

Meditations for your week

How are the leaders of worship helpful to my worship? What does a leader need from me *while they are leading* to make them a better leader? What am I ready to do if called upon to lead in worship? How can I help a worship leader grow in their desire and ability to lead?

How well do I prepare my heart for worship with the church? What could I do to be more ready for worship? What have been the obstacles to being fully ready for worship, and what strategies can I use to lessen their effect? How can I be ready to not only meet God but also people in worship?

In my personal time with God, what is produced in me that I can share with others? What have I prepared as a word of blessing? As a word of hope and comfort? As a word of exhortation? As a word of rebuke? What are all the occasions for using my voice in the gathering of the church?

How have I allowed my needs to keep me from worship? What burdens do I need to bring into worship so that they may be healed? How can my need be a blessing to others? How can I better expect to be moved by worship and in worship? What attitude is needed so that I can receive healing?



Sermon Notes
March 14, 2021

"Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church." —1 Corinthians 14:12

Homemade Bread and Wine: What Do I Bring to Worship?

While leadership and expertise are

useful gifts from God,

worshippers are not presenters and spectators.

We are all participants and partners.

What can you bring?

Your preparation

Your voice

Your need

Sometimes there is a united "Amen."

Sometimes we take turns.

Sometimes we bless or are blessed.

Each part of the body must move.

Group Discussion Questions

Open

What most affects your ability to listen to and to learn in and to enjoy an event you are attending—a movie, a training meeting for work, a concert, a property owners association meeting?

Dig and Reflect

1. Read Nehemiah 8. In this chapter, how do the people as a whole lead, and how do they follow? What kind of initiative do we all need to take in worship? What kind of attitude do we need to have to follow and respond?
2. What is the evidence of the crowd's openness to God? What kind of evidence can be seen in us when we are worshipping from the heart? How can that evidence be helpful to those who see us?
3. How do the Israelite leaders equip the people to worship more effectively? What is the difference between the worship leaders doing worship for us and doing it with us? What makes for the most effective equipping of the entire body to participate fully in worship?
4. How does the worship extend out from their assembly when they leave? What do changed people look like and act like when they move out from worship? What can help the effects of worship to last longer?
5. What do you personally need to bring to worship in the way of preparation, a message, or a need?