



# Doxology / Oh, Shout for Joy (The New Hundredth)

## Devotions and Activities

### 1. BORN TO SING

From singing happy birthday loudly at a birthday party to a soft lullaby before we go to sleep, to chanting a cheer for our favorite sports team singing is part of what it means to be human. And when we see something great we want to say that it is great! We have been created to sing and to praise especially to our Creator. God shows His great love and works to us and then we sing our praise, enjoying singing to Him with songs of thankfulness just like in this old hymn based on Psalm 100, written hundreds of years ago.

The Psalms are the songbook of the Bible. They tell us so much about God, what He is like and what He has done. They tell us a lot about ourselves too - our greatest joys, our deepest struggles and everything in between. And they tell us how we understand and sing of our friendship with God. Let's thank God today for the gift of singing such wonderful things by using our voices to do just that!!

*Activity - why don't you read a Psalm for yourself or with someone to help you and try singing a line or two to a made up melody of your own!*

### 2. BEING A PEOPLE OF GOD

Did you watch any of the recent Olympic Games? Whoever wins the gold medal gets to stand up on a podium and show the people they belong to as their country's special song, 'national anthem', is sung and played. Psalm 96 tells us we become part of a new people when we become part of God's family. We don't just celebrate the countries we're from but even more celebrate being part of God's kingdom. When we sing our 'anthems' of praise together to God we show that we belong to God and to each other as His Church. God's family stretches all over the world beyond every border and reaches back over all of history and reaches forward to heaven, our forever country and home. Can you imagine us all singing praises to the Lord in every different language?!

*Activity - Do you know any Bible verses in a different language to your own? Perhaps a grown up can help you find one! Here's something in French which is the language I learned at school... 'Dieu est amour' 1 Jean 4:8b. Do you know what it means in English?*

### 3. REMEMBERING

Isn't it frustrating how often we forget the things we really want to remember?! When we were younger it took lots of time to remember all our scales on the piano! When we learn to read and write we learn rhymes and patterns to help us remember the letters of the alphabet. When we sing something we tend to remember it better which is why hymns are so helpful. They help us learn and remember our faith. One thing we forget all the time is the grace, the gift, we are given because of all Jesus has done for us at the cross. It's so easy to think we have to do everything right before we can be friends with God. When we sing of Christ's forgiveness our hearts are filled with joy because we 'live in peace beneath the cross, every sin forgiven'. We can sing things like this all through our day so we don't forget and to keep ourselves filled with gladness even in difficult times!

*Activity - we like to sing a short thank you prayer before we eat together as a family. Can you find (or write!) a song like this to sing with your family? This is a good singing moment in the day to remember how God takes care of us!*

### 4. BEING CREATIVE

Have you ever written a story or a song or painted a picture or put together a dance? When God created us He designed us to want to create things as well, to be creative. We started writing songs when we were children. Often writing songs helps us say something better than simply talking about it. There are so many hymns written over so many years and it's good to enjoy and use these older songs. But we need to keep on writing. We had fun trying to write our own version of Psalm 100.

*Activity - Can you write a song or a poem or paint a picture based on this Psalm?*