



SUGGESTED *GLORY TO GOD* LESSON PLAN

45-60 minutes

The *Glory to God* hymnal staff is leading events across the country to educate and involve Presbyterians in our new book of congregational song. We would love to come to your congregation or organization! Call or email us to talk about the possibilities at mflannagan@presbypub.com.

If you want to lead a brief discussion in your congregation, try the suggested lesson plan below. Please contact us if you have any questions or need other ideas.

Suggested Materials:

- Internet.
- Board or piece of large paper, marker.
- Current hymnal sampler or copied/projected music. Samplers may be obtained by calling PPC customer service at 1.800.523.1631. If you copy music, please use the appropriate copyright license.
- Copies of Mary Louise Bringle's article on www.presbyterianhymnal.org/resources.
- Current hymnal in your church pew.

5 minutes Begin by **singing** something out of the sampler.

1. Try "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me" (#6), or "My Life Flows On" (#13).

10 minutes Work in pairs. Begin by **introducing yourself**. Write these questions on a board to guide people's conversations:

1. What is your favorite hymn?
2. When did you first hear it? What special memories does it hold?
3. What does the text mean? What story does it tell?
4. Why is it significant to you?

After pairs have talked, call the group back together. Ask a few people to share their conversation with the group.

10 minutes Share the "Arguments Against New Hymns" section of Mary Louise Bringle's article "No More New Hymns?" found on our website, www.presbyterianhymnal.org/resources, under the Leader Reader headline. Give people time to read it. Ask a few questions in response:

1. Can you imagine someone making that same complaint in your congregation?
2. Were you surprised by anyone's favorite hymns (mentioned earlier)?
3. How does this reading support our understanding of being Reformed Christians?

10 minutes **Building a New Hymnal: the Process.**

- a. Refer to "About the Project" on our website for history and tidbits! (www.presbyterianhymnal.org).
- b. Ask some trivia questions for folks to guess the answers.
 - i. When was the current (blue) hymnal published? (1990)
 - ii. When was the previous (red) hymnal published? (1955)
 - iii. When was the first Presbyterian hymnal published in the United States? (1830)
 - iv. How many Presbyterian hymnals have we had? (7)
 - v. How many hymns are in the current hymnal? (605)
 - vi. How many hymns were in the previous hymnal? (600)
 - vii. What is the first hymn in the 1990 hymnal? ("Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus")
 - viii. What is the first hymn in the 1955 (red) hymnal? ("Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty")

- c. Briefly describe the process for developing the hymnal.
 - i. A volunteer committee worked on the project for 3 years (2008-2011); Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song (PCOCS).
 1. PCOCS' biographies are available on the bottom of "[About the Staff](#)" page on our website. They are from all over the country. Musicians, pastors, theologians, young adults, and people from diverse backgrounds participated in the process.
 - ii. PCOCS culled through over 10,000 submissions; less than 5% of new material was accepted.
 1. They divided into sub-committees to review:
 - a. Theology, Other Hymnals, Single Authors, Contemporary Praise & Worship, Global, Psalms, Service Music (Kyries, Glorias, Doxologies, etc.), Lectionary texts, Theological framework, texts, tunes.
 - iii. Remind your group of the directives. *Glory to God* must be inclusive of all Presbyterians, include young adults in planning and implementation, expansive language, and have an electronic component. Refer to "About the Project" for more information.
- d. Recall—What is your favorite hymn? Is that your neighbor's favorite hymn? A denominational hymnal is not a collection of your favorite hymns, but is a songbook for a wide expanse of people. PC(U.S.A.) membership crosses gender, sexuality, race, class, cultural, geographical, language, and other boundaries.

15 minutes

Sing Samples!

- a. Choose 3-5 songs from the sampler.
- b. Visit the "Sneak Peek" page on our website for other song ideas.
- c. Talk about the texts and music. What does the history/context note say on the bottom of the page? When would you use this in worship or other activities?
- d. **This segment is easily expanded or contracted to fit your time constraints.**

5 minutes

Other Parts of the Hymnal.

- a. About 30 pages of liturgy will be included in *Glory to God*. Services of daily prayer, the Lord's Day with Word & Sacrament, and musical responses will be printed in the front of the book.
- b. Use hymnals from your congregation to flip through the front and back pages. Look at the creeds and prayers printed, the different indices, and organization.

5 Minutes

Closing Thoughts and Questions

- a. *Glory to God* will be offered in two cover versions: *The Presbyterian Hymnal* or *Hymns, Songs, and Spiritual Songs*. Both titles will be available in either red or purple covers.
- b. It will include just over 800 hymns, songs, and spiritual songs, music from 6 continents, and all musical styles.

What questions do they have?

Close with prayer.

