

BIBLE TEACHING AND WORSHIP GUIDE



FOR THE HOME-BASED CHURCH

Produced Weekly

What Does Our Worship Say About Us?
1 Corinthians 11:2-16

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 series of sessions needs to have access to the "Introduction" article found at the beginning of each series (Bible Teaching #....). 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:

Cut pictures of the latest clothing styles from magazines and newspaper ads. Choose some which represent extreme styles and some which are more modern styles.

Bible Study Leader:

Worship Time Leader:

Ask a young person or child to read Psalm 47:6-9 as an introduction to the worship service. Give them the passage (a printed copy is available at the end of the Worship Time) ahead of time so they can practice reading joyfully and powerfully.

Ask someone who may be a bit reluctant to take a major teaching responsibility to read the Praying for the World comments for today. Give the material to that person beforehand so they can read it over before coming to worship. A printed copy of the material is available at the end of the Sharing Time materials.

Music Sources:

Holy Ground, *The Worship Hymnal* # 72; CCLI # 21198

Worthy of Worship, *The Worship Hymnal* # 3; CCLI # 82869

I Love You, Lord, *The Worship Hymnal* # 555; CCLI # 25266

Gathering Time: (Suggested time: 15 minutes)***What Does Our Worship Say About Us?*****Focal Text**

1 Corinthians 11:2-16

Background Text

1 Corinthians 11:2-16

Main Idea

The way in which women and men conduct themselves in worship should provide a positive witness in their culture.

Question to Explore

How can women and men best participate in worship so as to provide the most positive witness to their culture?

Teaching Aim

To guide the class to explain Paul's teachings in this passage on women's and men's participation in worship and identify ways of applying it in their church.

Gathering together:

Gather magazine and newspaper pictures of current styles. Try to find some of the more extreme styles as well as more conservative clothes. Distribute these among the group and ask them to pass them around while choosing a new outfit for themselves or for a spouse or child.

First thoughts:

There is a tendency among today's Christians to withdraw from culture. If possible, many Christian parents choose Christian schools or home schooling rather than send their children to public schools. Some Christians have chosen not to watch television or attend movies. Today's lesson helps us focus on the fact that since the earliest days of Christianity we have struggled with how to live positively in the world. The lesson, however, is concerned with more than how we dress or what literature we read or movies we see. It challenges us to think of our behaviour as our worship to God. We

are worshipping God all day, every day. May our time together be both worship for the time we are together and a challenge to make our lives a living worship of God.

Read together Romans 12:1.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.

Closing the Gathering Time:

Sing **Holy Ground**, *The Worship Hymnal* # 72; CCLI # 21198

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.

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.

2

Copy this section for the Bible Study leader.

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

What Does Our Worship Say About Us?

Focal Text

1 Corinthians 11:2-16

Background Text

1 Corinthians 11:2-16

Main Idea

The way in which women and men conduct themselves in worship should provide a positive witness in their culture.

Question to Explore

How can women and men best participate in worship so as to provide the most positive witness to their culture?

Teaching Aim

To guide the class to explain Paul’s teachings in this passage on women’s and men’s participation in worship and identify ways of applying it in their church.

Introduction to your personal study:

Paul gave these particular instructions to the Corinthians so that they would have a testimony that reflected order and harmony in the worship context and a set of disciplines that were in unique contrast to the prevalent culture.

Corporate worship experience varies with culture, number of participants, the style of music, the format of the service and other factors. An essential element of the worship experience must be acknowledgement of the presence and leadership of God through the Holy Spirit. All members of your group should grasp the inclusive nature of worship to encourage fellowship and a shared responsibility in serving God.

People without faith in Christ observe believers in their personal habits and appearance, in their relationship with other Christians, and in their declarations of what a relationship with Christ means. They want to know if we are truly different or if we merely pay lip service to a Biblical faith.

Background:

Please ask for and read the information contained in the “**Introduction**” article found at the beginning of this series of Bible Study and Worship sessions (Bible Teaching #.....). The person who downloaded this session should have that material for you, as well.

Paul addressed the divisive condition of the Corinthian church over the issue of gender roles. He instructed the leaders to encourage Christian men and women to adopt habits of dress, behaviour, and attitude that would be in distinct contrast to the pagan culture of that era. Some followers of Christ in Corinth had previously been active in pagan worship practices and had brought elements of their former behaviour into the church. The particular emphasis of the passage refers to what is appropriate for women as they participate in worship despite the fact that society viewed women as distinctly inferior. Paul instructs these believers to respect the roles God has assigned to husbands and wives so that they would model submission to Christ and to one another.

Focusing on the Meaning:

1Corinthians 11: 2

Paul wisely commended the believers at Corinth for their adherence to the traditions they had previously received. Kind words soften any harshness that may be inferred in the following verses. He thanked them for faithfully remembering him in a variety of ways.

1 Corinthians 11:3

Paul outlined an order of authority. He wanted the Corinthians to understand that God's authority over Christ parallels a man's authority over his wife. It is not to wield power, to hold in subjection or to abuse the dignity of the woman. It is simply a logical necessity that one member of the family unit should be accountable to Christ for the harmony and the spiritual well-being of the family. This responsibility was established in Eden when the serpent successfully deceived Eve but Adam purposely shared her fate. (Genesis 3)

The purpose of “headship” is to safeguard and secure the relationship from ungodly influences. It is a matter of rank rather than importance in God's economy.

1 Corinthians 11:4

Jewish men wore prayer shawls to cover their heads in the presence of God as a symbol of their sinfulness and unworthiness. The covering was a symbolic barrier between them and God. Paul instructed Christian men to remain bare-headed symbolizing that Christ made them worthy to come into God's presence through forgiving their sins.

1 Corinthians 11:5-7

Just as the men must be viewed as distinctly different from their former cultural norms, the women should present an appearance in contrast to that of the temple prostitutes who performed their obscene rituals flagrantly attired, with heavily adorned hair and faces. Paul said that if Christian women refused to cover their hair then they should shave their heads. Adulterous women would have their heads shaved as punishment. Evidently Paul felt observers might confuse women without head coverings who participated in worship with pagan priestesses. His intention was to make sure Christian women stood out from female pagan worshippers in Corinth. Likewise men must visibly reflect their status with God in Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:8

God created Adam first and then from Adam's side, He created Eve. (Genesis 2:18-23) Thus the reference that woman came from man. However priority does not imply superiority. Nor does equality necessarily translate into a lack of gender "roles" in family life, in society, or even in church.

Having said that (that is: men and women think, act, relate, and perform differently), the above considerations seem to play an ever increasing role in the churches of many, if not most, nations and cultures today. Some Christian denominations, as in other religions, appear to be moving toward a much more male dominated religious life. Some male religious leaders are teaching that women should be completely submissive to husbands and by extension to male church leaders. They teach that only males can pastor churches or, in many cases, accept other leadership roles—especially if it involves teaching men or having a high visibility in worship experiences. At the same time, the obligations of husbands to the women in their lives is played down. Surprisingly, millions of women appear to be content with this trend. Too often, the Bible is interpreted in a manner to support the preconceived beliefs of those with the power and influence to decide what the Bible says. Too often, we do not exercise the responsibility of every Christian to interpret the Bible under the guidance of God's Spirit.

1 Corinthians 11:9

Expanding on the reference to creation Paul indicated that the order in which God created humans has some significance. He also highlighted the fact that Adam had a relationship with God in the Garden of Eden before Eve came on the scene. In observing all that God had created Adam recognized his need for a companion or helpmeet. Eve was created "for the sake of" Adam.

1 Corinthians 11:10

The symbol of authority (a veil or a head-covering) that women wore would be recognizable to angels. They would be particularly aware of the orderliness of design and rank in God's creation. Although this verse is difficult to understand since Paul doesn't provide any additional insights, we might assume that he was referring to the presence of angels during worship events.

1 Corinthians 11:11-12

Paul is careful to follow up his previous instructions about women giving honour to their husbands. He wants both partners to recognize their interdependence and mutual reliance upon one another. He is particularly concerned that they do not exercise independence of each other in spiritual matters (“in the Lord”). There is also a need for husbands and wives to acknowledge dependence upon the Lord. In spite of the original order of creation, all men are born of women. One cannot exist without the other.

1 Corinthians 11:13

In Eastern society at that time women would not appear in public without a shawl or a veil to cover their long hair. Women who flaunted their hair would be identified as prostitutes. Christians who were teaching that everyone was equal in the sight of God brought radical social changes that sometimes found expression in defying the cultural norms. Paul was advocating that the men should lead the way in breaking these traditions by worshipping with uncovered heads (an act not generally punishable in their regions and cultures) but the women should maintain the status quo because to do otherwise would bring shame upon them, their husbands, the church, and ultimately Christ. The early church was the first institution to welcome people from across the spectrum of humanity.

1 Corinthians 11:14

Paul is referring to a general principle that has held true for thousands of years across many cultures: men wear their hair shorter than women. In some cultures men grow their hair as a religious practice. Women have also been known to shave their heads as a sign of mourning. However the trend remains that men and women are, at least, visually distinguishable by the length and luxuriance of their hair.

1 Corinthians 11:15

The literal translation of this verse states “her hair is given to her instead of a covering”. In cultures where a woman’s head covering does not have a symbolic basis Paul may be indicating that her hair may achieve the same purpose. In any case the principle is that Christians are to be sensitive to the viewpoints of those in society’s mainstream. Do not let appearance cause offence in the church or in the community.

1 Corinthians 11:16

Paul terminated his discussion by referring to the practices of other Christian communities who adhered to the standards he had outlined. He discouraged any further quarrelling on the matter.

Your Goal as the Leader of this Bible Study:

“How can women and men best participate in worship so as to provide the most positive witness to their culture?”

Your task as the leader of this study will be to guide your church to a better understanding of how to interpret these key passages of scripture rather than leaving the interpretation to those who may have an “agenda” that might not be best for all Christians regardless of gender, race, or status in life.

For Personal Reflection:

What have I learned from this study?

What personal experience does this lesson bring to mind?

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

Bible Study Plan (Suggested time: 35 minutes)

What Does Our Worship Say About Us?

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.

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

1 Corinthians 11:2-16

Background Text

1 Corinthians 11:2-16

Main Idea

The way in which women and men conduct themselves in worship should provide a positive witness in their culture.

Question to Explore

How can women and men best participate in worship so as to provide the most positive witness to their culture?

Teaching Aim

To guide the class to explain Paul's teachings in this passage on women's and men's participation in worship and identify ways of applying it in their church.

Connect with Life:

Begin the study by describing a worship tradition that you, personally, particularly enjoy.

Search out participation of the group with this: What are some worship traditions that are very meaningful to you? (Group prayer, singing old hymns, baptismal services, testimonies of believers, etc.)

Guide the Study:

Have someone read 1 Corinthians 11:2

Tell the group: Paul introduced a discussion on traditions by referring to the faithful practice of believers in Corinth who followed Paul's previous instructions. But in this passage he wanted to focus on the roles of men and women in the church context.

Solicit a different person to read 1 Corinthians 11:3

Ask: What do you think Paul meant by saying "Christ is the head of every man" (NIV)?

Encourage a brief discussion: What can we understand about men's and women's relationships to one another from this verse?

Seek out someone to read 1 Corinthians 11:4-6

Explain the significance of women's hair in Corinthian society.

Ask: What traditions do we observe today regarding physical appearance?

Then ask: Does being a Christian influence how we dress or care for our bodies?

Have a participant to read 1 Corinthians 11:7

Comment on why men were to discontinue the use of a head-covering in the worship service.

Have someone read 1 Corinthians 11:8-10

Encourage opinions on this: How did "woman come from man"?

Read Genesis 2:20-23

Explain the possible meaning of Paul's reference to the angels in v. 23.

Now ask a person to read 1 Corinthians 11:11-12

Say: The early church was very inclusive. People of all races and cultures were welcomed into fellowship and the role of women was drastically elevated.

Look for an answer from someone for this question: Is Paul contradicting his statement in v. 3 or introducing the idea about the equal value God places on men and women?

Seek someone to read: 1 Corinthians 11:13-16

Question the group: Why was Paul so concerned about appearances in the church?

(Unbelievers would mistake the freedom Christian women were discovering with immorality. Men would not be reflecting their forgiven status in Christ. The dignity of the worship experience needed to be safeguarded.)

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 move away from the adults and apply the lesson by and for themselves.

Ask: Do you think Paul was addressing a specific situation or making a universal statement about appropriate Christian appearance?

Seek an answer: Do we make assumptions about people based on appearance?

Suggest: Do we avoid sharing our faith with those who look “different” than we do?

Pray: Father God, Thank you that you have accepted and forgiven us. Help us to remember that you have created us to reflect Jesus to those around us. May we be sensitive to the way others might view us. Teach us to be appreciative of our spouses and to honour you in our relationships. Amen

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.

What Does Our Worship Say About Us? **1 Corinthians 11:2-16**

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.

This passage may be a very important one for you as teens to consider. Christian teens like to have up-to-date clothes which are like those their friends have. They certainly don't want to be the only one in their group who stands out as different.

Discuss some of the t-shirt designs or logos which have particularly appealed to you.

Have you seen Christian youth wearing t-shirts that seem inappropriate? Is there anything you can do to help them see why it is inappropriate?

Swimsuits may be another area in which Christian youth need to consider what is appropriate for them to wear. As a teen, if you were asked by the parent of a teen about handling this tricky subject, what advice would you give to that parent?

Why would we ask these questions in a session with the title "What does our worship say about us?"

Worship Time (Suggested time: 30 minutes)***What Does Our Worship Say About Us?*****1 Corinthians 11:2-16****Romans 12:1****Beginning the Service:**

Ask a young person or older child to read this scripture joyfully. Give the scripture to them ahead of the meeting time so they can practice. It is copied on the last page of this session.

Read Psalm 47:7-9

*God has ascended amid shouts of joy,
The Lord amid the sounding of trumpets.
Sing praises to God, sing praises;
Sing praises to our King, sing praises.*

*For God is the King of all the earth;
Sing to him a psalm of praise.
God reigns over the nations;
God is seated on his holy throne.
The nobles of the nations assemble
As the people of the God of Abraham,
For the kings of the earth belong to God;
He is greatly exalted.*

Sing **Worthy of Worship**, *The Worship Hymnal* # 3; CCLI # 82869
I Love You, Lord, *The Worship Hymnal* # 555; CCLI # 25266

Offering:

Praying for the World:

The province of Pepper Port is a new province in one country in the Pacific Rim. Nine million people live on this small land area. These people have traditionally been rice and vegetable farmers. However, in the eastern part of the province, a factory boom has caused an influx of people from all over the country seeking employment. The original people of the province are 99.9 percent Muslim. Occult practices mixed with Islamic beliefs exist everywhere. Along the industrial corridor, Christian believers meet in home groups or in small storefront buildings. These believers are reaching out to other people in their circle of influence, but they have very little contact with the original people of the province. Although the Bible is available, most of the people have had no opportunity to hear the gospel presented in a culturally relevant manner.

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.

Custom or Principle 1 Corinthians 11: 2-16 Romans 12:1

Paul writes in Romans 12:1 a challenge that speaks to our study and worship today.

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.”

In our Bible study we have considered the issue which Paul addressed in 1 Corinthians 11: 2-16. In those verses, Paul speaks plainly to the Corinthian Christians about the freedom which they have taken – a freedom that has become a license for doing just as they wanted.

In the Romans passage, Paul speaks to all Christians in all times about the reality that because we live by God’s mercy we ought to desire to please him by holy living – a constant worship of him by means of the very way we live.

In Biblical times, women in Corinth wore head coverings in public for two reasons: 1) As a sign of subordination to their husbands (recognizing the husband as the primary leader in a household) and, 2) As a sign of modesty. A head covering was a sign that a woman already belonged to a man (either her husband or her father). An unveiled woman was identifying herself as a public woman, available for hire as a prostitute. Some Christian women in Corinth, because they recognized the freedom they had in Christ, were not wearing veils in public. Were these women sending the wrong message?

The general feeling of students of this passage is that this problem was local and temporary. The reference to “the very nature of things” most likely is referring to customs. The idea seems to be “We just do not do things that way”. Customs, as indicators of principles, continually change, while principles never change. So, it is important for us to look for principles behind the suggested practices.

Much of what Paul says in this passage seems foreign to us. The discussion can be confusing. Paul speaks of things that many of us no longer practice. Yet, as always, in Biblical truth there is a message for us today.

This is one of those passages where we must look for principles behind the instruction. We must look for things we have in common and ask what the Lord has to say to us.

The passage deals with behaviour and dress when believers worship together. That is something with which we identify. The teaching can be expanded to cover all public behaviour and dress. It definitely applies to both men and women. And it applies to the role of male and female parents as they guide their children toward right acting and dressing.

Currently, Western cultures and Eastern cultures value very different standards of dress. It may be difficult to share Christian faith with those of some religions because Christians dress in ways which seem not just inappropriate, but vulgar, to people of other cultures. Like the early Christian woman to whom Paul is writing, we may have carried our “freedom” to the point where it damages our witness.

In our desire to make our worship services appealing to persons seeking Jesus, we have encouraged very casual dress. Some Christians have carried this practice to an extreme.

Certainly one of the hardest tasks which Christian parents have to deal with is helping preteens and teens dress appropriately. Being one of the “group” is important in teen years and that often leads to heated discussions about what is appropriate. The lesson which Paul emphasizes still speaks to us today. “Don’t dress in a way which would hinder someone else from hearing your testimony about Christ”. That might include dressing provocatively, but it might also include dressing unattractively.

[Note to leader: The following paragraph can be used to involve the group in your message.]

Say: Traditions are important. Some things have become traditional because they have universal, timeless value and application – and apply to succeeding generations of Christians. **(You may want to ask for examples.)** Explain that some traditions worked well in the past but do not apply to contemporary Christians. **(Ask for examples.)**

There was a time when churches in North America provided places for people to hitch their horses and wagons. Obviously, there is not much need for that anymore. What is the principle behind that? We need to provide as best we can for the needs of all people who gather with us for worship.

Explain that the instruction in vv. 3-16 is very confusing to us. We understand the need for order in the home and in society, but we may not understand the covering and uncovering of heads. Here we need to look for underlying principles behind the customs.

Customs change; principles never change. Principles are eternal truths that apply to all Christians in every generation.

In verse 3 of 1 Corinthians 11, we read, ***“Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.”*** The principle seems to be that order or organization is necessary for society, a family, a business, or a church to function effectively. In the culture of Paul’s day, a woman who was not a part of a family group either as a wife, an elderly mother or aunt, or unmarried sister would have no protection either economically or in practical ways such as having a place to live. Our culture is different today. We struggle as we try to find the principle which applies to us today. Certainly, we can agree that the head of every person is Christ and the head of Christ is God. Since God the Son, God the Father and God the Spirit are one, we may see an interdependence, rather than a hierarchical arrangement here. When we live in family or in community we are dependent on one another. What we do affects everyone else in our circle of influence.

In verse 5, we read, ***“And every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonours her head”***. The principle seems to be modesty. The purpose of the modesty is that we have an influence on other people. Today, we might say that some could be offended by observing an attractive woman praying while dressed provocatively and inappropriately. The same would be especially true of a woman who would be in front of a church group as part of a music or worship team. The teaching also cautions men who might dress sloppily or wear a tee-shirt with an offensive slogan or logo.

In verses 11-12, we read, ***“In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. For as woman came from man, so also man is***

born of woman. But everything comes from God.” It is almost impossible for us today to imagine the freedom which the early Christian woman must have felt in Christ.

Paul, in another writing in Galatians 3: 26-29, says: **“You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”** Women in that day had not been “heirs” of anything. Most could inherit nothing. Now they are told that their belonging to Christ made them **“heirs to the promise of God”**. Subordinate to others in daily life, they are, in spiritual matters, neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, but equally joined in the intimacy of life in Christ Jesus. It is not surprising that, until counselled about it, such freedom sometimes led them into acts which seemed inappropriate.

In today’s world we face a similar challenge. How we can behave and dress in public worship so that we demonstrate that we respect authority and that our bodies do not belong to anyone else except God and what He plans for them. We look again for the principle involved and find the interdependence of our lives emphasized. We need each other and we need God.

Here are some things that can help us determine how we dress and how we behave in public worship.

- Practice the principle of modesty.
- Make sure you are not sending the wrong message regarding what you believe.
- Remember as a Christian you are representing your Lord in your dress and behaviour. A Christian should do nothing that would reflect negatively on Jesus.
- Be sensitive to a believer who might be offended by what you do or be led to follow your example and violate his/her conscience.

Call to Commitment:

The topic for our study and worship thought today is: “What does our worship say about us?” We have considered worship as our total commitment to Christ. It involves our life when we are gathered with other Christians in a focused period of worship. But it also involves our life twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week as well. Only Biblical principles can guide us. Today we have thought about our interdependence – our influence on one another. As we close our time together, may we be brutally honest with ourselves in asking if we are dressing, speaking, acting, or thinking in ways which might hinder another person from coming to Christ.

Close by singing again: **I Love You, Lord.**

Copy, then cut apart for use as suggested in the session:

Psalm 47:7-9

***God has ascended amid shouts of joy,
The Lord amid the sounding of trumpets.
Sing praises to God, sing praises;
Sing praises to our King, sing praises.***

***For God is the King of all the earth;
Sing to him a psalm of praise.
God reigns over the nations;
God is seated on his holy throne.
The nobles of the nations assemble
As the people of the God of Abraham,
For the kings of the earth belong to God;
He is greatly exalted.***

++++++(Cut here)++++++

Praying for the World:

The province of Pepper Port is a new province in one country in the Pacific Rim. Nine million people live on this small land area. These people have traditionally been rice and vegetable farmers. However, in the eastern part of the province, a factory boom has caused an influx of people from all over the country seeking employment. The original people of the province are 99.9 percent Muslim. Occult practices mixed with Islamic beliefs exist everywhere. Along the industrial belt, Christian believers meet in home groups or in small storefront buildings. These believers are reaching out to other people in their circle of influence, but they have very little contact with the original people of the province. Although the Bible is available, most of the people have had no opportunity to hear the gospel presented in a culturally relevant manner.