



SMALL GROUP



CATCHING UP

- Has anything new or exciting happened in your life since the last time we gathered?
- What was one blessing you experienced this week?
- What was one trial you experienced this week?

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 96: 1-6

Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

STORY BEHIND THE HYMN

Robert Robinson was a difficult boy, and when his Dad died, things only got worse for his mother. When he turned 14 in 1749, his mother sent him to London for an apprenticeship. He was just as much a troublemaker in London, and to make matters worse he gained some friends and followers as a leader! When he was 17, he took his gang to a revival service where a well-known preacher at the time, George Whitfield, was speaking, intending to interrupt. But something happened that night that Robert wasn't expecting...After hearing the message, it moved him deeply and it made him rethink his life and how he was living it. Nearly three years after hearing that sermon, a twenty-year-old Robert Robinson made his peace with God, and

“found full and free forgiveness through the precious blood of Jesus Christ.” Joining the Methodists, and feeling the call to preach, the self-taught Robinson was appointed by John Wesley himself to the Calvinist Methodist Chapel in Norfolk, England. It was there, to accompany his sermon for Pentecost Sunday in 1858, the three-year anniversary of his conversion, he penned the words of this hymn: “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing.”

DIVING DEEP

- What's your favorite new song on the radio? From church?
- God moved in an unexpected way for Robert Robertson. When has God surprised you?
- The hymn has the phrase “Here I raise my Ebenezer”. What's an Ebenezer and why would you raise it?
- This Psalm also shows up in 1 Chronicles 16: 8-33. Why is one longer?
If you read the entire Psalm, it lists 10 things that should be included in worship. What are they?
- If we are told to sing a new song, what makes it new?
- What new thing would you like God to do in your life?
- How do old habits, limitations or people interfere with your singing a new song?

CONCLUSION

- What are some things we can be doing for each other in this upcoming week - prayer requests or actual things?