

10 Ways For All Ages to Worship God Meaningfully

Worship is a verb, not a noun. It's something we do. We can't worship our loving Father God merely by watching other people do it. Worship should not be a church programme for spectators. Worshipping God involves learning more about Him and developing a personal relationship with Him. It involves our feelings about God and our feelings about our relationship with Him. It involves sharing those feelings with Him. And worshipping together with our church family involves all of us sharing our knowledge and experiences of God to praise Him and encourage one another. Here are some suggestions for planning opportunities for all the church family to worship meaningfully.

1. Study the Spiritual Needs of the Congregation

Consider the children, youth and adults. Begin with situations that children encounter and you will address issues with which youth and adults still struggle.

2. Decide on the main Message

Make the message relevant and



practical, eg forgiveness: how to receive God's forgiveness

and how to practice forgiveness towards others.

3. Employ the Five Senses

We remember 83 percent of what we see and do, but only 11 percent of what we hear. After three days, we've forgotten all but 10 percent of a lecture or sermon.

4. Prepare an Introduction

The way you begin the service can be a foretaste of the spiritual blessing to come.

5. Use Stories

Jesus reached adults and children with powerful stories, everyday object lessons and humour. You can too!



6. Select the Best Stories to Illustrate the Message

Use Bible stories and Jesus' parables that illustrate the chosen message, eg for forgiveness: the unforgiving servant, Joseph and his brothers.

7. Use Re-enactments

Look for well-written children's Bible stories and use the text for mime, spoken re-enactments or puppet presentations.

8. Use Questions

Ask one or two thought provoking questions to help children, youth and adults apply the worship message to their lives. Ask: What is God trying to tell me through this Scripture or Bible story? What does He want me to do about it?

9. Give Opportunity for a Commitment

Build to a climax. Give all worshippers the opportunity to make a commitment appropriate to the theme of the service. Think of someone who has wronged you. What will you do this week to show that person forgiveness.

10 Follow Up

In a later service, follow up by asking for volunteers to share their experiences of practicing or receiving forgiveness.

