melodies/harmonies that are singable?
- Your relationship with the congregation is hugely important.
- Worship leaders: every word you speak should thoughtfully serve the purpose of the singing within that particular service—whether it's a verse from Scripture that helps invite people in, or the direction to stand.
- Take care not to bottleneck the flow of congregational singing by only singing what you like and do best.
- We are to be "filled with the Spirit" as we sing (Eph. 5:18). Pray that the Holy Spirit might grow the fruits of His presence in the way you fulfill your calling.
- It is helpful and inspiring to see a church music team that is multi-generational, each learning from and leaning on one another, delighting in each other's talents and insights.

#### **Questions to promote discussion:**

- As those involved in music/worship, why is it important that we're walking with the Lord?
- How can we lead more with joy and thankfulness?
- Think about your current system of communication with those who hold services in your congregation. What is going well? Where can improvements be made?
- It's mentioned that we should give much prayer and thought to song selection, and that we should be choosing good songs. What makes a song good?
- Why is our relationship with the congregation hugely important?
- Read #8, page 120, with specific focus on the things we can and should ask the Holy Spirit for. What are some examples of the "fruits of His presence?"
- What can you do to help ensure that your music team is multi-generational? Why do we need to give thought to this?

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### **BONUS TRACK THREE** – MUSICIANS, CHOIRS, AND PRODUCTION / PAGES 123–132

\*This material could be beneficial to include in music team meetings, or perhaps as a small group discussion with your music team. It can also be used simply to promote introspection and personal reflection.

#### **Introductory verse:**

*Praise the LORD with the harp; make music to Him on the ten-stringed lyre. Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy. (Psalm 33:2-3)*

#### **Important takeaways from this bonus track:**

##### *Musicians...*

- The central calling of the church choir is to lead the congregation in song (help sing out familiar tunes and navigate newer ones)
- As the choir, you put loving your neighbor as yourself into practice as you help God's family sing.
- Everyone is a part of "Team Congregation." Play and sing skillfully so that people can shout for joy, but do not show off in any way that makes it harder for people to jump in and sing along.
- You are also a part of "Team Musicians." Be united, and defer gladly to those in leadership and to one another.
- We must prepare thoroughly to play and sing well for God's people—it should never be done to anything less than our best.
- Make sure, as much as you are able, that you sleep Saturday night, and that you're punctual and organized on Sunday. Be prayerful before you arrive.
- Our aim should always be to promote unity, even at the expense of our personal preferences.
- Whatever gift you have for accompanying God's people singing, try to improve in your use of it, so that you can better serve your church.

##### *Production/Audio Visual teams...*

- If you are in charge of changing the words on the screen, make sure you are following along with the singing, and pay careful attention to changes the slides on time.
- Present the lyrics in a clear font.
- In all you do, aim to give people confidence to sing by taking away anything that might hinder them.

#### **Questions to promote discussion:**

- It's mentioned that the central calling of the choir is to lead the congregation in song. Why else is the church choir important?
- What are some practical steps we can take to prepare for what God is calling us to do so on Sunday? How do *you* prepare for Sunday?
- What are some ways that we can promote unity within the music and worship team?
- What does it mean to improve upon our gifting? How can we do this?
- "Present the lyrics in a clear font" is one piece of advice given to those in charge of A/V. What else should we give thought to? What are some examples of things that could hinder the singing of the congregation?