
PRACTICAL WAYS TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP



- 1. RECOGNIZE:** You cannot expect to rush into church after an exhausting Saturday night and “be worshipful.”

CONSIDER: A late Saturday night may be needful and fun occasionally, but if you already get less sleep on Saturday night than you need and are exhausted in church, can you be alert and attentive to the majesty and presence of the Lord?
- 2. RECOGNIZE:** Conscious acknowledgment of who God is will prepare your heart for coming into his presence.

CONSIDER: On Saturday night, before sleeping, read individually (or pray with your husband /wife/children) passages of scripture which remind you of who God is and pray that even as you sleep, the Lord would prepare you to worship Him. (Ps.127:2)
- 3. RECOGNIZE:** You cannot prepare adequately just before worship if you are late in arriving. The worship begins at the hour for which it is called, so if you are parking the car you will miss the beginning of worship.

CONSIDER: Plan to be in your seat at least five minutes before the worship starts.
- 4. RECOGNIZE:** What you are really doing when you come to worship is joining with “the general assembly and the church of the first born who are in heaven.” (Heb. 12:23). We worship with the whole of God’s elect from every time and place—including the angels! (Heb. 12:22)

CONSIDER: As you come into church, imagine the host of brothers and sisters (saints from all the ages and angels) who are waiting to worship with you.
- 5. RECOGNIZE:** There is a healthy balance between greeting friends & being quiet before the service starts.

CONSIDER: Be quiet before worship. Read a psalm from the Bible, or the confession, creed, or reflection from the bulletin.
- 6. RECOGNIZE:** Corporate worship grows out of personal worship. Therefore, the most fundamental preparation for Sunday worship is the worship that flows from being a living sacrifice to God (Rom. 12:1-2) and having a broken and contrite heart (Ps. 51:1-10).

CONSIDER: Ask God for a heart of brokenness & openness before worship.
- 7. RECOGNIZE:** God is in our presence when we gather for worship; He constitutes us as a worshipping assembly. (Heb. 12:23; Gen. 28:17)

CONSIDER: Come, conscious that God is present.

8. RECOGNIZE: Worship takes as much effort as doing long division or playing a par 5 on the golf course.
CONSIDER: Concentrate on each phrase spoken, sung or prayed. Think as you worship (Mk 12:30).

9. RECOGNIZE: Worship is much more than hearing a sermon. The first half of our service is not “window dressing” or a warm-up for the message. The worship liturgy is intentionally centered around Christ’s presence with us.

CONSIDER: Concentrate on the meaning of each part of worship as it occurs.

10. RECOGNIZE: Worship is centered around the Word read, preached and heard, for the Word is God’s living voice speaking his will to us. As the Westminster Larger Catechism, Question 160, Says: “What is required of those that hear the word preached?”

It is required of those that hear the word preached, that they attend upon it with diligence, preparation and prayer; examine what they hear by the Scriptures; receive the truth with faith, love, meekness and readiness of mind, as the work of God; meditate and confer on it; hit it in their hearts, and bring forth the fruit of it in their lives.

CONSIDER: Listen carefully to the Word read and preached, give the sermon full attention; pray to learn from it.

11. RECOGNIZE: Worship also centers around the Sacraments. What is a sacrament? (Westminster Larger Catechism, Question 162)

A Sacrament is a holy ordinance instituted by Christ in his church, to signify, seal and exhibit unto those that are within the covenant of grace, the benefits of his mediation, to strengthen and increase their faith, and all the other graces; to oblige them to obedience, to testify and cherish their love and communion one with another; and to distinguish them from those that are without.

CONSIDER: Participate in the Sacraments: baptism-- reaffirm and “improve upon” your own baptism; communion--attend and expect Christ to minister to you.

12. RECOGNIZE: Worship should change us.

CONSIDER: During the minute of silence following the sermon, resolve to do one concrete thing on the basis of your worship. (Rom. 12:2)

13. RECOGNIZE: We do not come to worship primarily for what we “get out of it.” We come for what God “gets out of.” Do not expect to be entertained but to give worship to God.

CONSIDER: After the service, ask, “How did I do?” rather than “How do I feel?”

Other ways that you have found helpful to prepare for gathered worship:

RECOGNIZE:

CONSIDER: