

# TAKE IT HOME

## *The Marks of Discipleship: Worship*

### **Day One: Invitation**

Why do you worship? Why is worship so important, a mark of the disciple? Read Psalm 22:22-23, 25-31. Make a list of the descriptive words used for worship. Worship is not something focused on us, the worshipper, but on God, the One we worship. God invites us to worship. Worship is not about making us feel good, but about praising, honoring, proclaiming and kneeling before God. It's an invitation to be in God's presence, today and through all generations. Worship is holy time, where a whole community of people focus on God. Today, spend some time thinking about tangible ways you can accept this invitation to touch the divine.

### **Day Two: Confession**

Worship begins with an invitation, then moves to our confession. Why is confession such an important part of worship? Read Micah 6:6-8. Confession is the part of worship when we empty ourselves. It's a time to leave the things of this world and open ourselves to the heavenly. In confessing we answer the question, "What is in the way of your relationship with God?" Micah suggests the attitude for worship is to "act just," "love mercy" and "walk humbly" before God. Today, write a confession to God about what gets in the way of your relationship. Use this confession as your prayer.

### **Day Three: The Word**

We are now open to hear God's Word in worship. God's Word is central to worship – the main way to hear God's voice. Read Psalm 119:81, 89-90, 97-98, and 105. God's Word is heard in the reading of the Scripture, through the message spoken and the songs sung. The Word of God provides hope, strength, a foundation and a light for our lives. As we are involved in regular worship, these Words of God become woven into our everyday actions, decision-making and values. As we grow as disciples, hearing God's Word come alive in worship becomes part of the rhythm of life. How has God's Word come alive for you in worship? What role has worship had in helping you grow as a disciple of Christ? Today, pray for the leaders who preach God's word.

### **Day Four: Affirmation of Faith**

How do you affirm your faith? Affirming faith, individually and as a community, is a key part of our worship life. Joining voices, hearts and lives to proclaim that God is alive in our world and in God's people is one of the true joys of being a believer. Read Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12. Jesus is our finest example of a living faith. In worship, we are challenged to live our faith. As we affirm our faith in God, this public action unites us as a community, and in so doing, our hearts are affirmed by God. Have you been moved by publicly affirming your faith? What was it like? Today, pray for an opportunity to tell others about what you believe.

### **Day Five: Giving**

Worship is not passive, but active. One of the ways we are engaged in worship is through the opportunity to give. Although the ways of giving may change, why we give and to whom we give has not. Read Hebrews 13:1-3, 15-16. Giving challenges us to focus on others and share our blessings. We may give of our time, our gifts and talents, prayers, resources. The list could go on... For Christ's disciples, the question is not, "If we should give," rather, "What we will give?" How are you giving for Christ? Are you actively engaging in worship through giving? Today, pray that you might give your heart in worship and be opened to God's leading in this area of your life.

### **Day Six: Prayers**

Another way we actively participate in worship is through prayer. As disciples, we are called to pray for others, for our own needs, and to be in relationship with God. As Solomon dedicated the temple, he was aware of the role of prayer in worship. Read 1 Kings 8:27-30. The sanctuary in which we worship, just as the temple of Solomon's time, is holy space. God promises to be present in this holy space, not only in worship, but anytime we come into the sanctuary. How does your worship space help you connect with God in prayer? Today, imagine yourself in your favorite worship space and offer your prayers to God.

### **Day Seven: Sending**

Although worship has a beginning and an end, our call to be disciples of Christ does not. Worship ends with a charge. Read Hebrews 13:20-21. Having been invited, confessed our sins, heard the Word, affirmed our faith and prayed, we are then sent into the world in Jesus' name. Without going into the world, to face the ups and downs of life, the true benefits of worship cannot be experienced. Worship is not for us, a community of believers, to stay together, but to go and live as disciples. Jesus did not spend all of his time with believers, but with all people. So, we are to move about bringing God into the world. How are you doing at living your faith each day? Today, take these words of Hebrews seriously and live your faith in your home, work place and/or school. Pray for opportunities to touch people with God's love.