



Rock Bridge Small Group Discussion Guide

Songs of Summer - Part 4

LEADER GUIDE

SMALL GROUP LEADERS: - Remember the importance of CELEBRATION.

Celebration is a way we both love God and others. God desires our praise, and in the Gospel we have much to praise Him for. We can also praise Him when life change occurs as people respond to His grace. Additionally, celebration is about having fun together.

- **GOAL: Groups should do something “fun” together at least once a quarter, such as a cookout or dinner out together, bowling, visit a park, etc.**
- Some other ways to celebrate God’s grace in group life include: Communion; Worship songs; sharing praise reports and ‘snapshot’ stories of times when God really worked in your life; reading a psalm out loud together; etc.

Ice Breaker (choose one to answer in your group):

*Who is someone that inspires you by their courage, and why?

Into the Word:

a) How would you summarize the message in one or two sentences?

b) Someone in the group recount the story behind the song, “It is Well”

Leader Tip: In case you didn’t catch it from the message, it can be found here:

<http://www.staugustine.com/living/religion/2014-10-16/story-behind-song-it-well-my-soul>

Someone read the lyrics to the song to the group:

*When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll:
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to know,
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

*Though Satan should buffet,
though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.*

*My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul.*

*And Lord haste the day,
when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound,
and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.*

c) What about the whole story and song inspires you or encourages you?

d) What about the story or the song causes you confusion or frustration?

Apply the Word

e) Some people say, "God wants me to be happy." In light of this song, how can we answer that statement?

Leader Tip: God created us lovingly and desires our happiness. But He desires happiness that is permanent and unaffected by our circumstances. He alone can bring us happiness, and it is happiness of the heart and soul, through a right relationship with Him, provided by the work of Jesus.

f) What parts of this song can you apply to your life right now? How does it apply?

g) How are you letting (or not letting) your circumstances hold you back from saying, "It is well with my soul"? What can we do as a group to help you start saying that?

Prayer:

- Briefly have the group pray for individual needs listed in question "g".

Also join us in praying for our big prayer asks listed here:

- *Mission trips from Rock Bridge would impact the world for Jesus.*
- *For our students and children to be impacted this summer to pursue God with passion.*
- *For opportunities for all of us to share Jesus' love with those who don't know Him.*