

Activity 1:  
Exploring Worship



WORSHIP



**GOAL:** Consider the impact of the pastoral message.

*I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. —Ephesians 3:7-9 (NIV)*



**ACTION:** As you attend corporate worship this week (that's worship with other people), we invite you to notice that there are a couple of distinct focus areas. First, as you discovered in Part 1, there is a focus on offering our praise to God. This, of course, takes many forms. Second, there is a focus on helping us learn how to take our next steps toward maturity as disciples (the message or sermon offered by the pastor) and opportunities that are provided to respond to the invitation to move forward (challenges for how we will offer our time, talents and resources, as well as opportunities for prayer, communion, etc.).

This week you are encouraged to pay particular attention to the message (sermon) presented during worship.



**JOURNAL REFLECTION:** How were you encouraged to honor God by the way you live? What, specifically, is the next step you were being asked to consider? What made the sermon effective in thinking about these questions? What, if anything, made you uncomfortable?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Activity 2:  
Exploring Hospitality



# HOSPITALITY



**GOAL:** Remember your own story, how you were introduced to Jesus.

*The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip. When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit." "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel." Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." –John 1:43-50 (NIV)*



**ACTION:** In the Gospel of John, chapter 1, we read the account of Philip inviting Nathanael to come and meet Jesus. Nathanael was a little reluctant to meet Jesus, but in doing so he discovered the purpose he had been looking for all his life.



**JOURNAL REFLECTION:** Who introduced you to Jesus? Who invited you to church? What is the story of how you found your way to Christ and the people who were part of that process?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Activity 3:  
Exploring Being  
Open to Jesus



# OPENING TO JESUS



**GOAL:** Learn from someone else's story.

*Get all the advice and instruction you can, so you will be wise the rest of your life.*  
—Proverbs 19:20 (NLT)



**ACTION:** There are lots of ways one can discover the difference that a relationship with God through Jesus makes. There are scores of books available. Lots of blogs are out there to read. Conferences are held all around the country helping people discover the power of this relationship. Perhaps the easiest and most natural is to ask a disciple you know and respect or someone you just met whose passion for Jesus impressed you. You are encouraged to take a disciple to lunch, coffee, or ice cream and ask them about their story.

- How did they meet Jesus?
- What difference is Jesus making in their life?
- How do they experience the presence of God?
- What are they doing to keep growing in that relationship?



**JOURNAL REFLECTION:** Record what you are learning and what questions are coming to mind as you reflect on this person's responses.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Activity 4:  
Exploring Obedience



OBEDIENCE



**GOAL:** Perform a Random Act of Kindness.

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship.  
–Romans 12:1 (NIV)*



**ACTION:** Recently Phil was driving to an event in New Hampshire and came to a toll booth on the interstate. As he moved his car up to pay the toll, the toll booth operator informed him that the lady in the car ahead of him had paid his toll. To say the least, he was surprised and feeling “warm fuzzies” at the kindness that had been displayed.

Our culture calls actions like this “Random Acts of Kindness.” The Scriptures call them service and generosity and even worship (refer back to Paul’s words in his letter to the Romans). Perform an act of kindness (service, generosity, worship) this week in such a way that it is truly anonymous.



**JOURNAL REFLECTION:** What did you do? How did it make you feel? What surprised you the most about this experience?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



# Activity 6: Exploring Generosity



# GENEROSITY



**GOAL:** Take a close look at your day-to-day expenditures.

*I'll make you a great nation and bless you. I'll make you famous; you'll be a blessing. . . All the families of the Earth will be blessed through you.*  
—Genesis 12:11 (The Message)



**ACTION:** The verse listed above is from Genesis, the very first book of the Bible. It establishes, right from the beginning, this chain reaction of blessings being paid forward. There are, of course, many ways to be a blessing. In this context the family of Abram (later Abraham) is going to be a witness to the God of the Universe for all the people groups of this world. You and I probably will start smaller.

One of the ways we are a blessing is that we share out of the resources God has provided us to make a difference in other people's lives. But we can't do that if we don't have any resources available because we have depleted them all. Sometimes we do this without even thinking about it. We spend several dollars on a fancy coffee at Starbucks when our homebrew would work just fine. We stop for fast food (which usually isn't very good for us) when we're just minutes from home.

Use a daily expense tracker to create an honest account of how you are spending your resources (find one you like by visiting an image search engine like [www.images.google.com](http://www.images.google.com) and typing in "daily expense tracker"). Start with a day to see just how quickly you notice patterns, then carry on for a week, keeping detailed notes.



**JOURNAL REFLECTION:** What did you discover about yourself and your spending habits? What are ways you could act differently, thus creating space for generosity?

---

---

---

---