



MEDIA  
session page

## Dancing to Mourning

### Psalm 95 | Session 12.11

#### Before the Session

- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Encourage your group to listen to the Faithelement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media).
- Find web links for underlined items on this session's webpage at [faithelement.net](http://faithelement.net).

#### Context

Start by sharing the "[2001 A Space Odyssey Opening](#)" and asking:

- How do you feel about this movie opening and why?
- In case you missed the actual movie, what do you think happens in it, based on this opening?
- When someone tells you that you are about to listen to a "majestic" piece of music, what are you expecting and why?
- Why do you think some churches expect "perfection" from their music?
- At what point does "enthusiasm" in our worship matter more than some objective standard of "quality" and why?

## Content

Read Psalm 95, then play the Bible Background Video and ask:

- What do you think this psalm means by telling us to "make a joyful noise?"
- Why are joyful noises in god's presence so important?
- What would cause the psalmist to remind listeners of Exodus 17:2-7, where people questioned God so strongly?
- In what ways does the "sheep" imagery demonstrate a good relationship with God?
- Overall, what expectation does this Psalm indicate that God has for us, and what can we do to live up to that?

## Closure

Share the "I Want To Be Like You" video clip and ask:

- How do you feel about hearing this classic song done this way?
- If this song can be said to have a "spirit," what would that be and why?
- What are some expressions of worship you'd like to see reinterpreted and why?
- Why are we sometimes resistant to reframe the ways we worship or even talk about God?
- What are some things in our own experience that affect the way we are able to approach God?
- How do we overcome negative experiences through our faith
- What might we do to reinterpret our experiences of faith in order to better reach others for whom faith is a negative experience?

Close with a prayer.