



SING PRAISE TO GOD WHO REIGNS ABOVE

How much fun it is to *sing* our thoughts and feelings instead of just *saying* them, either using a tune you know or making up one of your own!

The Hebrews expressed all of their most important thoughts and feelings to God in the songs you and I still read today in the five collections of songs which we call the Book of Psalms and in passages scattered throughout the Old Testament. (Exodus 15; Judges 5; Deuteronomy 32).

Can you match these Psalms with the thoughts or feelings they express?

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| Psalm 69 | The thought that God is like a shepherd. |
| Psalm 100 | A feeling of closeness to God. |
| Psalm 139 | A feeling of being in trouble. |
| Psalm 23 | A feeling of joyful praise. |

Our choir music gives us ways of showing our thoughts and feelings for God today. Just listen to how this tune – *Mit Freuden Zart* – expresses a joyful feeling of praise even before you know the words:



Do you remember how to count a time signature with a 2 on the bottom? $\frac{3}{2}$

Now here are some of the words:

*Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all Creation,
the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation;*

As you listen to the whole tune you will decide that the first two lines sound alike, making a letter pattern for the melody of AABC. Some of your group could sing the melody notes by numbers – some by Ca Da's – and some by the Do Re Mi's. Then all sing the words, trying to make long, strong phrases rather than short, choppy ones, but be sure to think about the words when you sing.

Look how the words express the same thoughts and feelings as the Hebrews did in their Psalms written over 2,000 years ago:

*The Lord is never far away, an ever present help and stay.
As with a mother's tender hand, He leads His own, His chosen band.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart. Both soul and body bear your part.*

Perhaps you never really thought about it before, but although our clothes, our kinds of churches, and even our kinds of music CHANGE as time passes, our thoughts and feelings about God in response to his steadfast love for us are much the same as the Hebrews felt long ago. From now on, think about following their example and burst out singing to show how grateful you are for God's love!