

LEADING SMALL GROUP WORSHIP

SMALL GROUPS ARE ENCOURAGED TO REGULARLY INCORPORATE TIMES OF WORSHIP INTO THEIR GATHERING. WORSHIP ISN'T LIMITED TO A MUSICAL EXPRESSION; THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO WORSHIP GOD. HERE ARE SOME IDEAS TO ENGAGE GOD IN WORSHIP IN SMALL GROUP. EACH IDEA TAKES ABOUT FIVE TO TEN MINUTES, SO YOU STILL HAVE TIME FOR YOUR BIBLE STUDY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

Alphabet Adoration. Praise God in prayer by beginning with the letter “A” and encouraging members to respond with an adjective they can think of that describes God (i.e. Almighty, Awesome, Amazing, etc.), then “B” and on through the alphabet. Since it can take some time to go all the way through the alphabet while keeping focused, limit the time to five minutes or stop at “F.” Then, pick up the list at “G” the following week or even a month later. Also, pause periodically to discuss some of the attributes that were shared. Connect these attributes to who God is and what this means in our lives and in our relationship with him.

Read and Reflect on Worship Lyrics. Encourage individuals to bring the lyrics to a meaningful worship song. Share the personal significance of the song, then have the member read the words of the lyrics as a prayer to God.

Attributes of God. Choose one attribute of God to reflect on and discuss together. Encourage members to brainstorm a definition, but have a definition ready to clarify. Here are some attributes: Almighty, Compassionate, Gracious, Merciful, Transcendent, Omniscient, Forgiving, Sovereign, Omnipresent, Perfect, Wise, Patient, Holy, Majestic, Good, Infinite, True, Omnipotent. Encourage others to look up specific verses or Bible stories that reflect the attribute of God and share with the Small Group. If people don't know where to look, prompt them by suggesting certain passages. Then allow members to share how they have experienced this attribute recently. Avoid the temptation to discuss multiple attributes in one evening. Rather, use your time focus on one characteristic of God.

His Love Endures Forever. Encourage a person to read the first half of each verse in Psalm 136 while the other members follow in unison with “His love endures forever.” Then reflect on this Psalm together.

Pray through a Psalm. Pick a Psalm that is rich with God's attributes to introduce your Small Group to praying through Scripture. Encourage them to personalize the Scripture back to God in a prayer.

Journal Prayers. Give each member a piece of paper and a pen. Start a letter with “Dear Father,” and end the letter with “Love, Your Son/Daughter.” You can play worship music in the background while people write to create a more worshipful environment. When done, allow whoever is willing to read their letter as a prayer. Close by discussing the benefit to writing out prayers.

Popcorn Praise. Spend some time in sentence prayers – “Lord, I praise you because _____.” Let others know they can “pop” in and pray several times if they wish.

Why Do You Worship? Select a question related to worship to discuss for five to ten minutes as a Small Group. After discussing, pray together as a Group. Pick another question on another night. Here are some more worship discussion questions: Why do you worship? What can be things that hinder your ability to worship God? What attribute of God has been most meaningful to you recently? What has been the most meaningful worship time you have ever had? How can you develop as one who worships God throughout the day?

Take Communion. Read the Apostle Paul's instructions for partaking of the Lord's Supper in 1 Corinthians 11:23-28. Discuss why Christ-followers should participate in communion, what the bread and cup symbolizes, and the words of caution in verses 27-28. Encourage people to use a time of silence for personal reflection on the condition of their lives and on the sacrifice of Christ on their behalf.

Option A: Pass a loaf of bread around the room and encourage individuals to break off a piece of bread. Follow with passing a goblet of grape juice and encourage individuals to dip their bread in the juice and then eat the bread.

Option B: Have bread (or broken crackers) and juice in the front or back of the room. Encourage individuals to stand and walk to the elements to partake in communion as they are ready. You may choose to play worship music during this time or have silent reflection.