

# Small Group Worship Leader's Guide – Psalm 103

Provided by the faculty of the School of Church Music and Worship

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

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## Getting Started:

1. For the believer, whether we are worshiping in our churches or our homes, worshiping the Triune God is a wonderful Bible-saturated dialogue between God and his people built on the *relationship* they have with him through Jesus Christ! Pray the Bible, sing the Bible, and read the Bible!
2. It is important for Christians to remember that *self-actuated worship is no more possible than self-actuated salvation*. Jonathan Edwards said, "We contribute nothing to our salvation except the sin that made it necessary." Worship leaders and worshipers may need to be reminded that we bring nothing to worship except a realization that *by grace, Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit is the only one who makes worship possible*, and our worship is a response to him and his Word. As missionary and worship theologian Ron Man so beautifully expresses, "God accepts and delights in our worship, not because of our efforts or our artistry or even our spirituality, but because of the Son's continual offering of worship in our place and on our behalf." Please know that spending time together with your family reading the Scriptures, praying the Scriptures, and singing the Scriptures is a beautiful expression of worship!

## Opening Scripture

**READER:** Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

*Possible Transition Statement: The opening of Psalm 103 is a call for us to praise our holy God with all that is within us, and we are reminded that only he is perfect, only he is righteous, and only he is holy. Let's not miss the powerful reminders of who God is as we sing, "Holy, Holy, Holy."*

## Song: Holy, Holy, Holy

*Possible Transition: Let's continue by reading Psalm 103:2-5:*

## Scripture (Psalm 103:2-5)

**Reader 1:** My soul, bless the Lord, and do not forget all his benefits.

**Reader 2:** He forgives all your iniquity; he heals all your diseases.

**Reader 3:** He redeems your life from the Pit; he crowns you with faithful love and compassion.

**Reader 4:** He satisfies you with good things; your youth is renewed like the eagle.



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## Prayer Time (Potential Prayer Prompts below)

### Adoration:

- We praise God that he is Holy!
- We praise God that he has blessed us with his abundant benefits.
- We praise God that he is our redeemer.
- We praise God that he is compassionate and loving.

### Confession:

- We confess that we need his forgiveness...for the things done and said, and for those things left undone and unsaid.
- We confess that it has not been evident that we live to bless the Lord!
- We confess that by trusting in others or our circumstances, we have forgotten your faithful love and compassion.
- We confess that we have sought to be satisfied in so many things other than the “good things” of the Lord.

### Thanksgiving:

- \*We thank God for his many blessings and benefits...help us to be more mindful of them!
- \*We thank God for his faithful love and forgiveness.
- \*We thank God that he continues to heal us from the disease of sin.
- \*We thank God that Christ is all we need for our souls to be satisfied.
- \*We thank God that we can be renewed day-by-day in the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

### Petition:

- We pray that others would come to know Jesus Christ - our Healer, our Forgiver, our Redeemer, our Satisfier, our Renewer!
- We pray that God would rescue those afflicted by the virus.
- We pray for those grieving the loss of loved ones due to the virus and other diseases.
- We pray for our church, our pastors and leaders, and government officials.
- We pray for health care workers...for their strength, their stamina, their health.
- We pray that we would be satisfied in the Lord and that he would renew our strength.

*Possible Transition: As we have prayed through verses 2-5 in Psalm 103, let's listen to how the David continues to express his gratefulness for God's forgiveness and God's great and faithful love.*

## Scripture (Psalm 103:8-12)

**Leader:** The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love. <sup>9</sup> He will not always accuse us or be angry forever. <sup>10</sup> He has not dealt with us as our sins deserve or repaid us according to our iniquities. <sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his faithful love toward those who fear him. <sup>12</sup> As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

## Hymn: Take My Life

*Possible Transition: "Take my heart, it is Thine own, it shall be Thy royal throne, it shall be thy royal throne." It is amazing to think that the Spirit of the Living God resides in the hearts of believers, and the God of the universe wants us to have a relationship with him like a father. Let's read the next two verses from Psalm 103:*

**Scripture (Psalm 103:13-14)**

**Reader 1:** <sup>13</sup> As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.

**Reader 2:** <sup>14</sup> For he knows what we are made of, remembering that we are dust.

*Possible Transition: We have a faithful, loving, heavenly Father. He knows us better than we know ourselves.*

**Hymn: Great is Thy Faithfulness**

**Leader: Closing Prayer**