



# All Christians' Fellowship International

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## *Interactive Sunday School Outline*

**TOPIC:** We Gather Together

**TEXT:** Psalm 100

**Instructions** - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone can participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone equal opportunity to participate.*

**Introduction** - You've heard the line. A seeker is invited to church but politely declines: "I can worship just as well while working in my garden or away at the lake. I don't need to be sitting in some expensive church sanctuary." It's a common notion: worship, even religious faith itself, is a personal and private matter. Certainly, worship must come from one's own heart, and anyone can praise God in solitude. But the Bible teaches that God is pleased by worship that occurs together, in community. Any family has a traditional, meaningful place to gather, such as at the dinner table or around the Christmas tree. God's family is no different. Some of the psalms are personal; others express and encourage group worship. While Psalm 23 is the most cherished personal psalm, Psalm 100 is the best-loved "community" psalm.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Describe a worship service that was particularly meaningful to you. Try to get beyond the features of "worship style" and talk about why that time touched you especially deeply. What are the most important aspects of the worship for you?
2. What evidence do you find that this psalm encourages group worship rather than individual worship?
3. Who or what encourages you to gather with other believers in worship?
4. Where is the focus of this psalm?

5. In this psalm, what are worshipers urged to do? (Look for specific commands or instructions.)
6. The "gates" and the "courts" of verse 4 refer to the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem. Why is it important to have a special place of worship?
7. For what reasons are we to "enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise" (vv. 4-5)?
8. Why are thanks and praise essential elements of worship?
9. How can corporate worship help our personal worship when we don't feel particularly thankful or full of praise?
10. Why do you think some Christians avoid corporate worship?
11. The psalms are songs, although the tunes are lost to us. How do the songs you sing tell of God's love and faithfulness?
12. What story of God's love and faithfulness can you share, perhaps from your own family history?
13. How can one take advantage of those opportunities? Explain.