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Train & Multiply™

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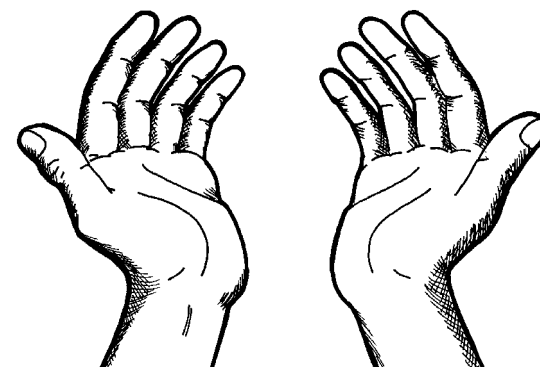
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Worshiping the Almighty



Pastoral Leader Training Booklet

34

Train & Multiply™



T&M™

Pray that in this study the Lord will prepare you to lead your people in true worship that pleases and magnifies God.

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

Worship is the offering of our lives to God in love and holiness.
(Romans 12:1) Sincere worship flows spontaneously from the spirit
of the believer. (John 4:23) We worship the Lord for who He is,
His wonderful majesty, love, wisdom and power. (Isaiah 6:1-4,
Psalm 95:6, Psalm 96:9)

Only the Holy Spirit can enable us to worship God with sincerity.
He unites us with Christ in heaven. Our worship, therefore, ascends
to God the Father through Christ Himself, our spiritual Head.
Because of this union with Christ our worship pleases God.
(Ephesians 2:17-18, Hebrews 4:14-16)

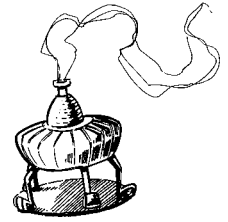
Praising God as a group is a vital part of worship. Praise exalts God's acts in His creation, the history of His Church and the transformed life of every believer.

NOTES

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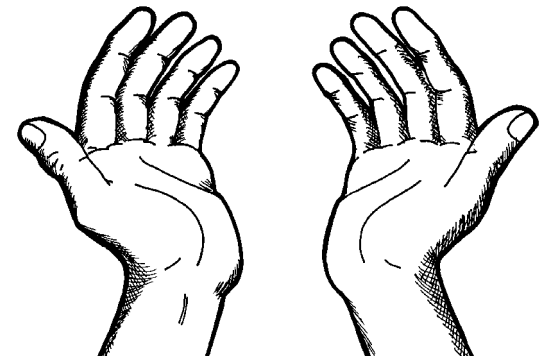
NOTES

Our praises are like a pleasant odor of incense, which was burned before Him in the ancient temple. Through Christ, this pleasant odor rises to our Father in heaven. (Revelation 5:8, 8:3-4)



WHAT IS A WORSHIP SERVICE?

When we worship we gather to praise God as our Creator, Savior and Lord, and to offer our lives to Him. As His redeemed sons in Christ, we express our gratitude for His mercy, and proclaim His faithfulness and truth. Some churches' worship combines worship, praise, petition, a time for us to confess our sins to God, and testimony, in a sacrifice of sincere devotion. A spirit of reverence should continue throughout the service.



Colossians 3:16 reveals some things we can do in a worship service or whenever we want: *“Let 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.”*

A worship service is primarily for believers. Unconverted people cannot worship God in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24) Some leaders confuse two types of services: They prepare worship services for unbelievers, and evangelize believers!

Read 1 Corinthians 14:26-40 to find at least seven guidelines (things to do—or not to do, or how to do them) during worship. You will notice that to follow all of these guidelines requires a small group.

List guidelines that you found:

A worship service is for:

- ☐ believers.
- ☐ unconverted friends.

PRACTICAL WORK

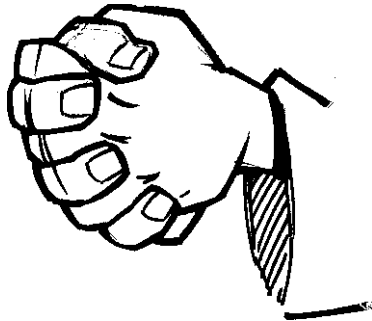
- Pray fervently for God’s blessing and anointing on the church services.
- Plan the services well ahead of time with the other leaders.
- Teach your church or group what worship is, so that they may bless and glorify God, and not attend simply to receive blessings themselves.
- Lead services or help to lead parts of the service, taking turns with others.
- Help the entire congregation to participate according to their gifts: singing, giving testimonies, reading, prophesying.

5. How often do you celebrate the Lord's Supper?

- ☐ Weekly.
☐ Twice a month.
☐ Monthly.

6. Do you pray for the different current needs of the church?

- ☐ Yes.
☐ No, but we are going to begin.



7. Do you normally prepare special services for Easter Sunday, and other special days? (Some special services should be evangelistic, if the unconverted are invited.)

- ☐ Yes.
☐ No, but we will do so in the future.

An evangelistic meeting is for:

- ☐ believers.
☐ unconverted friends.

Worship is for believers, evangelism is for the unconverted.

An unconverted person cannot participate from his heart in true worship. Why not? (John 4:19-24)

A congregation is neglecting those who need Christ if all of its services are only for believers. Why?

A pastor is neglecting and weakening the believers, if all he does is evangelize the unconverted in each service. Why?

The following table compares a worship service with an evangelistic meeting. They are different in their purpose, their participants, their preaching and other activities.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Purpose:

To worship God.

Participants:

Regenerate believers
(although we do not
exclude visitors).

Preaching:

The Bible is applied to the
Christian's life and service.

Activities:

Prayer, Bible reading, hymns,
testimonies and offerings. The
center of the service is often
the Lord's Supper.

EVANGELISTIC MEETING

Purpose:

To call the unconverted to
repentance and faith in Jesus
Christ.

Participants:

The unconverted (they listen
to the Word in order to be
convinced and believe).

Preaching:

Jesus Christ is presented to the
unbeliever, especially the power
of His death and resurrection.

Activities:

No offering is taken; the Lord's
Supper is not celebrated; there is
less participation by the congre-
gation in prayers and hymns.

SUMMARY TEST

1. Do you prepare the services with adequate prayer?
☐ Yes.
☐ No, but I'm going to begin.
2. Are hymnbooks available for all your people?
☐ Yes.
☐ No.
3. Do you write down the order of service and the hymns well
enough ahead of time, so that musicians and others who
participate in any special way arrive well prepared?
☐ Yes.
☐ No, but I'm going to start.
4. Do you ask others to lead and participate in the services also,
rather than doing everything yourself?
☐ Yes.
☐ No, but I am going to start doing so.

EXAMPLE OF A SERVICE

(Prepared using the method on the previous page.)

Opening prayer, and sing Psalm 100.

- Private prayer, seeking forgiveness, and reading of 1 John 1:9
- Hymns: of testimony: No. 52
of thanksgiving: No. 47
of praise: No. 12, 5
of adoration: No. 20, 25
- Bible Reading: Philippians 3:1-21 (John-Michael K.)
- Hymn Number 62
- Sermon: (Clement A.)
- Prayer for the nation, for evangelization, and for the sick (Peter-Stephen S.)
- Notices
- Offering (Catherine D.)
- The Lord's Supper
- Hymn Number 64
- Final blessing

LET US PREPARE WORSHIP WELL

The following table contrasts the good habits of those who lead well, with the errors of those who do not prepare adequately. When we prepare and lead the services let us take into account these different aspects:

WELL PREPARED SERVICE	POORLY PREPARED SERVICE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• They pray a great deal in preparation for the service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Little prayer is made in preparation for the service.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The order of service is prepared ahead of time, and follows a carefully chosen central theme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The participants arrive without having prepared anything.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The program deals with different needs as they arise.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is always the same.

WELL PREPARED SERVICE

- People arrive early, eager to meet with God.
- They begin with a hymn or some other act of praise, standing.
- They sing hymns and songs that lead the congregation into an attitude of worship in the presence of God.
- The Bible reading has been practised ahead of time.
- They are well groomed, and show smiling faces.

POORLY PREPARED SERVICE

- They arrive late, with no hope for a meeting with God.
- They remain seated all the time.
- They sing mainly entertaining choruses and very few hymns of worship.
- The Scripture is poorly read.
- They are carelessly dressed, show little joy.

4. Arrive at the place of the meeting in good time, and prepare the place (chairs, neatness, Bibles, hymnals, offertory plates, list of notices, bread and wine for the Lord's Supper, well-tuned musical instruments). Others should help with this.
5. During the meeting, be open to the Holy Spirit's guidance. He may wish to lead the service in a direction of which you had not thought. Be alert to what He wants to do. Worship is a personal encounter with the living God.

Notes

How to Prepare the Service

The following is a practical method of preparing the service.

1. Pray for God’s guidance and anointing on the service.
2. Look at the list under the section titled “Important Parts of a Worship Service”. On a sheet of paper, write down the specific items that make up the service - for example: the hymns that will be sung, which Bible readings, all in order in which they take place.
3. Think about which parts of the service you will delegate to others, and write their names beside that part of the service.

For example, besides the Bible reading you could write that “John -Michael” will read. Get in touch with these people and pray with them before the service, making sure that those who play the music (if any) know the tunes, and the key, and that they practice beforehand.

WELL PREPARED SERVICE	POORLY PREPARED SERVICE
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- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• They have chosen well ahead of time hymns that relate to the theme of the message, and which enable the believers to draw near to God. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• They have to ask: “Now what shall we sing?” |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participants know when it is their turn to sing, read or speak. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• They have to announce every activity and lose time while participants get ready, interrupting the flow of the service. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The lighting is adequate and well placed: from directly above or slightly behind the worshippers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The light is inadequate, or is located in front and bothers the eyes of the worshippers. |

WELL PREPARED SERVICE

- Children are taught to show respect for God and to give their seats to adults who have to stand.
- They celebrate the Lord's Supper with a solemn and joyful spirit.
- They vary the preaching topics according to people's needs and the different themes of God's Word.
- The meeting place is clean and in order.

POORLY PREPARED SERVICE

- Children take the best seats and distract with excessive noise.
- They neglect the Lord's Supper, or do it as a mere routine, unaware of Christ's awesome presence.
- The same speaker preaches every time, about the same subjects.
- The room is disorderly; things besides the bread and wine are left on the Lord's table.

In a small group, everyone ought to participate. One may exhort, another comment on a Bible passage, and another gives a testimony about God's work in his life.



Yes. Even in a large congregation, all the members can participate in singing and praying. They can read the Bible in unison or antiphonally.

TESTIMONY

In our church one person gives the same testimony in every meeting. Everyone gets bored.



Ahead of time, ask certain persons, especially new Christians, to give a testimony, and call on them by name in the meeting.

- Celebrate the Lord's Supper in fellowship with the Lord and the other worshipers.
- Consecrate ourselves to God and His service through a hymn or a prayer.
- Dismiss the worshipers with a blessing.

Give opportunity for spontaneous participation by church members, especially in a small group: songs, prayers, exhortations, inspiring testimonies, special music, poetry, reports about the work, Bible dramas or special presentations.

Some time before, during or after the service, give the worshippers ample time to pray for each other, talk and make plans. They should also eat together occasionally.

Let the children take part in the worship. They can sing or give testimonies.

WELL PREPARED SERVICE

- Visitors are received with affection; they are taken to the best seats. People talk to them and get to know them.
- Preachers encourage, unite and edify everyone.
- The Christians talk to each other and the visitors before and after the service.

POORLY PREPARED SERVICE

- Very few people speak to the visitors.
- Preachers scold the flock.
- They leave without talking to each other when the service is over.



IMPORTANT PARTS OF A WORSHIP SERVICE

(A model form of service)

A good worship service includes most of the following elements.

Vary the order of the service from time to time so that it does not become a routine. The leaders must be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit during the service. Worship is an encounter with God that cannot be structured by man alone.

- Pray invoking and thanking God for His presence.
- Confess our sins to God (in public or personal prayer, or with a hymn of confession).
- Assure the people of God's forgiveness through the blood of Christ. You might use 1 John 1:9 or Ephesians 1:7-8, etc., or sing a hymn that emphasizes God's free and eternal forgiveness. Remember: most new churches have immature believers who are struggling with sins who need strong assurance of God's forgiveness and grace.

- Lead into the worship of God in psalms, songs and hymns.
- Have one or more Bible readings (read well). Some congregations reading along with a leader who reads one verse, then the people read the next, and so forth.
- Sing a hymn related to the theme of the message.
- Give a Bible message, or meditate on God's Word in some other way (a Bible study, a biblical drama, or prophecy).
- Intercede in prayer for the church, the nation, missionaries in other lands, the sick, and other needy persons.
- Announce or report events that are important to church life.
- Worship with offerings and tithes.