

PURPOSE

Tuning Children's Hearts has been written that we may sing the praise of the glory of God to the next generation through family worship. It is our Biblical duty to teach our children about God, and to share with them the glorious truth that we were created to worship Him, to glorify and enjoy Him forever.

One of the ways we worship God is by singing and making music to Him in our hearts. And one of the great teaching tools that we have been given is music, with its melody and rhyme. Thus, in music, we can teach our children about God as we worship Him together. In this way God is not just studied, He is rejoiced in. *Music is a means by which we may learn about God as we worship God!*

This book has been designed to give children a systematic understanding of Scripture. The topics of God's glory, creation, Scripture, man's fall, Christ's redemption, regeneration, prayer, and praise, will all be understood individually, as well as how they relate to one another.

Tuning Children's Hearts is made up of songs arranged in guitar-friendly keys, organized around the First Catechism. The songs convey the patterns of thought behind each set of questions and answers. So the propositional information that is learned, through the study of the catechism and Scripture references, is reinforced by songs that seek to touch our hearts.

Though the First Catechism is intended to be used by children up to eight years old, the songs in this book are for the whole family. *Tuning Children's Hearts* offers a blend of children's songs, songs popular among teens, and songs sung by entire congregations.

The ultimate goal in our family worship should be to raise a generation whose world view is centered in glorifying God and enjoying Him forever. One example of a life enraptured with the beauty of God was observed by the great American theologian Jonathan Edwards. He wrote about a young girl in his congregation named Phebe Bartlet. Phebe had an extraordinary sense of the glory and excellency of God. She found herself retiring to her prayer closet several times a day to commune with God. Phebe was devastated with her sinful state, and proportionately overwhelmed by a sense of God's mercy and grace in Christ. She would cry over her unbelieving family members, fearing they would end up dying in their sins. She would recite her catechism every night before going to bed, and then one night, woke up in tears after she remembered she forgot to recite it. Edwards remarked that Phebe had tremendous compassion for the poor, wanting to bring them home and care for the downtrodden. Her parents said that she used to long for the Sabbath day, where she could worship God together with His people. Phebe was four years old.

From where will this passion for God come in the next generation? Who will teach them to live life to the glory of God? *Tuning Children's Hearts* has been written that we may praise the works of God to the next generation, that they may thirst for the Word of God to dwell richly in their hearts, that they may glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

One generation shall praise Thy works to another, and shall declare Thy mighty acts. (Psalm 145:4)

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Format

Catechism Question - Read the catechism question and answer out loud to the family. Have the children memorize both the question and answer. After an initial reading of the question and answer, read out only the question, and see if they can say the answer exactly as it appears in the catechism. If they don't know the answer, ask more questions to clarify what the answer is that you are looking for.

Scripture Reference - Next, open the Bible and read the Scripture reference. See if everyone in the family can memorize the Scripture passage that goes along with the catechism question. Go ahead and turn to other passages that you may think of that relate to the question/answer. When you review the question in the future, ask if they can remember the Scripture reference by heart.

Song - Then, sing the song included with the catechism question. This will express the pattern of thought conveyed by the catechism and Scripture passage in both melody and rhyme. Because our God is so glorious, we cannot just talk about and to him, we must sing joyfully about and to Him. You may want to focus on a set series of questions for the week, so catechism wording, Scripture references, and songs can get memorized. We suggest spending about 20 minutes per evening, beginning and closing in prayer, asking God to shine His light on our hearts and minds, to taste the sweetness and savor the excellencies of Christ.

Guitar-friendly arrangements

Tuning Children's Hearts has arranged all songs into guitar-friendly arrangements. If you know the basic guitar chords like C-A-G-E, you will be able to play any of these songs while leading children in worship. All songs have suggested strum patterns and introductions. All bar chords have been removed.

Practice

Get acquainted with the songs. Look through and see which ones you don't know. Listen to the practice CD and play along with each unfamiliar song, one at a time, until you can play through them without any problems. Get the melody down by singing along as well. If the song on the CD is too fast, sit down with the book and play through the problematic song very slowly, focusing on a nice, relaxed, even strum pattern. After a few days, try picking up the tempo on your own. If you feel you are ready, pop in the CD and play along. The tempos on the CD are only suggested tempos - each song can be faster or slower in accordance with your taste.

If you would like 50 additional guitar-friendly arrangements of hymns and choruses, try our "Praise And Worship Guitar", which is available by calling 1-800-770-0390, or visit our web-site at www.fretboardfellowship.com.

FAMILY WORSHIP

The importance of family worship is seen both in Scripture and history.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, and when you lie down and when you get up.(Deuteronomy 6:4-7, NIV)

From Joshua (Josh 4:6-7) to Timothy (1 Tim 3:4-5), the glory of God has been savored and enjoyed in the praises of God sounding forth from the homes of parents and children. Following the clear teaching of Scripture; the Church Fathers all emphasized the biblical role of the father to instruct his wife and children in the Word. John Chrysostom, in the early 5th century, said, “The house should be a church, and every head of a family a spiritual shepherd.” The Church flourished in the Roman empire, despite persecution, because the people of God were a worshipping people, especially in the context of the home. Sadly, with the rise of the division between the spiritual and the secular, the separation of clergy from the common man, invention of monasteries, and the banning of translations of the Bible into the common languages of the peoples, the role of the father as spiritual leader of households was slowly eroded, and the church soon plunged into the darkness of the medieval ages.

With the sixteenth century Reformation, and its emphasis on the priesthood of all believers, there was a return to an emphasis on the role of family worship in the exultation of God. And once again, the glory of God caught fire. All of life was seen as it relates to the glory of God. This God-entranced world view gave birth to the Puritan movement in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Their emphasis on family worship can be seen in the following statement from the Westminster Directory for Worship: “Family Worship, which ought to be performed by every family, ordinarily morning and evening, consists in prayer, reading the Scriptures, and singing praises.” Puritan families usually worshipped together twice a day in the morning and evening, as the Directory encouraged. The fact that “evening and morning were the first day” suggested a rhythm of life, reminding us of our dependence on God for His blessing upon our rest and work. Thus, morning (a call to worship) and evening (a benediction on the day), have been considered special times for family worship.

These examples from history serve us well in our time. Imagine spending most of our family time in the evening, not in front of the TV, but singing hymns, praying, studying the Bible, and talking about life in relation to God. Historian Harry Stout estimates that the average Puritan New Englander heard seven thousand sermons in a lifetime, which works out to approximately fifteen thousand hours of hearing God’s Word. It was by and through the preached Word that the Puritan formed his world view. Just think how family worship can aid in the formation of a Christian world view for our children, and of the influential medium that worship every morning and evening can have on their minds and hearts over the course of several years. It is our prayer that the church will burn with a passion for the glory of God, and may that flame be ignited in the home.

How To Read The Song Sheets

The song sheets are set up as follows:

1 - Strum Patterns

A strum pattern is given in each song. Every chord in the song gets one strum pattern. For example, *God Made Me* has a 2/4 strum pattern:

Strum: 2/4

This designation means that every chord in the song gets a 2/4 strum pattern.

example:

D			A7			D			D		
↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	↑
1	2	+	1	2	+	1	2	+	1	2	+

When chords have a (3), (2), or (1) next to them, this simply means the chord is strummed for however many beats are signified by the number in the brackets. For example:

All Glory Laud And Honor

2/4 Intro: G - C(1) - D(1) - G - G - Am - D - G - C

The G chord is strummed for two beats, the C chord is strummed for one beat, the D chord is strummed for one beat, and the rest of the chords are strummed for two beats.

example:

G			C(1)	D(1)	G			G			Am		
↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	↑
1	2	+	1	1	1	2	+	1	2	+	1	2	+

etc.

* If there is ever any question on the strum pattern of a song, just listen to and follow along with the enclosed CD.

2 - Intro

Introductions have been provided for all songs. Introductions establish the tempo and key of a song. The easiest way to create an Intro is to use the first or last few chords of the song. It helps if the last chord in the Intro is the first chord in the song.

3 - Music

For those who read music, or for other instruments, notation for the melodies of all the songs has been provided.

4 - Capo Usage

Because of the guitar-friendly nature of the song arrangements, some songs may be in keys too low to sing comfortably. You can use a capo to raise the pitch of the songs without having to change the keys. Capo markings are not included on the song sheets.