



## WEEKLY STUDY

### WEEK 1

Pastor Jacob kicked off our summer sermon series called Then Sings My Soul. Throughout the summer we will be learning from songs of faith that have shaped us and our understanding of God.

Peace of Christ,  
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Pastor of Discipleship

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt.

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### DAILY STUDY

#### MONDAY: COLOSSIANS 3.15-17 (NIV)

*Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.<sup>16</sup> Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.<sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

- We may not often think about the way in which songs are used to teach. Most music has been created with an end goal for the listener (whether good or bad). An artist who creates music is generally inspired to make a difference. The same is true for the songs of the church. The best songs of worship give us a way to express to God our gratitude for all that He has done, is doing, and will do in the future. **Can you think of a song of the church that has helped you to understand God more fully and helped you to express gratitude to God?**
- *God, I am thankful for the church that has always provided us with new and ancient words that help me to follow Jesus more closely. Amen.*

## TUESDAY: PSALM 100.1-2, 147.1, 104.33 (ESV)

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

<sup>2</sup> Serve the Lord with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

Praise the Lord!

For it is good to sing praises to our God;

for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

- The Psalms are often referred to as the song book for God's people. These three examples reveal a pattern of turning to God in worship and lifting up songs of joyful noise—even (especially) in difficult times. We are not all gifted singers or songwriters, but we are all called into this act of laying aside our preferences and insecurities and praising God. **Are there any barriers that keep you from lifting up songs of praise to God? Are there others who praise God on your behalf on days when you just don't feel like it?**
- *God, I come into your presence with a joyful noise. May it be a sweet sound in your ear! Amen.*

## WEDNESDAY: EXODUS 15.1-3

*"I will sing to the Lord,  
for he is highly exalted.*

*Both horse and driver  
he has hurled into the sea.*

<sup>2</sup>*"The Lord is my strength and my defense;  
he has become my salvation.*

*He is my God, and I will praise him,  
my father's God, and I will exalt him.*

<sup>3</sup>*The Lord is a warrior;  
the Lord is his name.*

- Moses sang this song as a way of proclaiming God's faithfulness by saving His people from the army that was pursuing them. Songs were history books before there was such a thing. For Moses and God's people, this song served as a reminder of what is true when they began to doubt that God was with them and for them. **Are there songs that tell particular parts of your story? Is there a song that describes the story of your salvation?**
- *God, I will sing today of your great love for me. A verse for every great movement where you saved me and restored my life. Amen.*

## THURSDAY: REVELATION 15.2-4

*And I saw what looked like a sea of glass glowing with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and its image and over the number of its name. They held harps given them by God<sup>3</sup> and sang the song of God's servant Moses and of the Lamb:*

*"Great and marvelous are your deeds,  
Lord God Almighty.*

*Just and true are your ways,  
King of the nations.  
4 Who will not fear you, Lord,  
and bring glory to your name?  
For you alone are holy.  
All nations will come  
and worship before you,  
for your righteous acts have been revealed.”*

- Moments of victory like the one described here in Revelation 15 provides an opportunity to sing a song. It wasn't a song claiming credit for the win, it was a song giving all the credit and praise to God, the Lord God Almighty. Notice that the song of Moses is still being sung in this depiction of the final acts before the return of Jesus. The song has longevity! **What benefit do you see in singing songs that your grandparents might have sang in church? How are your songs giving glory to God and how are they giving glory to someone else?**
- *Jesus, you are the Lamb who is worthy to be praised. I long for and sing about the day when you will return. Amen.*

#### **FRIDAY: 2 SAMUEL 7.22-23**

*“How great you are, Sovereign LORD! There is no one like you, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears.<sup>23</sup> And who is like your people Israel—the one nation on earth that God went out to redeem as a people for himself...”*

- In a world-view where most concepts of god included multiple deities, to say “There is no God but you.” is a profound statement. King David was sitting before God and offering this prayer which sounds a lot like the hymn How Great Thou Art. **There is a close tie between prayer and songs of worship. Have you ever thought about turning your prayer into a song or a song into a prayer?**
- *And now Lord God, keep forever the promise you have made concerning your servant and his house. Do as you promised, so that your name will be great forever. The people will say, “The Lord Almighty is God over Israel!” Amen. (2 Samuel 7:25-26)*

#### **SATURDAY: 1 THESSALONIANS 4.16-18**

*For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.<sup>17</sup> After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.<sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words.*

- The songs of worship from the book of Revelation point to this moment described in 1 Thessalonians 4. It also describes the scene that the hymn writer had in mind when he wrote, “When Christ shall come with shouts of acclamation...” Notice the progression of some of our favorite worship songs. Many of them end with imagery pointing to the return of Christ, when every tear will be wiped away. **Can you think of a verse from a worship song that reflects this?**
- *Come Lord Jesus, come and set things right. Restore my life and your creation. Amen.*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Read through (or listen to) the words of the hymn How Great Thou Art.

O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder,  
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

**Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.  
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!**

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander,  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.  
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur  
And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.

And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing;  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;  
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin.

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.  
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,  
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

- What are the core teachings of this hymn? What does it tell us about ourselves? What does it tell us about God?
- Underline a phrase that particularly stands out to you today. How can you carry it with you as the song of your heart in the days to come?