

# Bring Back the Song



Dear Christian Educators and Parents,

Someone once said, “The world is a dangerous neighborhood to live in.” This statement is especially true for our children. No matter where you go in the world you find suffering children. Some children suffer from poverty, homelessness, exploitation, or a lack of education. Other children suffer from too much of everything - money, food, television, and possessions - but have too little love and attention. What cannot be forgotten is that every child (whether rich or poor, healthy or unhealthy, strong or weak) is valuable and has gifts and talents within them that are far too significant not to be shared with the world.

The National Children’s Prayer Congress theme for 2009 is “Bring Back the Song,” and upholds that important message. Have you ever met a small child that didn’t like to laugh and sing, or run and play? There is a song God creates within every child. That song can be “heard” through a child’s love of music, art, dance, creative writing, drama, or athletics, as well as through their personality or in any way they share their joy with others. It is our responsibility to nurture that song and to find ways for every child to express their unique melodies.

However, more often than not, the songs from the souls of the children are not nurtured, but rather are stolen by those who would render the children invisible for the sake of convenience. They would dismiss the value of God’s purpose for the children’s lives and deny the power of the love songs He has planted in their hearts. These are the songs that God has ordained to be *released* into this world.

In the movie “August Rush” a young boy is asked this question: “What do you want to be in the world? I mean the whole world. What do you want to be? Close your eyes and think about that.” His answer was profound. The child said, “**Found.**”

Our God-given responsibility is to insure that each child is given the message that they have been *found* and *valued* by both their Heavenly Father and their Earthly family and community, and to teach them how God wants their gifts to be released as a blessing to the rest of the world.

Our first commission, therefore, is to:

- **find** the hearts of the children and love them,
- **find** the gifts of the children and value them,
- **find** the words of the children and listen to them, and
- **find** the contributions of the children and encourage them.

Our second commission is to teach our children that the song God has given each one of them has a *worshipful purpose* and by remaining loyal to Christ as the source of their gifts, they can be a blessing to the world.

In this year’s study guide you and your children will discover through the Bible story of Saul, David, and Jonathan, how the character traits of **loyalty** and **disloyalty** affect your relationship with Christ and other people, and how your gifts will either be released as a blessing to the world or held captive by the enemy. Through a study of Psalms 126 and 137, you also will discover how these same truths affect our nation; for, as a result of our nation’s loyalty or disloyalty to God and His purposes, the God-given songs of our nation will be either released as a blessing to the world or be taken captive.

We are looking forward to you and your student delegates participating in the National Children’s Prayer Congress of 2009, as we come together to “*Bring Back the Song*” by recognizing, celebrating, and praying for the release of God’s songs found in the hearts of our children and our nation.

Sincerely,

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