

Straight Street for Church Planters
Unit 9 - Worship

Scripture Helps:

Isa. 6:1-9, NAS

Reflection and Thoughts

Desired outcome from this unit: For participants to discover or be reminded that true worship always focuses on God.

Desired outcome from the Basic Training unit on Worship: To help the church planting team begin to deal with principles related to worship and develop a worship plan sensitive to the issues of the ministry focus group.

I. What is God saying to me in His Word?

“In the year of King Uzziah's death, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said, ‘Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory.’ And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. Then I said, ‘Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.’ Then one of the seraphim flew to me, with a burning coal in his hand which he had taken from the altar with tongs. And he touched my mouth {with it} and said, ‘Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away, and your sin is forgiven.’ Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’ And He said, ‘Go’” (Isa. 6:1-9, NAS).

Read Revelation 4:1-11 and Ezekiel 1:28 in addition to the above passage.

What did Isaiah, John, and Ezekiel see?

They all saw a vision of God on His Throne.

What does a throne portray or represent?

In his book, *Return to Worship* (Broadman and Holman, 1999), Ron Owens says, “When we worship, we come to a throne. This is where worship must begin. Everything else arranges itself around that throne. All created life, the church, the angelic world— everything is in subjection to the One seated on the throne. When we worship, we acknowledge that all authority, power, dominion, control, and supremacy belong to Him who sits on the throne. There is no authentic worship without the acknowledgement of the authority of God.”

A church planter must give serious thought to who or what will influence the worship style for the new church plant. The biblical basis begins with an understanding that we are to worship God in spirit and truth. “*But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth*” (John 4:23-24, NAS).

Read Acts 9:1-31.

Saul’s view of God changed dramatically in Acts 9. Saul acknowledged the authority, power, and supremacy of Jesus Christ in his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus. Saul saw the Lord Jesus Christ and he never got over it. It affected everything that he said, did, and wrote. He was awestruck by the authority, power, and supremacy of God.

In what ways do you acknowledge the authority, power, and supremacy of Jesus Christ in your life?

How will you demonstrate the authority, power, and supremacy of Jesus Christ in the design of corporate worship for your church plant?

The apostle Paul kept his eyes upon the Lord; he remained focused on keeping Jesus the center of attention.

Discover some Scriptures that support the following thoughts:

1. True worship always focuses on God.

2. Biblical worship includes believers worshiping in spirit and truth.

3. Biblical worship includes a dimension that nonbelievers are seeking truth, understanding truth, coming to conviction, and becoming true worshipers.

Has it been a while since you had that kind of experience? What do you think needs to take place in your life for that to happen again?

II. What is God saying to me through others?

Read Acts 9:7-9.

Saul's traveling companions heard the sound of someone's voice, but they did not see anyone. In essence, Saul's traveling companions served as authenticators of what happened to him. However, they did not see the vision of Jesus. They heard a voice, but they did not see anyone. You will find as you engage in the activity of church planting that a variety of people will attend your Bible studies or worship events for one reason or the other. Most, if not all, are searching or looking for something. You, of course, desire that they see their need for Christ, yet most often they will observe something else before they ever see their need for Christ. What they often observe first is a sense of authenticity. They are asking themselves, is this real and can this be?

True worship is authentic worship. Authentic worship is true worship.

When Saul picked himself up off the ground, he found that he was blind. He was led away to Damascus by his traveling companions a broken and powerless man.

Try to get a picture in your mind of Saul's traveling companions leading him by the hand to Damascus as you answer these questions.

What do you think was going through the mind of Saul after his encounter with Christ?

III. What is it that I am supposed to be doing?

Read Acts 9:7-9.

Saul was led away by his traveling companions, blind, broken, and powerless.

Describe a time in your life when you were completely focused on God, in essence you were blinded to the things of the world. It was just you and God.

Has it been a while since you had that kind of experience? What do you think needs to take place in your life for that to happen again?

Describe a time of brokenness in your life.

Has it been a while since you had that kind of experience? What do you think needs to take place in your life for that to happen again?

Describe a time in your life when you were completely powerless, yet you experienced the power of God.

Has it been a while since you had that kind of experience? What do you think needs to take place in your life for that to happen again?

Would you agree that authentic worship involves being broken before God?

Is there an area in your life that needs to be broken before God so that you can enjoy authentic worship with Him?

Remember – True worship always focuses on God!

