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**The Songs of Moses and Miriam**

**Praise for the Past and Hope for the Future**

***Exodus 15:1–21***

**Purpose:** To develop new skills in worship as an outgrowth of our relationship with God.

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*(The subject of this study will be unfamiliar to most people. We rarely discuss the essence of worship. Therefore, group responses may be slow. The leader should not answer the questions, but rather be a gentle encourager and persistent guide.)*

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Music plays a vital role in Christian worship. Sometimes, however, music causes contention: the old favorites versus the new gospel tunes; organs versus guitars. Overlooked is the fact that God gave us music and singing to praise and glorify his name. Nowhere is this seen more clearly than in the thrilling song service that broke out on the eastern shore of the Red Sea. Moses the statesman, Moses the voice of God became Israel's song leader. Praise and honor to God marked the final triumph over Egypt. How much more Christians need to sing to God for his victory in Christ.

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**1.** What part does music play in your worship of God?

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**2.** Read Exodus 15:1–21. What inspired this song of victory (v. 1)?

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**3.** In what terms do Moses and the people express their personal relationship with God and their duty to God (v. 2)?

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**4.** What is the value of reciting God's victories in public singing?

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**Question 4**. This may take some time to answer. Encourage the group to give practical, not theoretical, answers.

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**5.** On what occasions have you been inspired to break out in song to God?

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**6.** What conclusions about God do the people draw from the Red Sea victory (vv. 3–11)?

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**7.** In what ways do these facts reveal God's purposes for delivering Israel from Egypt?

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**8.** Against what adversaries do you need to see a demonstration of God's power, majesty and holiness?

————————————————————————————————————**Question 8.** Probably a new application for some who are not used to thinking of God in this way. Have some of your own ideas prepared to keep the discussion on track.

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**9.**  After rehearsing the past, the people look to the future. What enemies lie ahead (vv. 14–15)?

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**10.** What will be the effect of the exodus on these nations (vv. 14–16)?

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**11.** On what basis do the people exude confidence for their future (vv. 13–18)?

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**12.**  How does the knowledge of God's character and past faithfulness encourage you in anticipation of the future?

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**Question 12.** Think about an illustration of this principle on the personal level. What elements go into building security?

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**13.** Why would it be important for the people to sing about overcoming the enemies yet to be faced?

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**14.** What role did Miriam and the other women play in the victory celebration, and why (vv. 20–21)?

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**15.**  In some ways our praise to God should be planned, and in some ways it should be spontaneous. What is the value of both kinds of worship?

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**Question 15.** Avoid debates about personal likes and dislikes in worship services. Summarize the reasons why Israel's experience of worship on this occasion was so meaningful.

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