ALL HANDS IN!

VOLUME 2

BIBLE STORY PERCUSSION GROOVES
AND DRUM CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

COLLECTION INCLUDES:

• 8 new Bible story grooves with teaching plans
• Complementary worship and hymn ideas
• Drumming technique and improvisation activities
• Prayer and devotional ideas for drum circles

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1 = Easy  2 = Intermediate  3 = Advanced
Hi friends, we’re back! Did you miss us? We are so excited to share this new resource with you. We’ve had valuable conversations with fellow church musicians at conferences and workshops following the release of All Hands In! Volume I. Through those conversations, we’ve learned about what you’re doing in your settings, what’s working, and what you need. So, thank you for helping us shape this next volume into something useful, practical, and fun!

THE BIBLE BEAT

It all begins here. We started with a meaningful biblical text – either a key verse or the main story idea – and set it to rhythm. The simple Bible Beat rhythm is ideal for a hand drum, such as a djembe, conga, or frame drum. It’s also the heartbeat for the Groove. Before you experiment with The Groove, however, you’ll want to be sure your group has a solid grasp on the Bible Beat.

Start by having the group chant the text of the Bible Beat in rhythm. Next, ask the group to improvise body percussion by patting either their lap or their chest as they speak the text in rhythm. Finally, pass out rhythm instruments and play the Bible Beat while you continue to chant the text.

DON’T WORRY ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT YOU HAVE THE SUGGESTED INSTRUMENT FOR A PARTICULAR BIBLE BEAT. USE WHAT YOU’VE GOT. IF YOU DON’T HAVE A DJEMBE, USE A CONGA. IF YOU DON’T HAVE A CONGA, USE AN EMPTY FIVE-GALLON WATER BUCKET. IF YOU DON’T HAVE A FIVE-GALLON WATER BUCKET, USE BODY PERCUSSION. THE MUSIC ISN’T IN THINGS, IT’S IN YOU.

For young children, you might decide the Bible Beat is as far as you go, opting out of the Groove. You can create a simple groove by dividing the children into two groups. Have the first group use shakers, rattles, or maracas to play a constant steady beat, give hand drums to the second group, who will play the Bible Beat. After several measures of group one playing a steady beat, layer in group two with the Bible Beat. Even if you go no further than this, the children are:

- Learning the difference between the melodic rhythm and the steady beat (the pulse).
- Committing a meaningful Bible verse or key Bible concept to memory.
- Experiencing two-part music through a multisensory activity. Young children are concrete thinkers and they need music in parts; it can seem pretty abstract. This activity not only allows the children to hear the parts, but to see them and feel them as well.

THE GROOVE

The next step is to combine the Bible Beat with different rhythms and a variety of percussion instruments to create the Groove. The process for learning and playing the Groove is similar to that for the Bible Beat. Start by speaking each part in rhythm. Transfer that rhythm to body percussion. Utilize instruments.

IN SOME CASES THE GROOVE WILL ACTUALLY WORK BEST FOR SPEECH PERCUSSION OR BODY PERCUSSION.

You’ll notice that most of the Grooves are very short – between two and four measures long. There are many ways to take those few measures and transform them into a stand-alone piece. The best way to do
The story of Ruth and Naomi contains one of the most beautiful, tender passages of scripture in the entire Bible – “Where you go, I will go. Where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people will be my people, and your God my God.” – Ruth 1:16.

In the spirit of this passage, we’ve created a rhythmic duet. The Groove can serve as a rhythmic Intro and Outro for the following adaptation of the Bible story.
Two are better than one, because they have good re-
ward for their toil.

Where you go, I will go.

Where you go, I will go.
Reader: Naomi had a husband and two sons. They lived in the city of Bethlehem. Then came a great famine. Naomi and her family didn’t have enough to eat. They left their home and moved to Moab, where there was plenty of food.

While in Moab, Naomi’s husband became ill and died. But her sons took care of her. Eventually the sons married women from Moab, whose names were Orpah and Ruth. Naomi cherished her new daughters.

Then both of Naomi’s sons died. Naomi told her daughters-in-law to go back to their families. “You are still young and can get married again,” Naomi said. The women cried together, and one of the daughters-in-law, Orpah, went away.

But Ruth stayed with Naomi. Ruth said, “Do not make me leave you. Where you go, I will go. Where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people will be my people, and your God my God.” Ruth stayed with Naomi and took care of her.

Eventually, Ruth married a man named Boaz. They had a baby, and who helped love and care for the child? Naomi.

Worship Integration

The rhythmic speech in the Groove can serve as a Responsive Reading for the entire congregation. Choose a Leader to speak Part I. Instruct the congregation to listen and echo the leader. Next, have musicians play the Low Drum and Rattles parts as accompaniment. The leader speaks Part I (m. 5) in rhythm, perhaps utilizing body percussion such as chest pats. The leader then indicates for the congregation to echo (Part II, m. 6). Continue this process throughout the entire Groove, repeating if desired.

Repeat the Groove to allow the congregation to not only get the hang of the rhythmic speech, but internalize the text.
Daniel in the Lions’ Den is such a favorite with children. It reinforces an important message that, while we all have to face difficult times in our lives, we don’t face them alone. God is always with us, and God’s love never leaves us.

Here is how to utilize the Groove for a rhythmic retelling of the Bible story.
Divide the players into five groups and assign instruments to each group. Read a portion of the Bible story, then pause before layering in a part as indicated. Allow each part multiple repetitions before continuing with the story. When you’re ready to read the new part of the story, indicate for the Groove to get softer. Continue this process until all parts have entered.

God’s faithful love endures forever.
During this Groove, there will be an opportunity for players to improvise – so you’ll want to prepare them before you start. First, divide the players into three groups and teach each group their part of the Groove. Next, say:

I want each of you to think of something you do, or something you are, that truly makes you – you. Once we get the Groove going, each of you will have an opportunity to express what you thought of … using rhythm. You'll always start with your name, then that special thing you do or are.

For example, I might say and play: My name is Mark. I love to work with children.

Try to find a way for what you say and play to fit into the Groove. If it doesn’t fit exactly, that’s okay. The most important thing is that you are part of our circle, and we just wouldn’t be the same without you.
Soloists
\( \frac{3}{4} \)

Claps
\( \frac{3}{4} \)

All work together.

Stomps
\( \frac{3}{4} \)

We are one in Christ.

Lap Pats
\( \frac{3}{4} \)

There are many members, yet one body.

Solo
\( \frac{4}{4} \)

My name is Mark. I love to work with children.

Clp.
\( \frac{4}{4} \)

together.

Stmp.
\( \frac{4}{4} \)

one in Christ.

L. Pat
\( \frac{4}{4} \)

yet one body. There are many members, yet one body.