



## Downy Woodpecker

“Let the teaching of Christ live in you richly. Use all wisdom to teach and instruct each other by singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” Colossians 3:16 (NCV)

Look up and talk about the following Psalms about making music. How do you enjoy making music to God?

- Psalm 33:2–3
- Psalm 92:1–3
- Psalm 96:1–2
- Psalm 98:4–6
- Psalm 150:1–6



## HAVE YOU EVER HEARD A WOODPECKER?

My family and I hiked to an alpine lake in the mountains this week. We arrived at the lake shortly before sunset, and all seemed quiet, except for the sound of pecking on wood. I scanned the trees with my eyes, trying to locate where the sound was coming from. After a few moments, I spotted it: a downy woodpecker! “Downies,” as our family calls them, are small, active black and white woodpeckers. You can easily tell males from females because males have a red patch on the back of their heads. Although we found this one far up high in the mountains, downy woodpeckers are common backyard visitors, especially if you put out suet feeders. They are acrobats, bouncing up and down and all over tree branches and fantastic balancers.

Downy woodpeckers rapidly peck at trees to find insects to eat beneath the bark. However, they also drum on trees to communicate with each other. They do not sing like songbirds, but their rhythmic pecking and drumming create beautiful melodies in the forest.

Although they don’t sing like a meadowlark or gold finch, downy woodpeckers create unique, rhythmic choruses. We can think of them as the percussionists of the woods, drumming up beats from tree to tree. Much of their music is used for communicating.

The Bible says that Jesus’s followers should also communicate with each other in different ways, including song. Ephesians 5:19 says, “Speak to each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music in your hearts to the Lord.”

Do you enjoy singing worship with others in church? Making music to God together blesses both God and each other. Like downy woodpeckers making music by God’s design, we should bless God and other believers in how we speak, sing, and make music.