

# SABBATH SCHOOL

## Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

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Level 3 • Unit 2 • Week 3

### WE SPEAK TO GOD WITH SONGS

**OBJECTIVE:**

To teach the children that singing songs of joy and praise to God is very appropriate when He blesses us and does good things for us.

**ATTENTION GETTER:**

Question: How many of you like to sing? Does singing a very nice song make you feel good?

Imagine you and several hundred others your age standing in a group and watching Jesus return to earth from heaven. As you stand there somehow the words and melody of a song come to your minds and everyone together sings a beautiful song of welcome and praise to Jesus. Everyone can see that He is very pleased as He carefully listens to the words and beautiful melody that His children are singing.

This song would be thanking and praising Jesus for returning to earth to take away war, hatred, killing and the abuse of people who are obeying God.

This song would be thanking and praising Jesus for bringing peace and joy to the earth as He destroys all the guns and bombs of war.

This song would be thanking and praising Jesus for taking away all the pollution of air, food and water and also healing sick people.

This song would be thanking and praising Jesus for turning the earth into a beautiful garden with tame animals for children to play with.

This song would be thanking and praising Jesus for bringing families back together where each one loves all the other family members with all of his or her heart.

Question: Who would like to be there and see Jesus return to the earth out of the clouds of heaven? Do you think that will be exciting to see a person coming down to earth without the aid of a space ship or a spacesuit? What would you like to sing to Him?

### **BIBLE LESSON:**

Today we will talk about several of the many times that God has blessed His people and they responded with songs of praise and thanks to Him.

We read in Exodus of the time when God caused Pharaoh to let the children of Israel go free and leave Egypt. The people were then traveling toward the Promised Land and camped by the Red Sea. God at this time wanted to teach His people Israel a valuable lesson. This lesson would help them endure all the problems that they would have to face in the future. That lesson was to trust and obey God and He will protect you. After Israel was given permission by Pharaoh to leave Egypt, Pharaoh changed his mind and went after the children of Israel to bring them back to Egypt as slaves.

In Exodus 14 we find the children of Israel were trapped between the mountains and the Red Sea and Pharaoh's army coming across the desert. The children of Israel were so afraid that they cried. They thought many would die because of Pharaoh's army.

At the very last moment God instructed Moses to raise his rod and point it out over the Red Sea. The sea opened and a great dry path led across to the other seashore. This was a way to escape from danger. The children of Israel crossed over to the other side of the Red Sea and stood on the shore but behind them came Pharaoh's army of chariots and horsemen. When Pharaoh's army was completely down in the dry path leading across the sea, then God allowed the water to return and fill the dry path. All of Pharaoh's army was destroyed.

The children of Israel were free and safe on the other side of the Red Sea. God had made a way of escape for them. He had protected His people because He loves them and they had obeyed and crossed through the dry path in the sea.

Question: How happy do you think the children of Israel were? What made them happy?

In Exodus 15 we can read about a song that Moses led the children of Israel to sing. This was a song of praise to God and to thank to Him for blessing them and saving them.

[Allow willing children to read highlights of Exodus 15:1-21. Then the teacher can explain the scripture to the class.]

The children of Israel spoke to God in a song and He was listening and was very pleased that they were thankful. God loves to hear the songs sung to Him. God wants us to sing to Him. When we sing to God, He truly knows how we feel about Him.

There was another time when God's servants sang praises to Him and God was very pleased. This is in Acts 16.

As Paul and Silas, two ministers of God, were walking along in the city of Philippi, a young woman possessed by a demon spirit was following them. She began speaking loudly proclaiming that these men were servants of the Most High God and they were bringing a message of salvation. She did this for several days and it greatly distressed Paul. This evil spirit in the young woman was causing a problem with the work of Paul and Silas in the church and also giving a bad appearance to the people of the city about the Church of God.

When Paul could not allow this evil spirit to continue, he commanded the spirit to leave the young woman by the name of Jesus. The evil spirit left her and her masters became very angry. She was no longer able to tell fortunes for people and make money for her masters. These men persuaded the city judges to punish Paul and Silas because they taught customs which were not lawful for Romans to receive.

Paul and Silas were severely beaten with rods and put in prison with their feet in stocks. At midnight Paul and Silas prayed to God and sang songs of praise to the Great God. God heard their prayers and their singing of praise to Him. God was very pleased because He knew that Paul and Silas trusted Him to deliver them from this difficult problem. Paul and Silas spoke to God in songs praising Him for being so great and for the help He would give to them.

God was pleased with Paul and Silas who showed faith in Him in prayer and song. They knew that God could deliver them from this bad situation. As they were singing, God caused a tremendous earthquake to shake the earth. The earth shook so violently that all the prison doors were opened. The jailer, seeing that all the doors were opened, expected to find that all of the prisoners had escaped. In desperation he prepared to kill himself. Paul cried out to the jailer to avoid harming himself since all the prisoners were still in their cells. The jailer was so impressed with God's power in the miracle of the earthquake and that all the prisoners remained in the jail, that he wanted to become a member of the Church.

God did deliver Paul and Silas from a great problem and speaking to God in songs was a part of that deliverance.

Question: What could we sing songs of praise and thanks about in our lives? [Allow response.]

In another period of time there was a man named David. This David was king over Israel. David pleased God so much that God said that David was a man after His own heart. God loved David and David loved God. David wrote songs and sang them to God. These songs were praises to God.

David may have talked to God in songs more than any other person who ever lived. David wrote or gave assistance to the writing of many of the Psalms. Psalms are simply songs of praise or prayers to God.

Many of the Psalms were sung by David as he played the harp. The Old Testament Church of God

had singers like a choir who sang songs to God when Israel came before God on the Sabbath and Holy Days.

[Teacher may read and allow children to read examples of praise from the Psalms, such as Psalm 1:1-2 (p. 77 in the United Church of God hymnal); 3:4-5; 4:3; 18:1-3 (p. 81); 20:6; 22:4; 27:1; 31:20; 34:6-7, 14-22 (p. 82); and/or others.]

Question: What kind of instrument could you play before God to give Him praise? What kind of instrument would you like to play to God?

[Allow response.]

Then came the time in God's great plan for man that Jesus must be the sacrifice for the sins of all people. The evening of the Passover was being observed by Jesus and His disciples. Jesus explained to them that Passover was a time of remembering. It's a time for remembering when you confessed to God that you were sorry for your sins and you asked for forgiveness. It's a time for remembering that Jesus took away our sins.

After taking the symbols of wine and unleavened bread they sang a hymn of repentance and praise to God. This hymn could have been from Psalm 103 or Psalm 51 or a similar hymn. These are songs that David sang and prayed to God. [Teacher should read portions.]

Question: What do these Psalms say to God? [Allow response.]

We read in Revelation about the time of the return of Jesus to the earth. We can read about that time in Revelation 15:1-5. [Allow a willing child to read those scriptures.]

These true Christians will be standing together and you children can be there also. As they stand there somehow the words and melody of a song will come to their minds and they'll sing a song of praise to God. This will be a song of appreciation to God for protecting them and supplying their needs. This song is similar to the song of Moses when the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea through the dry path.

God loves to hear His people sing songs of praise and thanks to Him for all His marvelous works that He does.

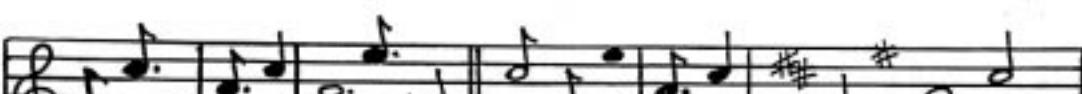
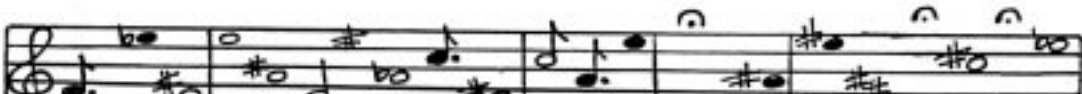
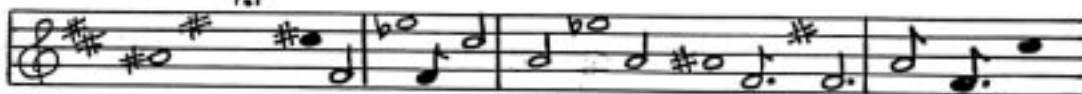
Question: What do you suppose God thinks when we sing songs of praise to Him during song service? [Allow response.]

**LESSON APPLICATION:**

We will take a few minutes to work the music puzzle. Use the letter code and solve the mystery of what we can sing to God to praise Him and show our appreciation for what He does for us.

WE SPEAK TO GOD PUZZLE

<u>CODE</u>	A#	F	K	P##	U <sup>b</sup>	Z#.
	B <sup>b</sup>	G	L	Q <sup>b</sup>	V#	
	C	H	M	R#	W#	
	D	I	N	S#	X <sup>b</sup>	
	E	J	O	T <sup>b</sup>	Y	



WE SPEAK TO GOD IN SONG

**MUSIC:**

This song of praise is taken from the United Church of God hymnal (p. 42).

**O THAT MEN WOULD PRAISE THEIR GOD**

O that men would praise their God  
For all He does for the sons of men!  
O that they would give thanks to Him  
With shouts of joy and with songs of praise!  
Some crossed over the stormy seas;  
They see the wonders of God in the deep.

(Teacher should explain the meaning of these words to the children.)

**MEMORY SCRIPTURE:**

Psalm 18:1 "I will love You, O LORD, my strength."

# *family activity*

## **THE POINT:**

God speaks to us through the Holy Bible, His word in writing, and through the wonders in the universe. We speak to God through prayer and also through singing songs of praise and thanks to Him. There are many times throughout the Bible that angels and men sang to God. God created song and He loves singing.

## **ASK ME...**

Why did Moses and the children of Israel sing a song at the Red Sea?

Where were Paul and Silas when they sang praises to God?

What kind of instrument did David play before God?

What song will the people of God sing to Jesus at the time of His return?

## **FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:**

Find other times in the Bible where songs were sung by God's people. Arrange a family time on the Sabbath to have a family sing-along. Sing songs of praise to God and encourage the children to think about God and the words while singing.

## **MEMORY VERSE:**

Psalm 18:1 "I will love You, O LORD, my strength."