

Worship Focussed

As you start, ask each person to name a hymn or worship song that they find especially stirring or meaningful. What is it about that song that they particularly appreciate?



Bible Study

Today we are going to do a slightly different form of bible study, using a number of different passages of scripture to help us to build up an answer to one question: "What is worship?" Read the passages one at a time, and after each one discuss together what it tells us about the nature of worship and what God looks for as we come to worship Him. You can, of course, include any other passages that come to your mind as well.

- 1 Chronicles 16:23-29
- Ephesians 5:19-20
- Psalm 27:4
- 2 Samuel 6:12-15
- John 4:21-24
- 1 Corinthians 14:26
- Romans 12:1-2
- Amos 5:21-24



Reflection

How have you felt about the worship element of the last three sessions...

- Has it been helpful, or not?
- Based on what you have just discussed – was it true worship?
- Are there other ways that you think you could worship together as a group? Be as creative as you like.



Worship

Today we are going to share communion together as a group. However, rather than using someone else's communion service, we are going to create our own as a part of our worship. We have broken the service down into sections, none of which should take more than two or three minutes. Divide into twos or threes, so that one pair or three is responsible for each section of the service and then allow fifteen minutes for preparation. Then have a time of communion together, following through what each small group has prepared. You do not have to be bound by what follows, change it as much as you please...

- You could start by reading a passage which praises God for who He is. Perhaps one of the Psalms, or a description of Jesus from Revelation 1 or Colossians 1. When you have read this you may want to allow a minute's quiet, or ask one or two to pray prayers of praise.
- You might want a short prayer of confession. Write a simple one and read it out. You may find some inspiration in Psalm 130, or the prayer in Nehemiah 1.
- Choose a passage to read which introduces what communion is about. You could use one of the last supper or crucifixion passages from the gospels, or 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, or 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, or something else that you feel is appropriate.
- Write a short prayer of thanksgiving for the bread and the wine, and what they represent and mean to us.

- Think about how you want to distribute the bread and wine. Do you want to say a simple sentence, or prayer as you hand them to each person? Would you prefer complete silence? Perhaps each one should stand up and take their own when they feel they have prepared themselves before the Lord. Don't be bound by traditions!
- Think of a closing prayer as a blessing for the group. You can either write your own, or use one of the beautiful prayers from scripture (e.g. Ephesians 3:14-21, Ephesians 1:17-21, Philippians 1:9-11, Colossians 1:9-12, 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12, Hebrews 13:20-21). Perhaps you could combine your own prayer with one of these.