

Family MATTERS



A Christ-centered resource for families and teachers
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Sing His Praise!

It was a reasonable request from our teenage daughter, LeAnna. She wanted to know if we could host a “cast party” one evening after a performance of the annual musical at her high school. Her mother and I, wanting to be supportive, readily agreed. Somehow, we forgot that the curtain time for the musical that Saturday evening was 8 p.m., which meant the cast party wouldn’t start until 11:30 p.m. . . . at the earliest.

We were ready for the students as they began arriving late that evening. We had the ping-pong table and foosball table up in the garage. We had a large assortment of snacks, food, and beverages to satisfy the thirst and appetites of these active adolescents.

It turned out that one of the favorite spots for these 50-60 students was a fire pit in the backyard where they could make “s’mores.” Typical of these choir and drama students as they sat around the fire pit, they began to sing. My wife and I enjoyed the high quality of their voices and the variety of show tune selections they sang—the neighbors did not.

Before long, appearing in our backyard—arriving through an open gate, was a member of the local police. There had been a “disturbing the peace” call that came in from a neighbor. As the policeman surveyed the situation, he commented about how the group seemed polite and in order: no drugs, no alcohol, no wild behavior. There was adult supervision present; nothing like other calls he had

responded to over the years. He wasn’t sure why he had been summoned.

Shortly thereafter, someone “broke out in song” yet again out in the backyard. It sounded great, but a bit loud for nearly 3 a.m. The officer asked if an adult could quiet them down, and keep it a “speaking only” party. We obliged.

Sometimes you just have to sing! Sometimes, the appropriate response to a situation is to break out in song. These kids did it on the stage as prompted by the script, and did it in real life prompted by emotion.

The mother of our Lord also broke out in song once. Mary had just found out she was going to have a baby—not just any baby, but the very Son of God! When she heard this exciting news, she went off to visit her relatives. Elizabeth welcomed her, and then Mary uttered these famous words, “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,” found in Luke 1:46.

It seems we sing at important moments in life. We sing praises to our God to mark special times

as we respond to His goodness. As the people of God we have so many reasons to sing. As we again celebrate a day of Thanksgiving this month, we have numerous reasons to sing praise to our God! We sing when good things are happening and when God gives us good things.

May we sing His praise this day for all He has done—all the day long, all our life long!



Family Links

Activities for families to reinforce Bible story truths in the home.

Gather as a family with a Bible to do the following activity:

Getting Started:

Have each member of the family share a favorite song and why they like it. If they want to, they can sing it for the rest of the family.

Read:

Luke 1:39-47 (share in the reading of it with family members)

Ask and Discuss the Following Questions:

1. Why did Mary go see Elizabeth?
2. When Mary arrived, what happened to Elizabeth?
3. What did Elizabeth say to Mary? Why did she say this?
4. Why did Mary start to sing?



Family Praise Cheer:

Think of words that start with the letters of the word **"PRAISE."** List them below to form a cheer. You can list people, places, or things that you want to give God praise about and thank Him for His goodness. Say it three times aloud as a family when you have completed your list.

P _____

R _____

A _____

I _____

S _____

E _____

Closing:

Use the little "thank you" poem/song below and insert the name of each family member as you go around the room singing/saying the song.

Thank You, Lord, for giving us **(insert name)**. Thank You, Lord, for giving us **(insert name)**.

Thank You, Lord, for giving us **(insert name)**. Right where he/she is!



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Writer: Dr. Steve Christopher. **Editors:** Judith Christian/Karen Eggemeyer. **Designer:** Karen Eggemeyer

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