

session 11 study guide

contemporary Christian music

message

Do you have a favorite worship song? Why do you like it? How do you feel when it comes on the radio or is sung during a church service? Music can play a big role in our spiritual life. Music can quiet our mind, direct our attention, elevate our worship and excite our enthusiasm. Some people think that this kind of worship music is only for Sundays. But with contemporary Christian music, the joys of positive, motivating and worshipful music can be experienced every day.

Is some secular music positive and motivating? Absolutely. But when you listen to contemporary Christian music, you hear music that contains not only positive words but also messages that remind us of our need for God, that encourage us to be who we want to be in Christ and that direct our praise to the Creator of the universe. And our praise is something that God never tires of.

Read the following passage in Psalm 150. As you read, consider the following questions: (1) Is there a “right” or “correct” way to give praise to God? (2) What does God deserve praise and glory for?

Praise the LORD.

Praise God in his sanctuary;

praise him in his mighty heavens.

Praise him for his acts of power;

praise him for his surpassing greatness.

Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,

*praise him with the harp and lyre,
praise him with tambourine and dancing,
praise him with the strings and flute,
praise him with the clash of cymbals,
praise him with resounding cymbals.
Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.
Praise the LORD.*

dig

1. Although Psalm 150 was written thousands of years ago, its message still applies today. Think about the world you live in today. What are we to praise God for?

2. Read 1 Peter 4:12-14. What else does the Bible say that we ought to praise God for?

3. We may not have a harp or a lyre lying around, but based on Psalm 150, how can we apply what we ought to use to praise God?

4. In what situations are we to praise God?

5. In what situations do you find it hardest to praise God?

6. In what settings are we to praise God?

7. What other guidelines does this Scripture give for praising God?

8. Does contemporary Christian music meet these guidelines? Why or why not?

apply

1. Complete the following sentences:

Christian music is . . .

I choose/don't choose to listen to Christian music because . . .

2. How many Christian groups or artists can you name?

3. What is one new Christian artist or group that you have heard recently that you enjoyed?

4. Where can you buy Christian music? List your favorite stores or websites for buying Christian music.

5. Are you interested in integrating more Christian music into your listening habits? Why or why not?

6. Do you think that listening to more Christian music might be beneficial for you? If so, what would the benefits be?

reflect

1. If you could meet any Christian or secular musician, who would you want to meet, and why?

2. In what ways are Christian musicians different from secular musicians? In what ways are they the same?

3. Could contemporary Christian music ever be a negative influence? If so, in what ways?

4. Are there any Christian bands or artists that you admire? What about them is admirable?

5. Imagine that you're a huge fan of a Christian band called For Him. You've downloaded all of their songs and have been to three of their concerts. Then you learn that the lead singer, Josh, had an affair while on tour. How would you respond to the news? Would you still purchase the band's music and attend their concerts?

6. How important to God is the kind of music you listen to? Why is it important to Him?

meditation



It is good to praise the Lord
and make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning
and your faithfulness at night,
to the music of the ten-stringed lyre
and the melody of the harp.
For you make me glad by your deeds, O Lord;
I sing for joy at the works of your hands.

PSALM 92:1-4