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SING, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE!

"Shout to the LORD, all the earth; break out in praise and sing for joy!" Psalm 98:4

It's that time of year again... A time when all across the country, the anticipation swells and people start crowding around the TV on Tuesday and Wednesday nights to watch in awe and wonder... and sometimes disgust.

American Idol Season 9 has begun.

Whether you are a fan or not, you have to respect the genius of the people who thought up this show. They have chosen something so completely ingrained in us as human beings... not just the avarice or the pride factors which play in so well. No, I'm talking about the desire to sing! It's one thing that separates us from the animal kingdom (that, and our ability to accessorize), that is truly unique to us. I am not discounting the beauty of the rhythmic and melodious sounds of nature, but being able to express individual thought, poetry, and run the full gamut of emotion through lyric and melody is God-given to us alone.

Psalm 95:1 says: *Oh come, let us sing to the Lord, let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation!* We've heard it all before. Being a church baby myself, I remember "make a joyful noise" being drummed into my brain since the first time I sang "Jesus Loves Me" while trying not to notice little Tommy Spencer licking paste off of the craft table. Singing is mentioned nearly 170 times in the Bible! But why does the Psalmist tell us to sing?

For one thing, I believe singing is a medium that transports us out of our mundane existence. Remember Disney's Cinderella, singing at the top of her lovely lungs while going about her tedious chores? When you sing, you can worship the Lord with your mind, body and spirit even while you are scrubbing a filthy kitchen floor. How many things can you say that about?

Whatever part of Children's ministry you are involved in, it's so important to make singing a part of it. In the Old Testament, the armies were led into battle with the musicians up front. Some may argue that this is because they were dispensable, but I believe that music not only gave the troops courage and a sense of unity, but also helped them focus on the God they were there to honor and fight for. We are in the trenches of spiritual warfare every week, with children's eternal souls at the center of the battle. Singing praises to our awesome God not only invites His presence into our midst, but gives the children a melody in their minds and hearts that will last much longer than the Sunday School lesson.

God would not mention singing so often in His word if it were not important to Him. Let's take the hint.

In the awesome name of the One who gives us so much to sing about,

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