



“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

A Five Minute Hymn Study

WEEK 1

Materials: Hymnal or hymn page for each singer, student activity page, pencils.

Preparation: (1) Photocopy the student page (one copy per student or pair of students). (2) Ask a pianist to prepare to play “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing,” or prepare a cassette tape.

Tic-Tic-Tic (5-minutes begin now)

Assign students to work individually or in pairs (with older children helping younger ones). Distribute materials as listed above.

Ask students to join you in reading aloud stanza 1 of the hymn in unison.

Allow 60 to 90 seconds (depending on age of children) for the students to complete the matching activity. Explain that they must work quickly and quietly and that guessing IS allowed! Ask the pianist to play the hymn continuously as the students work.

Have the students do a rapid check of their work as you read aloud the correct answers. Allow children to make corrections as needed.

As you sing stanza 1, have the students listen and raise their hands each time they hear one of the words listed in the left column of their activity pages: “hark; herald; glory; mercy mild; reconciled; triumph; proclaim; Bethlehem.” (Hint: Remind children that they will NOT hear the names Charles Wesley and Felix Mendelssohn.)

WEEK 2

Materials: Hymnal or hymn page for each singer, student activity page, scissors, poster, and marker or chalkboard.

Preparation: (1) Make a copy of the student page. Then create twenty strips by cutting apart the words/names and descriptions (Notes: If you have more than twenty students, duplicate and cut apart another page. You may use an uneven number of strips.) (2) Display these words in order on a poster or chalkboard: “hark; herald; glory; mercy mild; reconciled; triumph; proclaim; Bethlehem.”

Tic-Tic-Tic (5-minutes begin now)

Give each student a word/name or description strip. Allow sixty seconds for the children to locate and sit beside all other students who hold strips that match in any way. (Example: Two students may have strips with the word “hark;” one student may have the word “listen.” All three students MATCH and should sit together.)

Tic-Tic-Tic (5-minutes begin now)

Draw attention to the words you displayed. As you sing stanza 1, have the children stand each time they hear one of the displayed words.

Have the children look at the hymn page and allow ten seconds for them to locate the names of Charles Wesley and Felix Mendelssohn.

If time permits, repeat stanza 1. Ask children to join by singing only the displayed words.

WEEK 3

Materials: Hymnal or hymn sheet for each singer.

Preparation: Enlist four adult or youth singers to teach repeated melodic phrases of the hymn as described

WEEK 4

Materials: Hymnal or hymn page for each singer, student activity page, cassette tapes so that children can listen and learn by rote.

Preparation: (1) Make a copy of the student page. Then create twenty strips by cutting apart the words/names and descriptions (Notes: If you have more than twenty students, duplicate and cut apart another page. You may use an uneven number of strips.) (2) Display these words in order on a poster or chalkboard: “hark; herald; glory; mercy mild; reconciled; triumph; proclaim; Bethlehem.”

below. Or, make four brief cassette tapes so that children can listen and learn by rote.

- Leader A will teach phrases 1 and 3: “Hark! the herald angels sing”

AND “Peace on earth, and mercy mild.”

- Leader B will teach phrases 5 and 6: “Joyful, all ye nations, rise”

AND “Join the triumph of the skies.”

- Leader C will teach phrases 7 and 9: “With angelic hosts proclaim”

AND “Hark! the herald angels sing”. (Note the one rhythmic difference.)

- Leader D will teach phrases 8 and 10: “ ‘Christ is born in Bethlehem!’”

AND “ ‘Glory to the newborn King.’” (Note that the last pitch of the two phrases is different.)

Tic-Tic-Tic (5-minutes begin now)

Divide the students into four groups and assign a leader to each group. Allow 75 seconds for the groups to learn their repeated melodic phrases. (Note: Leaders may teach by echo-singing on the syllable “loo” or by singing solfege syllables. Or, students may listen to cassette tapes and learn by rote.)

Sing stanza 1 of the hymn antiphonally with each group singing their assigned phrases. You sing phrases 2 and 4: “ ‘Glory to the newborn King’” AND “God and sinners reconciled.”

(Hint: Keep a record of the students in each group for Week 4.)

WEEK 4

Materials: Hymnal or hymn sheet for each singer.

Preparation: Enlist four adult or youth leaders as for Week 3 or use cassette tapes.

Tic-Tic-Tic (*5-minutes begin now*)

Divide students into four groups as in Week 3. Be sure to assign different leaders and different phrases than in Week 3. Allow 60 seconds for groups to learn their repeated melodic phrases.

Sing stanza 1 antiphonally with each group singing its assigned phrases. You sing phrases 2 and 4. Then sing stanza 1 in unison.

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STUDENT PAGE

Matching activity for "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

Draw lines to connect words/names in the left column to matching definitions or descriptions in the right column.

Hark!	Rejoicing (joy) because of victory
herald	Pastor/minister who wrote original words for this hymn in 1730 (also wrote 7,000 other hymns)
glory	The birthplace of Jesus
mercy mild	Messenger (someone who carries messages and makes announcements)
reconciled	To bring agreement, harmony, togetherness
triumph	Listen!
proclaim	Famous composer, conductor, and pianist who wrote music for this hymn in 1840
Bethlehem	Great praise, honor, and adoration
Charles Wesley	More kindness and gentleness than can be expected (includes kindness to enemies)
Felix Mendelssohn	Announce