

BIBLE TEACHING AND WORSHIP GUIDE



FOR THE HOME-BASED CHURCH

Produced Weekly

The Discipline of Worship

Mark 1:35-39; Luke 4:16; 11:1-13; Philippians 4:6-7

Copy this sheet for the Gathering Time, Bible Study, and Worship Experience leaders for the next meeting of the church.

Leaders' Responsibilities:

Important: Each person who will be leading one of the three parts of a session during a Unit of sessions needs to have access to the "Basic Information for Leading the Unit of Study". That information is often provided at the beginning of that Unit of sessions. The weekly session "Background" located in the Teacher Preparation is much more specific to that day's study.

1. **The Gathering Time Leader** will gather all of the people together and help them prepare their minds and hearts for a wonderful worship experience before God. His/her responsibility is to introduce the congregation to the theme (content) and the Scripture that will be central to their worship experience for the day.

2. **The Bible Study Leader** will then help the people understand what the Scriptures have to say and teach us about the content of the study for the day. He/she will guide the people to make a general application of the study (ie: How does this Bible study apply to people today?)

3. **The Worship Time Leader** has the responsibility to use the theme and Scriptures to guide the congregation to make personal commitments to God's will for each one in regard to the study for the day. He/she will use others to lead in the music, taking the offering, ministry moment comments, and other activities and parts of the **Worship Time** that can aid in participatory worship.

Prior to this Coming Session:

Gathering Time Leader (with Worship Leader):

Since the topic is worship, take extra care to prepare your worship area. If it is possible, prepare a central focal area with a cross (perhaps 30x40 cm [12x16 in.] cut from paper or wood) to remind people that Jesus Christ is the focal point of worship. You may wish to place a small Bible on the cross as a further symbol of how we worship.

Obtain a toy boat, a set of car keys, a small amount of money, a music CD and/or other things that represent value or things that take our attention from God. Display these prominently around the cross display.

Bible Study Leader:

Worship Time Leader:

Between the **Bible Study** and the **Worship Time**, remove everything from the focal area except the cross.

Music Sources:

“Light the Fire Again” Words and music by Brian Doerksen. Mercy/Vinyard Publishing, 1994. Great theme song for the unit on disciplines. From the song “... *I need Your Discipline ...*” From *WOW Worship Songbook*. Integrity Inc., 2000.

“Lord I Want To Be A Christian” Negro Spiritual. Public Domain.

“Holy Ground” Words and music by Geron Davis. Meadowgreen Music, 1983. From *Maranatha! Music Praise Chorus Book (2nd Expanded Edition)*. Maranatha! Music, 1990.

“He Is Lord” Traditional. Public domain.

“Glorify Thy Name” Words and music by Donna Adkins. Maranatha! Music, 1976. Maranatha! Music, 1986. From Maranatha! Music Praise Chorus Book (2nd Expanded Edition). Maranatha! Music, 1990.

“Better Is One Day” Words and music by Matt Redman. Kingsway’s Thankyou Music, 1995. From WOW Worship Songbook. Integrity, Inc., 2000.

“I Exalt Thee” Words and music by Peter Sanchez, Jr. 1976. From Maranatha! Music Praise Chorus Book (2nd Expanded Edition). Maranatha! Music, 1990.

Gathering Time: (Suggested time: 15 minutes)***The Discipline of Worship******Focal Text***

Mark 1:35-39; Luke 4:16; 11:1-13; Philippians 4:6-7

Background Text

Mark 1:35-39; Luke 4:16; 11:1-13; Philippians 4:6-7

Main Idea

The example and instruction of Jesus teach us that Christians should worship both privately and together.

Questions to Explore

How important is worship to you?

Teaching Aim

Lead participants to commit themselves to worship privately and together.

Gathering together:

Preparation: Prepare the display of the cross and the other things of earthly value as described in the preparation time.

Assign one person (man, woman or child) to greet people as they arrive.

As people arrive, you can set the mood by softly playing some Christian music.

Sing one or two hymns or choruses (see music resources) as a signal to begin the gathering time and to prepare for the First Thoughts.

Ask for volunteers to respond to the following question: “What do you worry about or think about the most?” You may also use this as an introduction time in which each person would introduce themselves and then answer the question.

Say: “The act of worship is the task of removing our attention from the distractions and worries of everyday life and centering our hearts and minds on Christ as the most important thing in our life.”

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The Discipline of Worship – 01-02-06-en

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“Let’s take one full minute of silence to clear our minds, to calm our spirits and to open our hearts for a fresh encounter with Christ.”

Observe a minute of silence. The leader may wish to end this time by simply saying “Amen.”

First Thoughts:

When Crisis Calls ***Philippians 4:6-7***

Some may identify with the story of this couple:

It was 4:30 a.m. when my wife first awakened me with calls to get ready to go to the hospital. It was our first child and the nursery was ready but I am not sure that the father was ready. We had attended all the prenatal classes in preparation for the birth; I had practiced all the coaching techniques I had been taught. The bags were packed. It was a short drive to the hospital we had visited and where we were preregistered. Upon arrival the nurse escorted me out of the room while they conducted their first examination. Then doors began to open and close as I followed my wife from room to room for what seemed like an eternity. I was first told to stand in the hall then I was taken to the father’s waiting room. That was not supposed to happen. I was supposed to be with my wife. BUT there was a problem; the baby was in trouble. I found myself sitting in a dimly lit waiting room. On the wall was a framed poster of the scripture passage for today (Philippians 4:6-7). It was a verse that I had memorized two years prior. Now, it had impact. “Be anxious for nothing...” Those words confronted my pounding heart like a sledgehammer. Then I read the words, “with thanksgiving”. As I prayed for what seemed like hours but in reality was one hour, I began to focus my thoughts on things for which I was thankful. As I recounted how our God has seen me through so many different things in life, I felt the anxiety begin to subside and a peace came as I prayed for my wife and soon coming little daughter. It turned out to be one of the most memorable times of private worship I have ever experienced.

In crisis or in the midst of daily life, God calls us to worship through prayer. It is that worship that proves the antidote for anxiety when we focus on thankful praying. Begin our worship today with reflection back upon what God has done in the past to meet your needs. If you have difficulty thinking of something – simplify (food, warmth, health, freedom to worship, salvation, acceptance by God, forgiveness of sin). There are places in the world where people can only dream of having those items.

Closing the Gathering Time:

Take time at this point to mention items of prayer concern for the church, announcements of ministry or activities, and anything else that needs to be shared with or by the congregation. Pray for these needs. Remember to praise God in prayer.

Ask someone to pray for concerns that were mentioned.

Close the gathering time by singing “**He Is Lord**”.

Break time! Take five minutes between sessions. Encourage children to use the washroom so that they won’t need to leave during the Bible Study time.

Distribute youth/adult Bible study outlines or paper for note taking, if available.

Also hand out the activity sheets for preschool and younger children to use during Bible Study and/or worship.

Note to the Bible Study Leader: Suggested teaching time for the Bible study should be about 35 minutes. Use the “Teacher Preparation” for your personal study during the week before the session. Use the “Bible Study Plan” for the actual session.

Teacher Preparation

The Discipline of Worship

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Questions to Explore

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Teaching Aim

Lead participants to commit themselves to worship privately and together.

Introduction to your personal study:

A friend of mine considered himself a good Christian, but he didn't want to have anything to do with any other body of believers. He felt he could worship God just as well on a fishing boat or in a deer stand. The quality of his life, however, showed that he wasn't spending time with God at all, either with a church or by himself.

Background:

Please ask for and read the information contained in the “**Basic Information for Leading the Unit of Study**”, found at the beginning of this Unit. Whoever downloaded this session for you should have that material for you, as well.

Our study today is on worship. In the Scripture passages before us Jesus teaches us through word and example of a well-rounded life of communion with God. He regularly spent time alone with his heavenly Father, yet, on the Sabbath, he felt it necessary to worship God in the synagogue, being strengthened by and strengthening others. He taught his disciples how they should pray, and he gave wonderful promises we can claim in our prayer life.

Focusing on the Meaning:

Mark 1:35-39 The Private Worship of Prayer

The context of this passage is important. Jesus was in Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee with his disciples. He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath, taught with great authority, and healed a demon-possessed man (Mark 1:21-27). News about Jesus spread quickly all over the region of Galilee (v. 28), and crowds would soon be seeking Jesus for healing. They went to Simon Peter and Andrew's home where Jesus healed Simon's mother-in-law of her fever (vv. 29-31). That evening, the crowds brought their sick to Jesus and watched as he healed them and cast out demons (vv. 32-34). Jesus was certainly growing in popularity because of his great power and authority.

1:35 Early in the morning Jesus wanted to find a secluded place away from the crowds and even His disciples where he could pray. The original Greek language text states that he kept on praying, continuing until morning dawned and his disciples interrupted him. In times of stress, temptation, and decision He turned to God for strength and guidance (Hebrews 5:7).

Alone with his Father, Jesus prayed long and fervently. God was his source of strength and guidance, and he did not let his busy schedule interfere with his prayer time.

1:36-39 The disciples interrupted Jesus' prayer time to inform Him of a great ministry opportunity ("**Everyone is looking for you!**" v. 37). Yet Jesus declined; opting instead to go into areas where He was not as popular (v. 38). The disciples wanted to take advantage of Jesus' growing popularity and perform more miracles. The people of Capernaum probably had no interest in Jesus other than His miracles. But Jesus' primary mission was not that of a miracle-worker but One who saves people from their sins. Jesus' popularity made Him want to withdraw from the great crowds and instead preach in the small villages, because "**That is why I came.**"

How did Jesus know God's purpose for his life and ministry? Where did Jesus gain God's wisdom and a strategy for ministry that caused him to turn away from a ministry that most preachers would relish? He got it from his prayer life. Jesus spent time communing with God, and God had revealed to him what he should do. Everything Jesus did in his earthly life and ministry came from the wisdom that God freely granted to him in prayer. Jesus, exhausted from the previous day's events, needed strength for

the events of the new day. His growing popularity meant that he needed wisdom to discern between what is merely good and what is best in ministry. Jesus needed his focus to be upon the will of the Father, not on the will of the populace. Having his power renewed and his focus sharpened through his concerted time of communion with God in the quiet of the early morning, he was able to reject one ministry knowing that it was not God's will for him, and was able to accept God's perfect will and direction.

Immediately following this passage, Jesus healed a man afflicted with leprosy (1:40-42) and one who was paralyzed (2:1-12). Where did he receive such power? It came from his prayer life. He spent time in prayer; and everything that happened afterward was a result of that prayer. Prayer is essentially listening to God, hearing what he has to say, determining to obey, and asking God for the power to obey. When we neglect these things, we have no wisdom or power for ministry (Mark 9:28-29). Or, as Jesus said elsewhere, "Apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). Through prayer we are able to empty ourselves and become channels for God's power and wisdom into a hurting and dying world. The writer of Hebrews described the prayer ministry of Jesus as our Great High Priest (Hebrews 4:14-5:10), and in it he offered us a great invitation, "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" (4:16). What a tremendous privilege we have in prayer!

Luke 4:16 Public Worship with God's People

4:16 "Nazareth" was Jesus' hometown (Luke 2:51-52), even though he had been born in Bethlehem (2:4-7). Nazareth was a small village in the Galilean countryside where Joseph was the village carpenter and where the other villagers knew Jesus and his family well. Having been raised in Nazareth, it was his regular practice ("**as was his custom**") to worship with God's people each Sabbath day. Now that he had begun his ministry, this was no time to change such a positive practice. Synagogues were local meeting places for Jews, and almost every little town had one. The synagogue functioned as the local school, community center, a place for administering justice, and on the Sabbath, for worship.

Jesus thus affirmed the Sabbath, the Scriptures, and the synagogue. He did not come to do away with Jewish worship, rather to fulfill its true intent (cf. Matthew 5:17) and to refocus Jewish belief back to its original intent presented in the Old Testament. Thus he repeatedly referred to the Old Testament message in his teaching (e.g. Luke 4:18-21). Synagogue services were somewhat informal gatherings usually led by laypeople. The services usually included prayers, reading of Scripture, comments, and an offering taken for the poor. It was not uncommon to ask a visiting rabbi to read the Scripture and give the sermon. Since Jesus had begun his teaching ministry and news of him had spread (Luke 4:15), the townspeople were curious to hear what he had to say. He stood in honour of the Word of God to read it to the people. Then he sat down to deliver his message based upon the text (vv. 20-21).

Luke 11:1-13 “Lord, Teach Us to Pray”

Important note to Bible Teacher: The Sharing Time in the worship period will deal item by item with “The Lord’s Prayer”, verses 2-4. The study printed here on those verses is for your personal guide. Please read carefully that part of the Teaching Plan before you teach the session. **You will not need to deal with verses 2-4 in depth during the Bible Study Time. Let the group know that they will encounter those verses during the worship time to follow. The guide explains them here so that you, the Bible Study teacher, will have more confidence in your understanding of the passage as you teach the context in which they are found.**

11:1 This verse once again displays the regular prayer life of Jesus. Prayer was his regular practice, and at least one of his disciples wanted to learn the secret of real prayer as displayed in Jesus’ life.

11:2-4 This prayer that Jesus taught His disciples, commonly called “the Lord’s Prayer,” is very similar to, though not exactly like, the one in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6:9-13). This prayer demonstrates how a person should pray, correct attitudes for prayer, and the kinds of things to ask for in prayer. Many groups of Christians pray this prayer together in public worship. **“When you pray, say: ‘Father’”** – this demonstrates the attitude of *confidence*. A Christian approaches God with the confidence of approaching one’s father. Only those who are children of God through faith in his Son, Jesus Christ, can truly claim him as “Father” (John 1:12; Romans 8:14-17). This loving Father is more than ready to spend time with his children and supply what they need. **“Hallowed be your name”** – this shows the attitude of *reverence*. A person’s name represents their character, and this prayer expresses the desire that God’s character be regarded as holy. Even though we approach God as our Father, we also must revere him holy beyond even our imagination (cf. Isaiah 6:1-8). **“Your kingdom come”** – this shows the attitude of *submission to God’s reign*. God’s kingdom is the place where he reigns and rules, and it begins with the human heart (Luke 17:21). The person praying this is first and foremost saying, “God rule in my heart.” Only after this can one pray for God to reign in our world.

“Give us each day our daily bread” This demonstrates the attitude of *dependence on God* for all our needs. “Daily bread” is the ration of food the master gave his servant each day. Each worker needed food to have energy for each day’s task. God’s children should ask him to supply all our needs as we faithfully do his work (Philippians 4:19).

“Forgive us our sins” This demonstrates the attitude of *penitence for sin*. Forgiveness literally means “to dismiss, release, send away.” These sins probably refer to things we have done against others, which in turn are also sins against God. **“For we also forgive everyone who sins against us.”** The basis for our forgiveness is our willingness to forgive others who have wronged us (Luke 6:37). We can be confident of God’s forgiveness only when we display the humble attitude of someone who has forgiven others (Matthew 18:21-35). Any sins committed against us pale in comparison

to what we have committed against God. We can expect God's forgiveness when we have forgiven others.

“And lead us not into temptation” This attitude shows *humility that acknowledges our human weakness*. By recognizing our weakness in the face of temptation, we can confidently pray to our heavenly Father that He will help us avoid it and give us the power to overcome temptation.

11:5-8 This short parable illustrates how Christians can approach God confidently in prayer, expecting those prayers to be answered. Jesus described a situation where a visitor arrived unexpectedly at midnight and there was no food to feed him. Middle Eastern hospitality always involves food, and the host would not hesitate to bother a neighbour for help, even at midnight. The friend, though inconvenienced, will finally help, because his neighbour is so persistent. God responds to human need to an even greater extent than this hesitant neighbour. If a reluctant friend will help us when we are in need, how much more will our heavenly Father give us what we need? God is not reluctant, for he has proven over and over that he loves to give. When we go to God in prayer, persistently and humbly asking him for our needs, we can be assured of his answer.

11:9-10 Christians may have confidence in prayer. The verbs in the original (**"ask, seek, knock"**) present the idea of continual action (i.e. "keep on asking, keep on seeking, keep on knocking"). God wants to answer our earnest and persistent prayer.

11:11-13 Jesus used the example of an earthly **"evil"** (e.g. sinful) father who would give only good things to his children when they asked. He would not want to harm his child in any way. If earthly fathers love their children that much, **"how much more"** love would a heavenly Father, who is holy and righteous in every way, and good beyond all measure give to his children? The **"good gift"** our heavenly Father wants to give is **"the Holy Spirit."** All of God's good gifts can be summed up in one big gift – the Holy Spirit. Those who have God's Holy Spirit living in and controlling their life have everything necessary to meet life's trials (cf. Galatians 5:22-23).

Philippians 4:6-7 “Petition with Thanksgiving”

4:6-7 **“Do not be anxious about anything.”** The "anxiety" described here shows a lack of confidence in God for protection and provision. The immediately preceding verse presents the basis for confidence, "The Lord is near." **“But in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving.”** Prayer is the answer to anxiety in life. Prayer puts things into proper perspective, "prayer and *petition, with thanksgiving*," because it makes the person who is praying look at both sides of the ledger. Christians tend to be far more likely to ask God things than they are to stop and thank God for what he has already done. A person who will start listing God's blessings and thanking God for them will be able to approach God with the confidence that the same God who has answered prayer over and over again in the past will certainly be faithful to answer again. Both sides of prayer, petition and thanksgiving, are vital to a healthy prayer life.

“Present your requests to God.” Prayer does not remove a person from the awful situation, but rather it brings God into the awful situation. That makes all the difference. Prayer unleashes the resources of heaven. **“In everything”** you may be going through, prayer means that you will not be walking alone (Psalm 23:5). Prayer takes one's burdens and places them on God's shoulders -- and God has really big shoulders! And what does God leave in the place of the anxiety? He leaves his peace, “which transcends all understanding” (v. 7). His peace will guard your heart and mind in the person of his Son, Christ Jesus. That’s a pretty good trade!

Your Goal as the Leader of this Bible Study:

These passages show how Jesus worshiped both publicly and privately, and both aspects are vital to any believer. Through his prayer life, Jesus found God’s wisdom and strength for ministry. Through his public worship, he demonstrated the need that God’s people strengthen one another’s faith as they worship God together.

Jesus also taught us how we are to worship together and individually. By giving us a model prayer, he taught us the correct attitudes of prayer. A worshiper with these attitudes will be drawn closer to God and to other fellow worshipers. We may have confidence that God hears and answers our prayers and gives us only what is best for us. God is ready to hear our troubles and sorrows, and our praise and thanks as well.

For Personal Reflection:

1. **What have I learned from this study?**

2. **What personal experience does this lesson bring to mind?**

3. **What is one action I will take this week to apply this Scripture passage to my life?**

Bible Study Plan (Suggested time: 35 minutes)

The Discipline of Worship

Regroup the church after the Gathering Time and break by singing a chorus that young children can relate to—or another praise chorus if your congregation does not have children. Children who go to their own Bible teaching session should stay with the group until after this song. Have the preschoolers and children accompany the hymn with rhythm sticks, maracas, bells, etc. Children who stay with their parents in the Youth/Adult study should have the material on worship as suggested in **The Children's Corner** at the beginning of this **Unit** of studies. (Ask your leader who downloads the studies for those suggestions).

Begin by helping the group locate the Focal Text in their Bibles. Also, share with them the Main Idea to be learned from the Scriptures, and the Questions to be Explored by the group.

Focal Text

Mark 1:35-39; Luke 4:16; 11:1-13; Philippians 4:6-7

Background Text

Mark 1:35-39; Luke 4:16; 11:1-13; Philippians 4:6-7

Main Idea

The example and instruction of Jesus teach us that Christians should worship both privately and together.

Questions to Explore

How important is worship to you?

Teaching Aim

Lead participants to commit themselves to worship privately and together.

Connect with Life:

Ask the group: "How long do you think you could go without a meal?"

Now ask the group: "How long do you think a Christian could go without worshiping God and still stay strong?" This may be the point that you need to define "worship" (communing with God).

Ask: “Is worship only something done by a group, or is it something a person can do alone?” Point out that worship is both a group activity and an individual activity. A Christian who spends time with God only once a week will be about as strong as eating only one meal a week.

Guide the Study:

Present the background of Mark 1:35-39 from the study guide. Have someone read those verses.

Ask: “Why would Jesus get up so early and go to such a deserted place to pray?”

Ask why Jesus would turn down such a great opportunity for ministry to the crowds of people seeking him.

Then Ask: “How did Jesus know what was the right thing for him to do?” (Answer: “From his prayer life”).

Ask: “How did Jesus have the power to do such amazing miracles (e.g. healing the leper [1:40-42], healing the paralytic [2:1-12])?” (Answer: “From his prayer life”).

Point out that Jesus did not worship God only one day a week with other people, but each day he spent the necessary time with God in private worship.

Have someone read Luke 4:16.

Tell the class that worshipping in the synagogue on the Sabbath was Jesus' regular practice.

Encourage the group to suggest answers to these two questions: “According to Jesus' example, how important is public worship with God's people? Do you think Jesus would consider it an optional activity?”

Have someone read Luke 11:1-4. Mention to the group that they will look at “The Lord's Prayer” in detail during the Worship Time. For now, they just need to see that it formed the basis for what Christ wanted His disciples to learn about God's abundant provision for his children.

Point out: “Many Jewish teachers of that day developed an official prayer for their particular group of disciples. Those disciples used “their” prayer like a banner. When they prayed it in public, everyone knew which teacher that disciple followed. Perhaps this is what the disciples of Jesus were looking for. However, instead, He gave them a prayer that could teach them about their relationship to the Father – and the Father's relationship to them.”

Lead the group to read Luke 11:5-13. Show that the main point of these verses is that we can have confidence that God will answer our prayer.

Ask: "According to verse 13, what is the good gift that God wants to give?" (Answer, "The Holy Spirit"). Point out that the Holy Spirit gives us everything we need to meet life's trials.

Have someone read Philippians 4:6-7.

Ask: "What should Christians do instead of worrying about their troubles?" (They should pray).

Point out the two sides of the prayer ledger -- petition and thanksgiving. Show how both of these keep life in a proper perspective. Ask: "On which side of the ledger are Christians more likely to spend their prayer time?"

Emphasize that prayer does not remove a person from their difficult situation but brings God into their difficult situation. Ask: "And what does God leave in place of the anxiety?" (His peace that transcends all understanding).

Encourage Application:

If you have two or more youth, this is the time to give them the **Youth!!! Take Ten** page and allow them to go away from the adults and apply the lesson by and for themselves.

Ask the group the following questions:

- What have we learned from Jesus' teaching and example about the importance of worship?
- How important to you is worshipping with God's people?
- Do you have a regular time each day that you spend with God in earnest conversation?

Take a five minute break to separate the Bible Study and Worship Time. Children may need to use the washroom again before worship.

Youth!!! Take Ten

Bible Study Application for Youth

You may wish to move away from the adults for the final five to ten minutes of the Bible study and help each other as youth to apply the lesson to your own needs.

The Discipline of Worship

Mark 1:35-39; Luke 4:16; 11:1-13; Philippians 4:6-7

A youth will lead the following activity and comments. No adults need to be present. If possible, teens should take turns in leading the application time.

Asking Lists and Thankful Lists

1. Rapidly, each of you write a list of things for which you are thankful.
2. Write a different list of things you are asking God to provide for you, those things down in your heart that you wish you had. Don't think **too hard**; you know what goes on the list!!!!
3. Which list is longer – Your asking list? Or your thankful list?
4. Now, think hard and honestly. Which list contains most of your priorities right now?
5. Are you OK with your answers?
6. If not, how are you going to fix the problem?
7. Most importantly, Can you state to each other what this has to do with worship?

[Think the “reporter” questions: Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How am I worshipping?]

Worship Time (Suggested time: 30 minutes)***The Discipline of Worship***

Luke 11: 1-11

Beginning the Service:

Encourage preschoolers to join in the worship time by using rhythm sticks, shakers (i.e. cups with tops filled with macaroni, or other instruments appropriate for small children.

Sing (or play a recording) of "Light the Fire Again" as people sing-a-long and as latecomers gather for worship from Bible studies. You may wish choose other music at your discretion.

Worship leader: "Today as we worship, we will contemplate the meaning of "true" worship. There are a variety of ways to worship. One may worship privately or corporately. One may worship through musical expression, in scripture, in prayer and in silent meditation.

"There are a variety of styles of worship. Some people worship in a formal setting and some in a casual setting. Some people worship with classical music and others with more recent music."

"Style and variety do not make true worship. True worship happens in your heart when you acknowledge the true object of worship: Jesus Christ as Saviour and Risen Lord."

"Let's worship the one true living Lord, Jesus Christ."

Have someone read Colossians 3:15-17

¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Sing “**Better Is One Day**” and/or “**Holy, Holy, Holy**”

Sing “**Holy Ground**” or another appropriate hymn/chorus reflecting that a time of worship is special and reverent.

Invite worshippers to share words or phrases that describe God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit and His attributes. Examples might be: holy, mighty, Prince of peace, the Great I Am, Living Word, Righteous, Perfect, Love... **Be sure to include the children in this activity.**

Ask someone to lead a prayer of adoration – just praising God for who He is. **(Perhaps ask a child or youth ahead of time to do this).**

Close the prayer by singing “**Glorify Thy Name.**”

Offering:

Your church may have an agreement to simply have a basket, box, or sack in a prominent place where the congregation can leave their offering as God leads them. If so, use this moment to remind them that gladly giving back to God a part of the resources He has given them is to experience worship.

If it is your custom to receive an offering during the worship time, then arrange for someone to receive the offering in the manner that is most effective in your worship setting.

While receiving the offering, sing “**I Exalt Thee**” or other worship song that focuses on God’s worthiness to receive our praise.

Praying for the World:

Comment on specific ways that your church could relate worship to ministering in Christ’s name.

Sharing Guide:

This sharing guide is written to assist the person who directs the worship time to reemphasize the teaching for the day and help guide the congregation to respond to God’s call and will for their lives in regard to the scripture studied. The leader may choose to follow the guide closely. Or, he or she may wish to only use it to give direction and a concept for preparing an original message. The leader is free to choose other ways to communicate and share the concepts presented here.

Pattern for Private and Public Worship

Luke 11:1-11

“...as was his custom.” Those simple words follow the description of a day in the life of Jesus recorded in Luke 4:16. It was his custom to go to the synagogue to worship on the Sabbath. It was a gathering place of the God seekers. It was a place of public prayers, song, and scripture reading. If our Lord saw the need for such a time, how much more should we need just such a time. What we express in public has been prepared in private. So it was with Jesus. On the last night he was with his disciples, he instructed them to **“Pray that you will not fall into temptation”** (Luke 22:39-40). Those instructions came in the “usual” place that he went to pray. He had established a pattern of praying privately and publicly. We should all have times of private and public prayer. What does that look like?

What better place to turn than to the practical teaching of Jesus in response to the request; “Lord, teach us to pray...” Recorded in these verses are a pattern, an illustration, and an encouragement with a promise.

There is a five step pattern of prayer recorded in the first four verses.

1. It begins with Adoration.

“Father, hallowed be your name” In those simple words are two important elements. Father, refers to the type of relationship we have with God through Jesus Christ. We come to Him as we would a father. Some have not had a good relationship with their father making this a difficult analogy. But you cannot escape the emotional pull within our hearts to an ideal that we may never have experienced but deeply desired. Through Christ that desire can be realized. We have the ability in those most private moments to turn to God and speak from the position of one of His children coming with our deepest needs and our most exciting victories. We can be swept into His presence by the work of the Holy Spirit. And once there we realize that this is the creator and sustainer of the universe. He spoke and the world came into existence. He breathed into man life and he became a living soul. He is perfect, holy, and pure. And we realize He is not like us and we humbly bow in reverence of His very name. Those two elements are mixed in the same line. The Creator is our Father. The most Holy invites us into His presence. The Perfect one accepts our imperfection. The result is adoration.

2. It continues with Submission.

“...your kingdom come.” Not my plan but His. We lay aside our agendas and our visions, our hopes and our desires and we seek His plan for the day. We make that intellectual and emotional decision that He is the authority of our day. It is not how I feel or what I have experienced but rather it is His word that will guide my feet into action during this day. There comes a point in each worship service, public or private, when we make the choice to follow His will as it is revealed to us in spite of our own plans.

3. It leads to Dependence.

“Give us each day our daily bread” Not a monthly supply or an order form saying it has been shipped but just enough to make it one more day. The children of Israel wandered in the wilderness for many years receiving only enough manna for the next day. They were learning dependence upon Him. We must yield our desire for self-sufficiency at the foot of His throne and act in obedience to His will with the faith that He will provide. Many young children learn to swim by jumping into the arms of a trusted parent or relative or friend. The smiling face of the one waiting in the pool gives the child courage to jump. The child is totally dependent on the one who has promised to catch him/her. Our heavenly Father is not only able to sustain us, but He is trustworthy. We can depend on Him. There is a point in our worship that we must not only yield to the idea of obedience, we must risk our security on His word.

4. It calls for Confession.

“Forgive us our sins” When we find ourselves totally submitted and dependent upon our heavenly Father, our lives are completely open to Him. The vulnerability of submission and total dependence exposes the greatest of our needs – that of forgiveness. Our sinfulness is uncovered as we yield to His truth and open our lives to His holy gaze. The writer remembers how, as a young person growing up, his family was forced to move every 6 to 12 months because of the father’s work. There was a deep anger that began to grow each time the writer was forced to say goodbye to friends and change schools. The anger grew to resentment with age. But the time came, when due to a difficult personal circumstance, he had to ask his father for help. The father immediately responded and with generosity and kindness helped him take care of the issue. As the two talked, the son realized that all the anger that had been directed toward his father was misdirected. Suddenly, he was weeping as he asked for his father’s forgiveness. It came immediately and has never been forgotten.

We may have stood before our heavenly Father with the clinched teeth of anger or the bowed head of guilt realizing that our emotions were misguided. In the moment of confession, His forgiveness has swept over us like a cool wave on a hot day. Are there areas of unconfessed sin that have made your worship shallow, empty, and unfulfilling? Maybe the problem rests in a relationship with another where the issue is forgiveness. How long will you carry this struggle? Is it time to make a call or write a letter?

5. It concludes with a request for Guidance from Temptation.

“...lead us not into temptation.” He knows our hearts better than we do. Our desire is not to fail in the walk of faith. This final step in worship is expressed most clearly on the final night that Jesus was with His disciples. He took them to the garden to worship through prayer. It was to prepare them for the events that were to unfold. He did not want them to be tempted by the circumstances. The same is true for us. Private and public worship prepares us to face circumstances that might otherwise be arenas for

temptation. When worship has transpired, they become arenas of opportunity for ministry and victory for His namesake.

Call to Commitment:

This teaching closes with an illustration that demonstrates an attitude of worship. The attitude is boldness. The neighbour goes at midnight and asks for a specific thing on behalf of someone else. He persistently knocks until the need is met. The same is true of our worship. We must persistently and boldly come into the presence of our Heavenly Father to share the needs of the world around us. And our heavenly Father will meet our every need.

Concluding the Service:

Sing “Lord I Want To Be a Christian”

Worship Leader: “The purest expression of worship is the statement “Jesus Christ is Lord.” True worship, in which we acknowledge Christ as Lord in His presence during worship, results in our acknowledging Christ as Lord to men and women. Worship inspires us to share the gospel.

(To the congregation) If you believe Jesus is Lord, then repeat after me “Jesus Christ Is Lord.” **(Ask the children to say the words alone then as a part of the larger group).** (Congregation then responds).

Worship Leader: “Go in peace and in the grace of Christ Jesus. May you worship Christ every day and by your lifestyle may you say to the world, ‘Jesus Christ is Lord.’”