

STRONGER CHURCHES

MODULE 11

Worship

FACILITATOR GUIDE



OBJECTIVES

By the end of this module, you will be able to:

1. Identify the elements of a good biblical and healthy worship.
2. Guide your church to a biblical, more profound, understanding of worship.
3. Develop a contextualized and manifold worship practices in your local church.

TIME FOR SHARING & PRAYER

²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."
– John 4:23-24 (NIV)

According to this verse, what is God's essence?

What does it mean to worship God in Spirit and in truth?

When you come before God in worship, what is your physical or emotional posture?

DO: Welcome the group back.

SAY: In a few minutes, we will take time to review your hard work, ask questions, and share with one another.

Today's module is called Worship

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2. Guide your church to a biblical, more profound, understanding of worship.
3. Develop a contextualized and manifold worship practices in your local church.

TIME FOR SHARING & PRAYER

SAY: Before we get too far in the module, we would like to spend some time in God's Word and to give some opportunities for testimonies and prayer. Let's begin.

ASK: Who would like to read John 4:23-24?

According to this verse, what is God's essence?

What does it mean to worship God in Spirit and in truth?

When you come before God in worship, what is your physical or emotional posture?

SAY: According to this text, we see the sincerity with which we must enter worship. We must worship God with all our being. If we fail to do so, then our worship is vain, unhealthy, and not according to biblical expectation. Distinguish between a worshiper (being) and worship (doing).

Worship is the experience of the intimate relationship between believers and Christ; therefore, worship is both corporate and individual and encompasses public gatherings and private prayers.

Session 1: Biblical Foundation

DEFINITIONS OF WORSHIP | Psalm 51:17

CHARACTER | Worship as an act of ordinary life.

Worship is an expression of knowing God. In the process of worshiping, God comes close to His children and we, in turn, to our God. *Yada*, the Hebrew word for knowing, is the same word for sexual intimacy in Genesis 4:1. The implication is that worship should be a deeply intimate, personal, and transcending relationship.

Worship isn't simply *theoretic knowledge* "about" God. It means interacting with all your being with the God of the universe. One cannot worship God without having healthy relationships with others. (Matthew 5:23-24)

GLORIFICATION | Worship brings glory to God.

DEVOTION | Gratitude inspires devotion.

WORK | Work can be worship.

Before we get to the process of learning how to worship, would anyone like to share a testimony or information on the report on how God has transformed you or another?

DO: Collect Healthy Church Reports and have participants report on implementing their action plans from the previous module.

DO: Pray.

Session 1: Biblical Foundation

SAY: DEFINITIONS OF WORSHIP | Psalm 51:17

CHARACTER | Worship as an act of ordinary life. Worship is an expression of knowing God. In the process of worshiping, God comes close to His children and we, in turn, to our God. *Yada*, the Hebrew word for knowing, is the same word for sexual intimacy in Genesis 4:1. The implication is that worship should be a deeply intimate, personal, and transcending relationship.

Worship isn't simply theoretic knowledge "about" God. It means interacting with all your being with the God of the universe. One cannot worship God without having healthy relationships with others (Matthew 5:23-24).

Psalm 51:17 mentions that worship implies a complete sense of humility before God, totally submitting and depending on God.

GLORIFICATION | Worship brings glory to God. Philippians 1:10-11; John 15:8. Worship is an act that must glorify God as only He deserves. Moreover, our lives must demonstrate good works, which are also an act of worship.

GRATITUDE | Expression of thanksgiving for what God has done and will continue to do in our lives is also an act of worship. Read the following verses: 2 Corinthians 3:18, Psalm 100:4-5. What are some of the reasons for thanksgiving in these passages?

DEVOTION | Gratitude inspires devotion. As believers, we must live lives of devotion, both for what/who God is and also for what God does in our lives. Read Psalm 101:1-2. How do these two verses describe a life devoted to God?

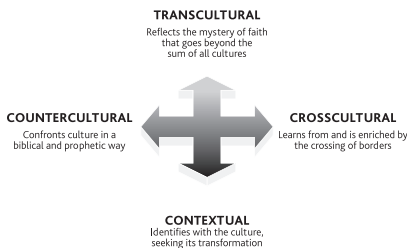
WORK | Work can be worship. Work is our vocation, our livelihood, but as believers, it also serves as a form of worship. Whatever we may do, we should do it for the glory of our God (Colossians 3:17). No job or task is worthless or meaningless when we are doing it to worship God. As a believer once said many centuries ago (some say Brother Lawrence, others say St. Teresa of Avila), "God is even in the pots and pans."

LITURGY | Worship can be expressed in different forms.

WORSHIP PILLARS | Mark 12:30

We see that we worship God in various ways. Jesus taught His disciples they must worship the Father with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength.

MANIFOLD CONTEXTUALIZED PRACTICE | Worship is four-directional



CONTEXTUAL | In the same way that Christ humbled Himself (Philippians 2:1-8).

COUNTERCULTURAL | In the same way Christ overturned the tables of the merchants who profaned the temple with their greed and referred to the Pharisees as a "den of snakes" (Matthew 21:12; 23:33).

LITURGY | Worship can be expressed in different forms of expression. Psalm 84:10; 96:8 teach us that worshiping God can also be a liturgical act, expressed traditionally, culturally, or as an art form. We enter in the presence of God (His courts) with the purpose of worshiping the Lord. Psalm 122:1 shows the psalmist's great rejoicing at having the privilege of entering the presence of God.

ASK: When you think of worship, what comes to mind? Which definition is new to you?

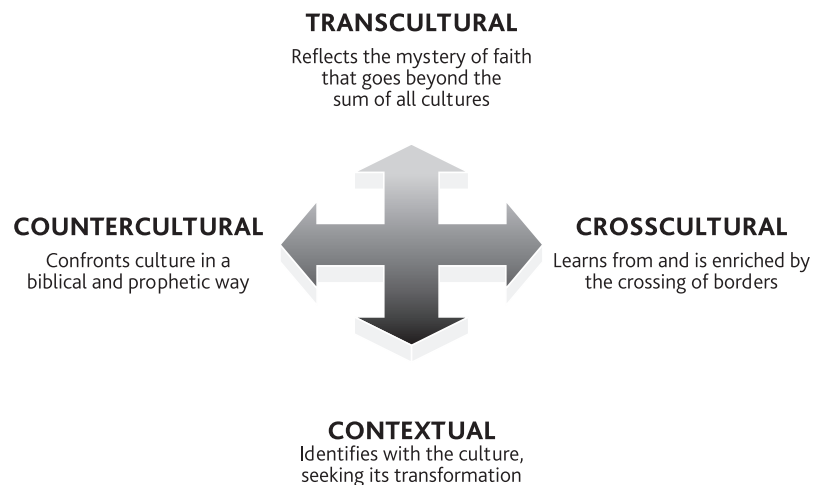
WORSHIP PILLARS | Mark 12:30

SAY: We see that we worship God in various ways. Jesus taught His disciples they must worship the Father with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength.

ASK: Will someone read Mark 12:30?

SAY: Here is another model to help us see how worship impacts every part of life.

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COUNTERCULTURAL | In the same way Christ overturned the tables of the merchants that profaned the temple with their greed and referred to the Pharisees as a "den of snakes" (Matthew 21:12; 23:33).

MULTICULTURAL | People of every tribe, language, people, and nation will be part of the Kingdom that bows in worship before the throne of God (Revelation 5:6-7:9).

TRANSCULTURAL | Worship is expressed differently in all cultures. The Gospel is supra-cultural; it transcends the parameters of any one culture.

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ASK: Are there any questions/comments?

Session 2: Tools

EVALUATING OUR DYNAMIC WORSHIP

The following tool uses a 1-10 scoring system, in which 1 represents complete disagreement or the lowest score and 10 represents excellence or strong agreement.

SAY: Let's review our Take Your Church's Pulse measurement result for this healthy characteristic. Was this an area of strength for our church or is this an area of weakness? Are there certain questions from the survey that we should pay special attention to as we prepare our action plan?

DYNAMIC WORSHIP										
1. Worship in our church nurtures and strengthens us in our Christian life.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2. The style of music used in our services invites us to live in God's presence.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3. Preaching and messages are appreciated by the congregation.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4. Our worship services attract youth and young adults.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5. I feel comfortable inviting someone (friend or family) to church.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6. I feel satisfied, motivated, and ministered to by the worship in our church.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7. In our services, the presence of the Triune God is clearly acknowledged as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Session 3: Action Plan and Goals

Based on what you learned in this module, create an action plan with clear goals for you and your local church.

For Pastors:

Have you identified a leader to mentor as a future church planter? Y or N

If yes, did you meet this month? Y or N

For Review:

Did you turn in a Healthy Church Report this month? Y or N

Look at the 7 Take Your Church's Pulse (TYCP) questions for this module (Session 4) and review your overall measurements.

What are your areas of strength (scores greater than 7)? _____

What are areas for growth (scores equal to or fewer than 7)? _____

Begin to develop an action plan. An action plan for implementing today's materials into your respective ministries is important and should be a habitual process for every step forward in your ministry. Based on what you learned in this module, create an action plan with clear goals for you and your local church.

An acronym that is helpful in planning is to develop **SMART** goals:

Specific: It describes specifically what I plan to do.

Measurable: I will be able to tell whether it was done or not.

Appropriate: Is it in line with God's will?

Realistic: It considers my limitations and availability.

Time-bound: It mentions an exact time period.

Example:

- By the end of the month, I will preach a sermon on integrated faith so that people will realize that God should be a part of every portion of life.
- By the end of the year, financial giving will increase by 5% from the previous year.
- In 6 months, 12 new believers will be saved.
- By next week, we will develop a plan for small groups that will start next fall.

Coming Up: Stronger Churches Module 12

You will teach your congregation a transforming perspective regarding the Gospel, confronting spiritual dualism that exists in many churches, in order to create a healthier congregation.

Healthy Church Report	MONTHLY GOAL	MONTHLY RESULT
SHARED THE VISION How many people inside and outside the church has the vision been shared with?		
LEADERS How many leaders has the church trained for small groups and ministry?		
SPIRITUAL GIFTS How many people has the church trained to use their spiritual gifts?		
TITHE How many people has the church asked to tithe toward the mission of the church?		
PRAYER How many people has your church prayed for in the community?		
SHARE FAITH How many people has the church trained to share their faith?		
SMALL GROUPS How many people has the church brought into small groups?		
COMMUNITY MINISTRIES How many people has the church brought into ministries that serve the community?		
NEW MEMBERS How many people has the church welcomed into relationships in the church?		
WORSHIP How many people has the church invited to worship each week at your church?		

How to Use Reports

- 1. REPORTING** - Included in each module is a tabulation sheet with ten metrics for measuring entitled *Healthy Church Report*. As the participant progresses through the modular training a new measurement is revealed on the tabulation sheet for monthly reporting. Monthly reporting is a key part of the training. This provides accountability and focus on what matters most for the training participants. If the participants know ahead of time what will be asked of them at the next module, they are more likely to do those activities that lead to the results to be reviewed.
- 2. PASTOR TRACK MENTORING** - Pastors are encouraged during the training to identify and mentor a future leader to be a church planter. Each month of the modular training the pastor is asked if a leader has been identified and if they have met for mentoring (see www.multiplicationnetwork.org/resources/ministry-toolbox/203-mentoring-workshop-2 for mentor training material). At the end of the Stronger Churches modular training: Pastors are encouraged to turn in a church planter profile report (<https://www.multiplicationnetwork.org/resources/ministry-toolbox/159-church-planter-profile>) and churches are encouraged to plant a church by sending the new leader for More Churches Modular training.