



Trends in Worship

Activity

Choose a popular song and change the words to reflect the Royal Rangers program or mission or the name of the patrols in the group.

Biblical Insight

In the Bible, dancing was the outward expression of inward joy. The Feast of Tabernacles provided for more demonstrations of joy than any other feast. However, men and women had separate areas for dance. The dance among Hebrews was chiefly employed with sacred song. The word used for dancing was the Hebrew word *machowl*, from the root meaning "to move or leap in a circle, to twist or turn around." It most naturally indicated that kind of ring or chorus dancing which appears to have been practiced for many centuries on joyous occasions, and which is still practiced in eastern countries.

Unlike the Old Testament, the New Testament has no mention of dancing in worship (it does, however, speak of dancing in celebration over the return of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15). Some will use the New Testament's silence on dance in worship to prove it is improper today. Others will say that any Old Testament custom that was not specifically changed in the New Testament may be practiced today.

Composition

The Old Testament speaks of dancing in worship; the New Testament does not. What might you speculate about dancing in worship today?

Discussion

The first recorded instance of dance in the Bible is found in Exodus 15:20. Describe the circumstances. Then give your opinion as to whether this instance is a basis for similar corporate worship to God today.

Should our worship be one in which we are actively involved (participatory), or involved only as an audience (liturgical)?

Evaluation

What is your preference in style of worship, liturgical or participatory? Why?

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Lesson 126

A: Answers will vary.

C: Answers will vary.

D: After the great miracle of the Red Sea parting and deliverance from slavery, Israel expressed enthusiastic joy to God as Miriam took a tambourine and sang and danced. Other women followed her. The key here is spontaneous exuberance, not choreography.

Answers will vary.

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