## ERVE CULTURE CELEBRATE ONFESSION OF STEWARDSH CHURCH DISCIPLINE WORSHIP

Notes:

## Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life: Worship

**Definition of Worship:** 

- "ascribe worth to" someone
- "the feeling or expression of reverence and adoration for a deity"

"Worship is the occupation of the soul with God. By a deliberate act of will we focus our thoughts and feelings on God. We look with awe at his majesty. We are filled with wonder as we view His omnipotence. We stand amazed as we consider His perfect holiness. With reverence we think about His love. With gratitude we remember His mercy. This is what worship is: awe, wonder, amazement, reverence, and gratitude." *-Flavil Yeakley* 

## At least two special things happen when we gather to worship:

1. Weary spiritual warriors get to reunite and seek "group nourishment" after a week of individual devotion to God complete with the other disciplines.

This also provides a boost as your tackle the week ahead. (Mark 6:30)

"As we enter into worship, amazing things happen. All the time we've spent with God in solitude and prayer, in Bible reading and meditation, in self-discipline and fasting, as well as the spiritual direction & the Sabbath renewal we've received, come together in sharper focus as we join in the assembly of Christians in worship." *-Larry Sibley* 

2. Fellow strugglers from all genders, classes, races, and income levels come together on a common playing field (the foot of the cross) to admit mutual brokenness and to worship the One that unites us.

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." *-Hebrews 10:25* 

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<ul> <li><b>"The Dialogical Approach" Constance Cherry, The Worship</b> </li> <li><b>Architect</b> <ul> <li>God approaches (initiating a conversation)</li> <li>The participant experiences discontinuity between the divine and the human (amazement, unworthiness, confession, denial, etc.)</li> <li>God speaks</li> <li>The person responds</li> <li>God sends</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Notes:
<ul> <li>Examples from Scripture:</li> <li>Moses- Exodus 3:1-12</li> <li>Isaiah- Isaiah 6:1-13</li> <li>Mary- Luke 1:26-38</li> <li>Disciples- Luke 24:13-35</li> </ul>	
Word & Table- "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." –Luke (Acts 2:42)	
<ul> <li>Luke 24:13-35</li> <li>The Gathering- Christ approaches His followers (vv. 13-24)</li> <li>The Word- Christ engages them in the Scriptures (vv. 25-27)</li> <li>The Table- Christs' identity is known in the context of table fellowship (vv. 28-32)</li> <li>The Sending- Christ inspires them to go and tell the story (vv. 33-35)</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Points To Ponder As We Prepare To Depart: Suggestions for giving God your best in worship (adapted from David Swanger)</li> <li>1. Make worship a priority in life</li> <li>2. Make your worship God-centered; adoration vs. transactional</li> <li>3. Involve your heart, not just your lips</li> <li>4. Before coming to worship, make some preparations</li> <li>5. Be on time</li> <li>6. Bring your Bible</li> <li>7. Listen carefully to the teachings</li> <li>8. Be a participant and not a spectator</li> <li>9. Expect something wonderful to happen in worship; "holy anticipation"</li> </ul>	
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