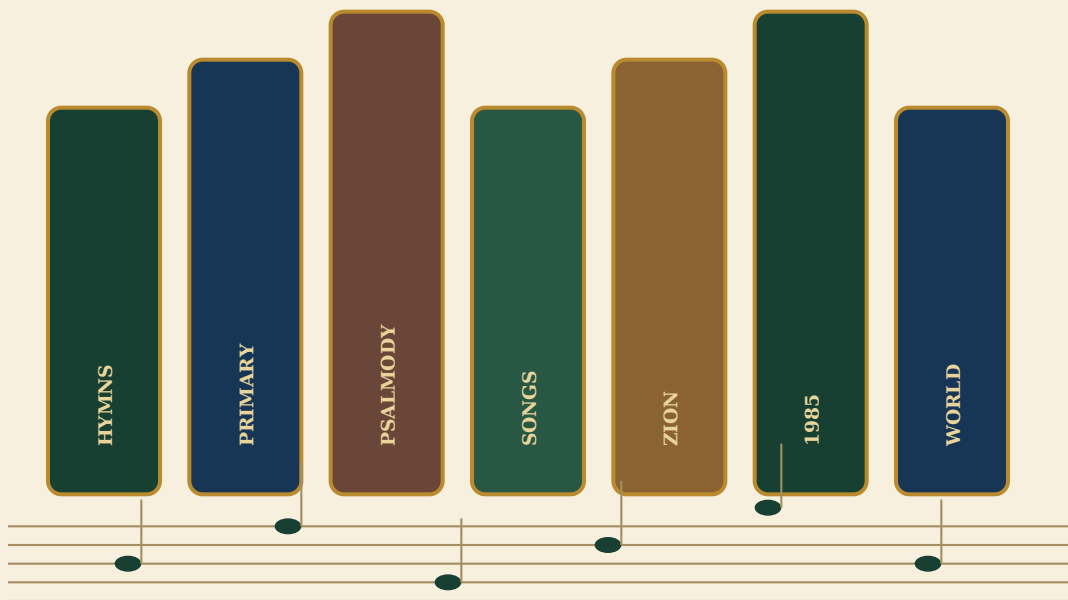


THE SONG OF THE SAINTS

CLASSROOM / FAMILY STUDY PACK

Ten chapter-by-chapter activity sheets for learning Church music history



Church history

Homeschool

Family study

Music classes

Youth activities

Read the history. Hear the hymns. Handle the ideas. Ask what the songs reveal about the Saints who sang them.

HOW TO USE THIS PACK

Use one sheet with each chapter, or select activities for a shorter unit.

1. READ

Read the chapter first. Mark dates, people, hymnbooks, and reasons for change.

2. TRACE THE TIMELINE

Use the timeline points to place the chapter inside the larger story of the Restoration and Church growth.

3. HANDLE THE ARTIFACT

Study the featured items or images as evidence. Ask what its size, format, language, or contents reveal.

4. ANSWER + DISCUSS

Use the comprehension questions for recall and the discussion prompt for interpretation.

5. LISTEN

Use an official or trusted recording when possible. Listen once for meaning and again for musical choices.

6. MAKE SOMETHING

Finish with the hands-on project: map, mock hymnal, scorecard, interview, comparison, or museum label.

FLEXIBLE FOR DIFFERENT AGES

Younger learners can focus on the artifact, listening, and project. Older youth and adults can complete all questions and compare the chapter's choices with other eras. Families can divide the roles: reader, timeline keeper, listener, artifact detective, and project leader.

TIMELINE POINTS

- 1830 - Revelation calls Emma Smith to make a selection of sacred hymns.
- 1836 - Emma Smith and W. W. Phelps's first official hymnal appears with 90 hymn texts.
- Mar. 27, 1836 - 'The Spirit of God' gains prominence at the Kirtland Temple dedication.
- 1844 - The Bellows Falls hymnal becomes the first Latter-day Saint hymnbook to print musical notation.

VOCABULARY + KEY PEOPLE

VOCABULARY

- hymnal
- meter
- text-only
- adaptation
- musical notation

KEY PEOPLE

Emma Smith
W. W. Phelps
Isaac Watts
George B. Gardner
Jesse C. Little

HISTORICAL ARTIFACT TO EXAMINE

The tiny first official hymnal - about 3 x 4.5 inches, 90 texts, and no printed tunes.



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

- 1 Why could early Saints use several tunes for the same hymn text?
- 2 How did W. W. Phelps adapt existing Christian texts for Restoration worship?
- 3 Why was the Bellows Falls hymnal an important step even though it was unofficial?

DISCUSS

What can the physical form of a hymnbook tell us about the people who used it?

LISTEN TO THIS HYMN

Listen to "The Spirit of God." As you listen, note words or musical qualities that could make it memorable for a temple dedication.

HANDS-ON PROJECT

Make a pocket-hymnal mockup. Fold a sheet into a tiny booklet and design a title page, contents page, and four hymn-title pages.



Use the back of this page or another sheet for sketches, notes, or extended answers.

TIMELINE POINTS

- 1840 - The Manchester Hymnal is published in England; its first edition contains 271 hymns.
- 1889 - The Latter-day Saints' Psalmody brings printed tunes and ambitious choral settings into a major Church collection.
- 1908 - Songs of Zion appears as a missionary hymnal and is translated into several languages.
- 1909 - Deseret Sunday School Songs helps popularize upbeat gospel-song repertoire.

VOCABULARY + KEY PEOPLE

VOCABULARY

- Psalmody
- missionary hymnal
- choral setting
- tune
- specialty hymnal

KEY PEOPLE

Brigham Young
 Parley P. Pratt
 John Taylor
 Evan Stephens
 George Careless

HISTORICAL ARTIFACT TO EXAMINE

The Manchester Hymnal - a long-lived British collection carried by converts and used through 25 editions.



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

- 1 Why did different regions and organizations create their own hymnbooks?
- 2 What made the Psalmody a historic musical step forward?
- 3 How did Songs of Zion and Deseret Sunday School Songs serve different audiences?

DISCUSS

When does variety strengthen a community, and when does a community need a shared standard?

LISTEN TO THIS HYMN

Listen to 'Come, Come, Ye Saints' or 'A Poor Wayfaring Man of Grief.' What do you hear that connects the hymn to memory, migration, or shared identity?

HANDS-ON PROJECT



Create a map showing where one hymnbook traveled. Add arrows for Britain, Nauvoo/Utah, missions, and local congregations.

Use the back of this page or another sheet for sketches, notes, or extended answers.

TIMELINE POINTS

- 1919 - The Relief Society Songbook appears as a specialized women's collection.
- 1920 - The Church organizes its first General Music Committee.
- 1927 - Latter-day Saint Hymns, the 'Green Hymnbook,' consolidates several major collections.
- 1948 - A more congregation-centered hymnal removes more than 200 older selections.
- 1950 and 1960 - Revisions restore beloved hymns and continue refining the repertoire.

VOCABULARY + KEY PEOPLE

VOCABULARY

- General Music Committee
- consolidation
- congregation-centered
- repertoire
- revision

KEY PEOPLE

Evan Stephens
George D. Pyper
Emmeline B. Wells
John A. Widtsoe
B. Cecil Gates

HISTORICAL ARTIFACT TO EXAMINE

The 1927 Green Hymnbook - 421 hymns and a major step toward a unified Church repertoire.



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

- 1 What problem was the General Music Committee trying to solve?
- 2 Why did the 1948 hymnal remove so many older hymns?
- 3 What does the quick 1950 revision show about members' attachment to hymns?

DISCUSS

Should a hymnal preserve beloved tradition even when editors think newer choices are stronger? Why?

LISTEN TO THIS HYMN

Listen to "Have I Done Any Good?" Consider why a practical, energetic gospel song could become widely loved.

HANDS-ON PROJECT



Stage a mock music committee. Give each person five hymn-title cards and agree on only three to keep. Record the reasons for each choice.

Use the back of this page or another sheet for sketches, notes, or extended answers.

Hymns, 1985

TIMELINE POINTS

- 1972-75 - An ambitious new-hymnal effort begins but never reaches publication.
- Early 1980s - A new eight-member hymnbook committee reviews current hymns and new submissions.
- More than 6,000 submissions are considered; about 200 finalists are field-tested by Church choirs.
- 1985 - The green hymnal is published with 341 hymns and becomes the basis for worldwide editions.

VOCABULARY + KEY PEOPLE

VOCABULARY

- anonymous review
- field testing
- copyright
- selection committee
- accessibility

KEY PEOPLE

Michael Moody
Bonnie L. Goodliffe
Karen Lynn Davidson
Darwin Wolford
Vanja Watkins

HISTORICAL ARTIFACT TO EXAMINE



A 1985 green hymnal beside a stack of anonymous submissions - a reminder that the final book came from thousands of possibilities.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

- 1 Why were names removed from submitted hymns during review?
- 2 What factors did the committee consider besides personal preference?
- 3 How did field testing change the selection process?

DISCUSS

What should matter most when choosing worship music: doctrine, beauty, familiarity, ease of singing, or something else?

LISTEN TO THIS HYMN

Listen to a hymn first introduced or newly emphasized in the 1985 hymnal. Rate it for message, singability, and congregational usefulness.

HANDS-ON PROJECT



Build a 10-point hymn-selection scorecard using the committee's concerns: doctrinal value, usefulness, musical quality, singability, originality, and broad appeal.

Use the back of this page or another sheet for sketches, notes, or extended answers.

The World Hymnal

TIMELINE POINTS

- 1985 onward - Language editions share a core of standard hymns while allowing additional local selections.
- 2018 - A new hymnbook and children's songbook project is announced for a worldwide Church.
- 2019 - More than 17,000 submissions arrive from over 60 countries.
- More than 45,000 survey responses offer feedback about songs to keep, remove, or add.
- The new approach aims for one consistent core collection in every language, supported by digital resources.

VOCABULARY + KEY PEOPLE

VOCABULARY

- standardized core
- translation
- digital supplement
- survey
- global Church

KEY PEOPLE

Elder Ronald A. Rasband
Audrey Livingston
Stephen Schank
Cherilyn Worthen
Jan Pinborough

HISTORICAL ARTIFACT TO EXAMINE



A shelf of hymnals in many languages paired with an online submission form - print tradition meeting global digital participation.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

- 1 How did the worldwide growth of the Church change the goals of hymnbook committees?
- 2 Why is translating a hymn more complicated than translating prose?
- 3 What advantages can a digital supplement provide that a printed book cannot?

DISCUSS

How can one shared hymn collection create unity without erasing local musical culture?

LISTEN TO THIS HYMN

Choose a familiar hymn and listen to it in another available language. What stays recognizable even when the words change?

HANDS-ON PROJECT



Design a two-part world hymnal: list five songs for a shared global core and three spaces for local additions. Explain each choice.

Use the back of this page or another sheet for sketches, notes, or extended answers.

Experiences with the Hymns

TIMELINE POINTS

- Personal stories show hymns accompanying crisis, sickness, conversion, family memory, and recovery.
- Members describe hymns helping them share testimony and invite reverence.
- Writers and composers also describe spiritual experiences while submitting or creating sacred music.
- Historical anecdotes connect modern worshippers with earlier Saints and Church leaders.

VOCABULARY + KEY PEOPLE

VOCABULARY

- testimony
- reverence
- conversion
- spiritual impression
- hymn memory

KEY PEOPLE

Bruce T. Forbes
Judy Peters
Esther Megargel
Emma Lou Thayne
Dr. Ronald Staheli

HISTORICAL ARTIFACT TO EXAMINE



A well-used personal hymnal - not valuable because it is rare, but because notes, worn pages, and remembered songs can record a spiritual life.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

- 1 What different kinds of life experiences are connected to hymns in this chapter?
- 2 Why can the same hymn mean different things to different people?
- 3 What do the stories suggest about the relationship between music and memory?

DISCUSS

Is a hymn's most important meaning found in its original history, its text, its tune, or the experiences people attach to it?

LISTEN TO THIS HYMN

Listen to "It Is Well with My Soul." Write down one phrase, musical moment, or feeling that could explain why people turn to hymns in hard times.

HANDS-ON PROJECT



Create a family hymn-history card. Interview someone about one sacred song connected to a mission, funeral, holiday, conversion, illness, or family tradition.

Use the back of this page or another sheet for sketches, notes, or extended answers.

Why Hymns Are Changed

TIMELINE POINTS

- Older hymnals preserve language, cultural assumptions, and musical styles from their own eras.
- 1948-era wording in some hymns later prompted requests for clarification.
- 1985 revisions often updated language, broadened geography, improved inclusiveness, and simplified music.
- Changes continue because language, culture, doctrine emphasis, and congregational needs continue to develop.

VOCABULARY + KEY PEOPLE

VOCABULARY

- inclusiveness
- linguistic change
- cultural metaphor
- doctrinal clarity
- singability

KEY PEOPLE

Robert Manookin
 Spencer W. Kimball
 Naomi W. Randall
 hymnbook committees
 Church members who requested changes

HISTORICAL ARTIFACT TO EXAMINE

Two editions of the same hymnbook opened to the same hymn - a side-by-side record of changing words, keys, and musical choices.



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

- Why was 'O Sons of Zion' changed to 'O Saints of Zion'?
- Why was the final line of 'Today, While the Sun Shines' revised?
- How can changing a key or rhythm make a hymn more useful without changing its doctrine?

DISCUSS

When does changing an old hymn preserve its message, and when might a change erase something valuable?

LISTEN TO THIS HYMN

Listen to 'O Saints of Zion' or 'Today, While the Sun Shines.' Imagine you are an editor: identify one feature you would protect from change.

HANDS-ON PROJECT

Make a 'Hymn Detective' comparison. Choose one documented change from the chapter and label it: clarity, inclusiveness, geography, doctrine, language, or singability.



Use the back of this page or another sheet for sketches, notes, or extended answers.

TIMELINE POINTS

- 1878 - The Primary organization is founded.
- 1880 - Eliza R. Snow helps compile the first official Primary songbook: 121 text-only songs in a tiny volume.
- 1880 - A companion Tune Book provides 40 songs with words and music.
- 1905 - A new Primary Song Book includes about 93 songs with both words and music.
- 1940 - Little Stories in Song appears with 85 songs.
- 1951 - The Children Sing combines Primary and Sunday School collections with 199 songs and 13 preludes.

VOCABULARY + KEY PEOPLE

VOCABULARY

- Primary
- tune book
- text-only
- patriotic song
- reverence

KEY PEOPLE

Eliza R. Snow
 Primary General Board
 Moiselle Renstrom
 Frances Kingsbury Thomassen Taylor

HISTORICAL ARTIFACT TO EXAMINE



The 1880 Primary songbook - only about 3 x 4 inches, with 121 texts - beside its companion tune book with 40 musical settings.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

- 1 How was the first Primary songbook similar to Emma Smith's first hymnal?

- 2 What changed in children's music after Utah statehood and the 1905 songbook?

- 3 How did The Children Sing organize music around children's religious and daily lives?

DISCUSS

What do children's songs reveal about what adults in a particular era hope children will learn and become?

LISTEN TO THIS HYMN

Listen to an older Primary song such as 'Jesus Bids Us Shine.' What values does the song try to teach through a child's point of view?

HANDS-ON PROJECT



Design a four-category children's songbook for a historical Primary class: Gospel, Home and Family, Nature/Seasons, and Special Days. Add two song topics to each.

Use the back of this page or another sheet for sketches, notes, or extended answers.

Additional Children's Songbooks

TIMELINE POINTS

- 1969 - Sing With Me, the bright 'orange book,' appears with 216 songs after surveys and committee work.
- 1977-82 - Supplements add activity songs, scripture/gospel songs, and other new material.
- 1989 - The Children's Songbook appears as a larger, illustrated collection with 255 songs and 13 preludes.
- 1989 onward - Official translations, American Sign Language resources, and digital access broaden participation.

VOCABULARY + KEY PEOPLE

VOCABULARY

- correlation
- supplement
- prelude
- translation
- accessibility

KEY PEOPLE

Robert Cundick
Michael Moody
Darwin Wolford
Vanja Watkins
Pat Graham

HISTORICAL ARTIFACT TO EXAMINE



The orange Sing With Me beside the 1989 Children's Songbook - two very different designs serving changing teaching needs.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

- 1 How did surveys of Primary leaders and children influence Sing With Me?
- 2 What made the 1989 Children's Songbook different in design and intended use?
- 3 How did translation, sign language, and digital resources broaden access?

DISCUSS

Should children's sacred music be chosen mainly for what children enjoy, for what adults want to teach, or for both?

LISTEN TO THIS HYMN

Listen to 'Love Is Spoken Here.' What makes the song suitable for both Primary and home use?

HANDS-ON PROJECT



Create a one-page children's-song proposal. Give it a topic, age range, teaching goal, mood, and one sentence explaining why the collection needs it.

Use the back of this page or another sheet for sketches, notes, or extended answers.

TIMELINE POINTS

- 1830 - Revelation establishes sacred song as part of the Restoration.
- 1836 - A tiny text-only official hymnal creates a foundation for Church music.
- 19th and 20th centuries - Hymnbooks expand, specialize, consolidate, and add printed music.
- 1985 and 1989 - The familiar hymnal and Children's Songbook support an increasingly worldwide Church.
- 2018 onward - New projects seek greater global unity, participation, and digital reach.

VOCABULARY + KEY PEOPLE

VOCABULARY

- innovation
- Restoration
- sacred music
- doctrine
- continuity

KEY PEOPLE

Emma Smith
W. W. Phelps
Eliza R. Snow
Michael Moody
Vanja Watkins

HISTORICAL ARTIFACT TO EXAMINE

A 'museum shelf' of hymnbooks and children's songbooks from different eras - physical evidence that worship resources change while sacred singing continues.



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

- 1 What are the biggest ways Church music books changed across the history described in the manuscript?
- 2 What stayed consistent even as format, language, and repertoire changed?
- 3 How can hymns teach doctrine as well as support worship?

DISCUSS

If you were helping create a hymnbook for the next generation, what would you preserve from the past and what would you change?

LISTEN TO THIS HYMN

Choose one hymn or Primary song from any chapter. Listen once for its message and again for the musical choices that help carry that message.

HANDS-ON PROJECT



Build a final one-page 'Songs of Zion' museum label: choose one book, hymn, person, or change from the manuscript and explain why it matters in 100 words.

Use the back of this page or another sheet for sketches, notes, or extended answers.