

## **Sacred 4-Letter Words: SING**

Study Guide for Small Group Discussion and Personal Application  
Lynn Haven UMC – March 14, 2021 – Pastor Terry Tatum

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In this sermon series we are looking at four-letter words that help us live as God intends us to live. In recent weeks we have been encouraged to be PURE in heart, transform our MIND, surrender our WILL, care for our BODY, and WORK and REST in accord with God's guidelines. This week we will consider how God gives us the opportunity to SING.

Pastor Terry noted that people in the Bible are really like us in many ways – they had times when they felt close to God, and other times when they felt far away. We see this variation in the content of the Psalms. Sometimes the psalmist is thankful and praising God for all He has done, sometimes the psalmist is enduring chaos and crying out to God. Consider these different types of psalms and what it means to SING to God:

### **1) Order (Thanking God for what He has done)**

These are the moments when we sing to God for all that He has done, and all that is good in our lives. Sometimes we can see His hand so clearly.

*Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.  
Worship the LORD with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.  
Know that the LORD is God.  
It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.  
Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.  
For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;  
his faithfulness continues through all generations. (Psalm 100 NIV)*

### **2) Disorder (When we don't feel God is with us)**

These are the moments when nothing makes sense, and everything seems overwhelmingly difficult. We might feel wrecked by the hurricanes of life.

*How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?  
 How long will you hide your face from me?  
 How long must I wrestle with my thoughts  
 and every day have sorrow in my heart?  
 How long will my enemy triumph over me? (Psalm 13:1-2 NIV)*

### **3) Re-Order (Thanking God for what He is doing)**

Whether we are feeling great or in the depths of depression, we can choose to give God thanks for what He has done in the past and trust Him to work in our current situation. Because of God's character, we can choose hope for the future.

*Sing to the LORD, praise his name;  
 proclaim his salvation day after day.  
 Declare his glory among the nations,  
 his marvelous deeds among all peoples. (Psalm 96:2-3 NIV)*

### **Conclusion**

- ⇒ Consider how modern music seems to have a song for everything – for celebrating, for mourning, and every emotion in between. Have you ever thought of the psalms like this – presenting songs for many different occasions?
- ⇒ Do you have favorite psalms? Some people write their own titles on the psalms and mark their favorites. What psalm do you go to when you are in crisis, or in need of prayer? Share with your group.