



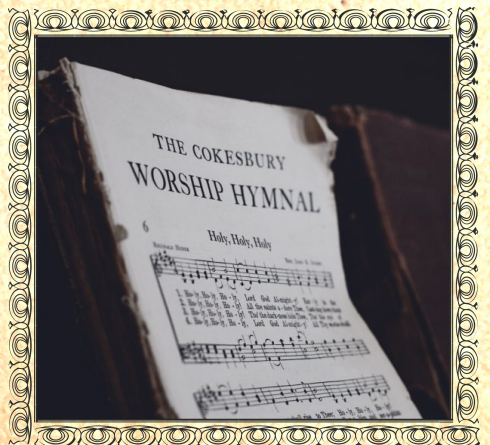
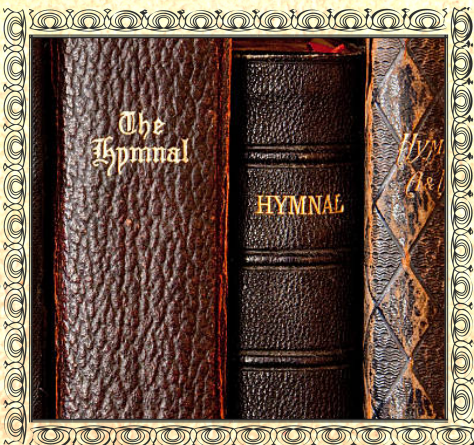
The Old Rugged Cross
George Bennard, h. 1873

1. On a hill far a-way stood an old rug-ged cross. The em-blem of
2. Oh, that old rug-ged cross, so de-spoiled by the world. Has a won-drous at-
3. In the old rug-ged cross, stained with blood so di-vine, A won-drous
4. To the old rug-ged cross I will ev-er be true. Its shame and re-
en-fer-ing and shame; And I love that old cross where the dear-est and best
tra-vel for me; For the dear Lamb of God left His glo-ry, a love
beau-ty I see; For 'twas on that old cross Je-sus suf-fered and died
proud-ly to die; Then He'll call me some day to my home far a-way,
For a world of lost sin-ners was slain. So I'll cher-ish the old rug-ged
To bear it to dark Cal-va-ry. Where He'll call me some day to my home far a-way,
To par-don and sanc-ti-fy me. Where He'll call me some day to my home far a-way,
Where He'll call me some day to my home far a-way.

moderato



HYMNALS





INTRODUCTION TO HYMNS

The word “hymn” comes from the Greek word “hymnos” which means “a song of praise”. Hymns are a valuable aid to worship because they help to focus our attention on the goodness and glory of the Lord. The hymn “How Great Thou Art,” for example, reminds us of God’s majesty revealed in creation, His perfect sacrifice on the cross, and His coming return for His own—all matters of praise.* Having these timeless truths set to music makes it easier for us to memorize them.

God’s people have sung hymns in honor of the Almighty at least since the time of Moses (Exodus 15:1). David sang the “new song” God gave him and taught others to sing “a hymn of praise to our God” (Psalm 40:3). Jesus and His disciples sang a hymn together at the Last Supper (Mark 14:26). The early church sang hymns as part of their regular gatherings (1 Corinthians 14:26). Paul and Silas, with their feet in stocks in a Philippian jail, were “praying and singing hymns to God” (Acts 16:25).* As you can see, hymns have been an integral aspect of worship for over 3000 years.

During the next few weeks, we will dive into some of the more recent hymns in an attempt to discover the gems contained in them. Our prayer is that this curriculum will aid you in gaining a greater appreciation for hymns, a renewed desire to incorporate hymns into corporate and private worship, a better understanding for how the hymns can be practically applied in our daily lives and ultimately, a greater appreciation of God. In order to accomplish this:

- Each lesson in this curriculum will consist of one hymn as well as a background story to that hymn. While we consider the Biblical truths in each hymn to be of utmost importance, we believe knowing the background stories of the selected hymns will produce a greater appreciation of those biblical truths contained within.
- Each lesson will challenge us to identify biblical references contained within the hymn. We will provide the biblical references in most lessons, but we also encourage you to try to identify as many as you can on your own.
- Each lesson will consist of discussion questions that will remain consistent from week-to-week. However, our hope is that each hymn will bring about fresh insights and application each week.
- Each lesson will contain exercises for ongoing interaction with the hymns in-between D-Group sessions. While these exercises are optional, you are encouraged to share any insights and observations that you gain with your fellow D-Group participants should you decide to do them.
- Last but not least, we will provide a link to each hymn so that you can listen to it together as a group while you read the lyrics. The links will be available on our website at <https://www.freedomchurchbaltimore.org/dgroupsstudy>.



WEEK I

HOLY, HOLY HOLY

BY REGINALD HERBER

READ THE BACKGROUND STORY FROM HYMNARY.ORG:

Reginald Heber wrote "Holy, Holy, Holy" while serving as an ordained priest in Shropshire, England. He was the first to compile a hymnal ordering hymns around the church calendar. Wanting to celebrate a triune God, Heber wrote "Holy, Holy, Holy" for Trinity Sunday--a day that reaffirmed the doctrine of the Trinity and was observed eight Sundays after Easter. The hymn was first published in 1826. Years later, John Dykes composed the tune Nicaea especially for Heber's "Holy, Holy, Holy." The text and tune were first published together in 1861. Since that time, this popular hymn has appeared in hundreds of hymnals and been translated into many languages.

Heber was impressed by the holiness of God. Whether in England, where people were plagued by various vices, or in Calcutta, where people worshiped idols, he would often write "Only Thou art holy." Based on the words of Revelation 4:8, he used the symbolism of three repeatedly throughout his hymn: God is "holy, merciful and mighty," he's "perfect in power, in love and purity," he's worshiped by saints, cherubim, and seraphim, and he's praised "in earth and sky and sea."

Through these consistent units of three, this hymn describes and worships God in three persons. Alfred Lord Tennyson felt "Holy, Holy, Holy" was the world's greatest hymn. It truly does call us to worship our God, falling down before him with those who sing in Revelation 4:8, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."



READ/SING THROUGH THE LYRICS AS YOU LISTEN TO THE HYMN TOGETHER:

*1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty
God in three persons Blessed Trinity!*

*2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert and art and evermore shalt be.*

*3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see
Only Thou art holy there is none beside Thee
Perfect in power, in love and purity*

*4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty
All Thy works shall praise thy name In earth and sky and sea
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty
God in three persons Blessed Trinity (2x)*





WEEK I CONTINUED

HOLY, HOLY HOLY

BY REGINALD HERBER

TRY TO IDENTIFY SOME OF THE SCRIPTURAL TRUTHS IN THE LYRICS:

Revelation 4:8 - And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say,

“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!”

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:


1. What stood out to you the most when reading the background story of this week's hymn?
2. What does this hymn contribute to your understanding of God?
3. Which scriptural truths (from this week's hymn) resonate with you the most right now? Explain your answer to the group.
4. Do you recognize any major biblical themes in this week's hymn? (For example - creation, fall, redemption, restoration, belief, hope, love...and so on) If so, discuss with the group.
5. How can the truths in this hymn help us in our daily walk with the Lord?

WEEKLY CHALLENGE:

Spend time this week meditating on one stanza in this week's hymn. At the end of the week, record any new insights or observations. Share your new insight/observation with the group during next week's session.

Try to memorize as much of this week's hymn as you can so that you can sing it from memory on an upcoming Sunday.

Write one additional stanza for this hymn based on your own personal experience. Share your stanza with the group during the next session. (Don't worry about rhyming or staying on beat...focus on writing meaningful words!)





WEEK 2

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL BY HORATIO SPAFFORD

READ THE BACKGROUND STORY:

Late in 1873 Horatio G. Spafford (b. North Troy, NY, 1828; d. Jerusalem, 1888) and his family were scheduled to travel from the United States to Europe. Delayed by pressing business, Spafford sent his wife and daughters ahead on the French liner *Ville du Havre*. The ship collided with the English ship *Lochearn* on November 22nd and sank in just twelve minutes. Spafford's wife was saved, but his daughters perished. After arriving in Wales, Mrs. Spafford cabled her husband, "Saved alone." Spafford then left by boat to meet her. Near the tragic scene on the high seas he wrote this text. Upon hearing the news, evangelist Dwight L. Moody, a friend of the Spaffords, traveled to England to comfort them. He reported that Spafford said about the tragic event, "It is well; the will of God be done." Philip P. Bliss, another family friend, wrote the tune for Spafford's text.



READ/SING THROUGH THE LYRICS AS YOU LISTEN TO THE HYMN TOGETHER:


1 When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

*Refrain (may be sung after final stanza only):
It is well with my soul;
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control:
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul. Refrain

3 My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! Refrain

4 O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;
even so, it is well with my soul. Refrain





WEEK 2 CONTINUED

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

BY HORATIO SPAFFORD

TRY TO IDENTIFY SOME OF THESE SCRIPTURAL TRUTHS IN THE LYRICS:

Philippians 4:7 - *And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Colossians 2:14 - *by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.*

Isaiah 34:4 - *All the host of heaven shall rot away, and the skies roll up like a scroll. All their host shall fall, as leaves fall from the vine, like leaves falling from the fig tree.*

1 Corinthians 15:52 - *in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.*

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:


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2. What does this hymn contribute to your understanding of God?
3. Which scriptural truths (from this week's hymn) resonate with you the most right now? Explain your answer to the group.
4. Do you recognize any major biblical themes in this week's hymn? (For example - creation, fall, redemption, restoration, belief, hope, love...and so on) If so, discuss with the group.
5. How can the truths in this hymn help us in our daily walk with the Lord?

WEEKLY CHALLENGE:

Spend time this week meditating on one stanza in this week's hymn. At the end of the week, record any new insights or observations. Share your new insight/observation with the group during next week's session.

Try to memorize as much of this week's hymn as you can so that you can sing it from memory on an upcoming Sunday.

Write one additional stanza for this hymn based on your own personal experience. Share your stanza with the group during the next session. (Don't worry about rhyming or staying on beat...focus on writing meaningful words!)





WEEK 3

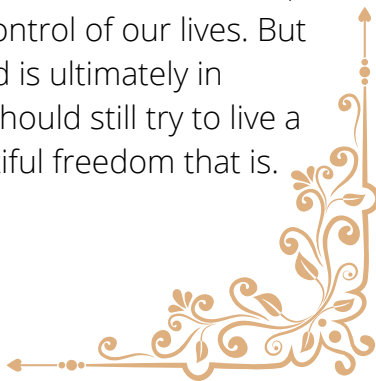
TO GOD BE THE GLORY FANNY J. CROSBY

READ THE BACKGROUND STORY:

Prodigious writer of hymn texts, Fanny J. Crosby (b. Putnam County, NY, 1820; d. Bridgeport, CT, 1915) wrote this hymn, which was first published with Doane's tune in *Songs of Devotion* (1870). This text and "Blessed Assurance" are among the best-known and most-loved hymn texts of the thousands Crosby produced. Fanny (Francis) Jane Crosby attended the New York City School for the Blind, where she later became a teacher. She began writing poetry when she was eight and publishing several volumes, such as *A Blind Girl, and Other Poems* (1844). Married to musician Alexander Van Alstyne, who was also blind, Crosby began writing hymn texts when she was in her forties. She published at least eight thousand hymns (some under various pseudonyms; at times she was under contract to her publisher to write three hymns a week and often wrote six or seven a day. Crosby's texts were set to music by prominent gospel song composers such as William B. Bradbury, William H. Doane, Robert S. Lowry, Ira D. Sankey, and William J. Kirkpatrick. Her hymns were distributed widely and popularized at evangelistic services in both America and Great Britain. Crosby was one of the most respected women of her era and the friend of many prominent persons, including presidents of the United States.

In contrast to many gospel hymns (including the majority of Crosby's texts), "To God Be the Glory" directs our attention away from personal experience to the glory of God. God so loved the world that he gave us his Son to make atonement for sin (st. 1); all who believe in Christ will receive pardon (st. 2) and will rejoice now and through all eternity because of the "great things he has done" (st. 3). The refrain borrows its praise in part from the Old Testament psalms. The phrase "when Jesus we see" (st. 3) must have meant something special to Crosby, who was blinded when she was seven weeks old.

This text is unique from Crosby's other hymns because, rather than focus on our experience of God, the words are wholly about God and His perfect glory. In a sense, the hymn perfectly displaces us, removing us from the pedestal on which we so often place ourselves. This displacement is one of the great paradoxes of the Christian faith. It feels very natural for us to seek attention, approval, and our own glory. We like to be in control and present our own image to the world, an image we seek to improve through any means possible. On the other hand, there is great comfort in knowing that the image we try to make for ourselves doesn't matter. We are made in the image of God, which means that whatever we do has to bring Him and Him alone glory. Our lives are wrapped up in God, and so too are the mistakes we make, the wounds we inflict, and all of our shortcomings. These are the things we try to avoid while we maintain control of our lives. But what a joy and a comfort to know that though these things may happen, because God is ultimately in control, and because our own image does not matter, God is still glorified. While we should still try to live a holy and upright life, we should do so to bring God glory, not ourselves. What a beautiful freedom that is.





WEEK 3 CONTINUED

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

FANNY J. CROSBY

READ/SING THROUGH THE LYRICS AS YOU LISTEN TO THE HYMN TOGETHER:

1 To God be the glory, great things he hath done,
so loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he hath done*

2 O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. (Refrain)

3 Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher and greater will be
the wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. (Refrain)

TRY TO IDENTIFY SOME OF THESE SCRIPTURAL TRUTHS IN THE LYRICS:

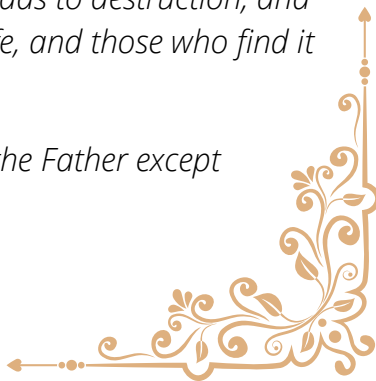
Psalm 126:2-3 - *Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad.*

John 3:16 - *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

1 John 2:2 - *He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.*

Matt. 7:13-14 - *"Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.*

John 14:6 - *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*





WEEK 3 CONTINUED

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

FANNY J. CROSBY

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. What stood out to you the most when reading the background story of this week's hymn?
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3. Which scriptural truths (from this week's hymn) resonate with you the most right now? Explain your answer to the group.
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WEEK 4

HOW GREAT THOU ART

BY CARL G. BOBERG

READ THE BACKGROUND STORY:

"How Great Thou Art" is a Christian hymn based on an original Swedish hymn entitled "O Store Gud" written in 1885 by Carl Boberg (1859–1940). The English version of the hymn and its title are a loose translation by the English missionary Stuart K. Hine from 1949. The hymn was popularised by George Beverly Shea and Cliff Barrows during the Billy Graham crusades.

The inspiration for the poem came when Boberg was walking home from church near Kronobäck, Sweden, and listening to church bells. A sudden storm got Boberg's attention, and then just as suddenly as it had made its appearance, it subsided to a peaceful calm which Boberg observed over Mönsterås Bay. According to J. Irving Erickson:

Carl Boberg and some friends were returning home to Mönsterås from Kronobäck, where they had participated in an afternoon service. Presently a thundercloud appeared on the horizon, and soon lightning flashed across the sky. Strong winds swept over the meadows and billowing fields of grain. The thunder pealed in loud claps. Then rain came in cool fresh showers. In a little while the storm was over, and a rainbow appeared. When Boberg arrived home, he opened the window and saw the bay of Mönsterås like a mirror before him... From the woods on the other side of the bay, he heard the song of a thrush... the church bells were tolling in the quiet evening. It was this series of sights, sounds, and experiences that inspired the writing of the song.

According to Boberg's great-nephew, Bud Boberg, "My dad's story of its origin was that it was a paraphrase of Psalm 8 and was used in the 'underground church' in Sweden in the late 1800s when the Baptists and Mission Friends were persecuted." The author, Carl Boberg himself gave the following information about the inspiration behind his poem:

It was that time of year when everything seemed to be in its richest colouring; the birds were singing in trees and everywhere. It was very warm; a thunderstorm appeared on the horizon and soon there was thunder and lightning. We had to hurry to shelter. But the storm was soon over and the clear sky appeared. When I came home I opened my window toward the sea. There evidently had been a funeral and the bells were playing the tune of "When eternity's clock calls my saved soul to its Sabbath rest". That evening, I wrote the song, "O Store Gud".





WEEK 4 CONTINUED

HOW GREAT THOU ART

BY CARL G. BOBERG

READ/SING THROUGH THE LYRICS AS YOU LISTEN TO THE HYMN TOGETHER:

1 O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hands hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:

How great thou art! How great thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:

How great thou art! How great thou art!

2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; [Refrain]

3 And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing
he bled and died to take away my sin; [Refrain]

4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim: "My God, how great thou art!"





WEEK 4 CONTINUED

HOW GREAT THOU ART

BY CARL G. BOBERG

TRY TO IDENTIFY SOME OF THESE SCRIPTURAL TRUTHS IN THE LYRICS:

Psalm 8 & Psalm 121 (Read from the Bible)

Hebrews 12: 1-2 - *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 - *For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.*

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

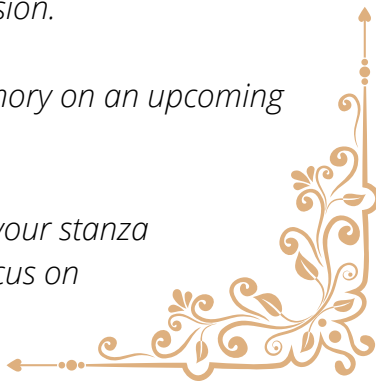
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3. Which scriptural truths (from this week's hymn) resonate with you the most right now? Explain your answer to the group.
4. Do you recognize any major biblical themes in this week's hymn? (For example - creation, fall, redemption, restoration, belief, hope, love...and so on) If so, discuss with the group.
5. How can the truths in this hymn help us in our daily walk with the Lord?

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Spend time this week meditating on one stanza in this week's hymn. At the end of the week, record any new insights or observations. Share your new insight/observation with the group during next week's session.

Try to memorize as much of this week's hymn as you can so that you can sing it from memory on an upcoming Sunday.

Write one additional stanza for this hymn based on your own personal experience. Share your stanza with the group during the next session. (Don't worry about rhyming or staying on beat...focus on writing meaningful words!)





WEEK 5

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

BY THOMAS CHISHOLM

READ THE BACKGROUND STORY:

Thomas Chisholm, author of "Great is Thy Faithfulness" led a pretty ordinary life. He did not write this hymn during a period of intense grief or after encountering God in a profound way. Instead, he found truth in the words he encountered in Lamentations 3:22-23: "Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Jeremiah, on the other hand, was in tumultuous circumstances when writing Lamentations. The people to whom he prophesied did not listen, and he was ostracized and completely alone because of what God called him to do. He also lamented the consequences of their faithlessness. God allowed them to be conquered by the Babylonians, resulting in their entire world being laid to waste. But in the midst of that utter devastation, Jeremiah still offers them hope on the horizon: they are not completely destroyed because of the LORD's compassion and faithfulness, and in the morning, after this "dark night of the soul," things will be better. So whether we are at a place in our lives where everything is pretty ordinary, or whether we are in a period of grief: no matter what our circumstances, God never changes and is faithful to us, sustaining us in his compassion and faithfulness each and every day.



READ/SING THROUGH THE LYRICS AS YOU LISTEN TO THE HYMN TOGETHER:

1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness!


Great is thy faithfulness!

*Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.*

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]





WEEK 5 CONTINUED

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

BY THOMAS CHISHOLM

TRY TO IDENTIFY SOME OF THESE SCRIPTURAL TRUTHS IN THE LYRICS:

Lamentations 3:22-23

22 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
23 they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:


1. What stood out to you the most when reading the background story of this week's hymn?
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Try to memorize as much of this week's hymn as you can so that you can sing it from memory on an upcoming Sunday.

Write one additional stanza for this hymn based on your own personal experience. Share your stanza with the group during the next session. (Don't worry about rhyming or staying on beat...focus on writing meaningful words!)





WEEK 6

AMAZING GRACE BY JOHN NEWTON

READ THE BACKGROUND STORY:

One of the best loved and most often sung hymns in North America, this hymn expresses John Newton's personal experience of conversion from sin as an act of God's grace. At the end of his life, Newton (b. London, England, 1725; d. London, 1807) said, "There are two things I'll never forget: that I was a great sinner, and that Jesus Christ is a greater Savior!" This hymn is Newton's spiritual autobiography, but the truth it affirms—that we are saved by grace alone—is one that all Christians may confess with joy and gratitude.

Newton was born into a Christian home, but his godly mother died when he was seven, and he joined his father at sea when he was eleven. His licentious and tumultuous sailing life included a flogging for attempted desertion from the Royal Navy and captivity by a slave trader in West Africa. After his escape he himself became the captain of a slave ship. Several factors contributed to Newton's conversion: a near-drowning in 1748, the piety of his friend Mary Catlett, (whom he married in 1750), and his reading of Thomas à Kempis' *Imitation of Christ*. In 1754 he gave up the slave trade and, in association with William Wilberforce, eventually became an ardent abolitionist. After becoming a tide-surveyor in Liverpool, England, Newton came under the influence of George Whitefield and John and Charles Wesley and began to study for the for the ministry. He was ordained in the Church of England and served in Olney (1764-1780) and St. Mary Woolnoth, London (1780-1807). His legacy to the Christian church includes his hymns as well as his collaboration with William Cowper in publishing *Olney Hymns* (1779), to which Newton contributed 280 hymns, including "Amazing Grace."



READ/SING THROUGH THE LYRICS AS YOU LISTEN TO THE HYMN TOGETHER:

1 Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

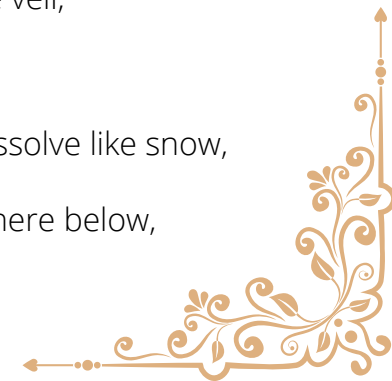
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come:
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

5 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease:
I shall possess, within the veil,
a life of joy and peace.

6 The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
the sun forbear to shine;
but God, who called me here below,
will be forever mine.





WEEK 6 CONTINUED

AMAZING GRACE

BY JOHN NEWTON

TRY TO IDENTIFY SOME OF THESE SCRIPTURAL TRUTHS IN THE LYRICS:

Ephesians 1:3-14 (Read from the Bible)

Ephesians 2:8 - *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,*

John 9:25 - *He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."*

Ps. 142:5 - *I cry to you, O Lord; I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."*

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. What stood out to you the most when reading the background story of this week's hymn?
2. What does this hymn contribute to your understanding of God?
3. Which scriptural truths (from this week's hymn) resonate with you the most right now? Explain your answer to the group.
4. Do you recognize any major biblical themes in this week's hymn? (For example - creation, fall, redemption, restoration, belief, hope, love...and so on) If so, discuss with the group.
5. How can the truths in this hymn help us in our daily walk with the Lord?

WEEKLY CHALLENGE:

Spend time this week meditating on one stanza in this week's hymn. At the end of the week, record any new insights or observations. Share your new insight/observation with the group during next week's session.

Try to memorize as much of this week's hymn as you can so that you can sing it from memory on an upcoming Sunday.

Write one additional stanza for this hymn based on your own personal experience. Share your stanza with the group during the next session. (Don't worry about rhyming or staying on beat...focus on writing meaningful words!)

