



GOAL

Youth explore ways the church gathers to worship in community and identifies four parts of corporate worship.

- A** Art
- AM** Active/Movement
- AT** Abstract Thinking
- C** Conversation
- CT** Concrete Thinking
- D** Drama
- G** Game
- M** Music
- QC** Quiet/Contemplative
- S** Service
- T** Technology
- X** Extra Prep

Note: bit.ly addresses are case-sensitive.



PRAYER

Shepherding God, gather us and make us one family. May I learn from you and create a safe space of learning for your children. Amen.

THIS SESSION

God’s people gather with others to worship God in community to experience comfort and support among people who share allegiance and commitment to God. Gathering for worship forms us as a people with a shared purpose. We gather around the same book, the same cup and loaf, and the same baptismal waters. We share a common belief in God’s love for the world, the forgiveness and mercy known in Christ, and a tangible fellowship united by God’s Holy Spirit. Children, youth, and others new to the faith may not fully confess the same beliefs as the rest of the faith community, yet there is value in gathering with seekers and other disciples along life’s journey.

THE BIBLE STORY

Luke 24:13–35 recounts Jesus’ walk to Emmaus with two of his disciples. Distraught over the death of Jesus, they do not recognize him as he joins them on the road. He walks with them, explaining the Scriptures until they reach their destination. They invite him in and, as he breaks bread with them, they become aware of who he is. They hurry back to tell the other disciples what has happened.

Within this story, we see the four parts of worship in action. They gather; they hear and interpret Scripture; they respond by eating with one another; and they go into the world to share the good news.

CONNECTIONS WITH YOUTH

Through regular community worship, youth may be familiar with the four parts of worship liturgy: gather, hear, respond, go out. Helping them discover that this pattern is not random and can be found within Scripture may help them connect with worship in a new way.

SESSION PREPARATION

Depending on the options you choose:

- “God’s Home” (p. 6): Ensure that your congregation’s worship space is available for a class tour.
- “Gathering Song” (p. 8): Obtain hymnals.
- “The Liturgical Path” (p. 8): Obtain the *Worship God* infographic poster (bit.ly/FMInfographicPosters, Year 3 Set). Gather copies of your congregation’s worship bulletin.

GETTING STARTED

- Copies of Resource Page 1
- Pencils



WORSHIP WORDS

QC G

Give each youth a pencil and a copy of Resource Page 1. Encourage them to find the words listed below the word search puzzle. When everyone has arrived, gather the group. Ask if any of the words are unfamiliar to them. Discuss the word meanings. Explain that, during this practice, we will explore the ways we worship as a family of God and why we do the things we do in worship.



INTRODUCING THE PRACTICE

Choose one or more options.

- Copies of Resource Page 2

PRAISING GOD

A C CT

Distribute copies of Resource Page 2. Select one of the following ways to use the adapted version of Psalm 150 with your group. Try using a different practice of reading the psalm to begin each session of this unit.

- Read it aloud in unison.
- Read it aloud, alternating between a leader and the group.
- Lead it, inviting the group to echo each line.
- Form two or four groups and have each group take turns reading aloud the lines.
- Form two or four groups and have each group take turns reading aloud the lines and acting them out with motions and/or sounds.



Keep Resource Page 2 for sessions 2, 3, and 4.

GATHER TOGETHER

C CT

Invite youth to think about a time when they have gathered with family or friends at someone's house for a special occasion like a holiday, birthday, or party. Discuss the following questions:

- ➔ Where did you gather? In what room? What was in the room?
- ➔ What did you do? What things did you need?
- ➔ Who was there? How did they know to come? How did they know what to do?

Explain that we gather as a church as well. We come together in a sanctuary or chapel to worship God. In that space, we eat, pray, and learn together.

GOD'S HOME

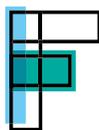
AM C AT X

Take a field trip to your congregation's worship space. Have the youth sit in the pews or chairs. Ask them to identify who gathers in the space. Explain that, when we gather for worship, we come together to do the same thing in the same place. Ask how people know that it is time to stop visiting and begin the worship service. Encourage them to think of other places where people might gather like this.

Gather youth around the baptismal font or baptistry. Discuss what happens there. Invite them to explain the significance of water in a baptism. Ask why it is important that worshipers are able to see where baptism takes place.

Gather youth around the Communion Table. Discuss what happens at the table and who can gather there. Ask how people know that it is time to gather there. Encourage youth to think of other places where families might gather like this.

Explain that, at church, much like at home, people gather around the table to eat together, around the font to be made clean and new, and around the Word to learn and grow. These are the things we do in worship.



FINDING THE PRACTICE IN THE BIBLE

Choose one or both options.

I WONDER

C AT

Bibles

Have youth locate Luke 24:13–35 in their Bibles. Invite them to use their imagination as the Scripture is read and think about what they might see and hear if they were nearby, watching Jesus and the disciples. As they hear the story, invite them to wonder about the story. What questions would they want to ask? What isn't answered in the story that they wish was there? Explain that they might not know the answer to the questions and that is OK.

- Invite a volunteer to read verses 13–18. Stop and wonder together.
- Invite another volunteer to read verses 19–27. Stop and wonder together.
- Invite another to read verses 28–32. Stop and wonder together.
- Invite another to read verses 33–35. Stop and wonder together.

Explain that Jesus' interaction with these two disciples embodies a four-part movement that we use in worship services in our congregations. These four parts are: Gather, Hear, Respond, and Go Out. Recall the story and identify where each of these parts is found.

ACT IT OUT

AM D

Bibles

Explain that Luke 24:13–35 includes the disciples' encounter with Jesus after his death and resurrection. Their interaction embodies a four-part movement that we continue to practice in worship services in our congregations. These four parts are: Gather, Hear, Respond, and Go Out. Read aloud the verses and have youth identify each of the four parts within the story.

Form four groups and assign each group one of the four parts of worship. The groups read the Scripture and develop a skit to act out the story with an emphasis on their assigned worship part. They may use their own voices, words, and actions to enact the Bible story. Give them time to practice their story.

Gather the youth and invite each small group to act out the Bible story. Identify the parts of worship on display.



FINDING THE PRACTICE THEN AND NOW

Choose one or both options.

- Bibles
- Paper and pens

PLACES OF GATHERING

AT C

Explain that the people of God have been gathering to worship God for a very long time. Form four groups or pairs. Assign each a separate Scripture passage: Luke 4:16–22; Nehemiah 8:1–8; Mark 6:34–44; Acts 2:37–47.

Groups read their assigned Scripture and identify the place where the community is gathering. Invite them to think about why the people gathered there, who gathered there, and how the place is similar to and different from our gathering places. Bring the small groups together to discuss their texts and the gathering places.

- Internet-connected device
- Hymnals

GATHERING SONG

C M T

Explain that one of the ways people gather in church is through song. When we sing, we do the same thing at the same time. We breathe and speak as one big group. Encourage them to talk about times when they have gathered to sing with a group. Ask if they have heard songs used to help groups gather or transition to different activities. Invite them to recall songs that were used in this way.

Show the YouTube video “Hymn—Blessed Jesus, at Your Word” (bit.ly/FMGatherSong, 2:28). Invite suggestions of why this song might be used as a gathering song. Distribute hymnals and use the index to find other songs that would be good as a gathering song.



PRACTICING THE PRACTICE

Choose one or both options.

- Worship God* infographic poster
- Copies of your congregation’s worship bulletin

THE LITURGICAL PATH

AT C X

Explain that corporate worship is when people in a congregation gather together to worship God. In many congregations, corporate worship follows a four-part pattern: Gather, Hear, Respond, and Go Out. The first part is gathering. Some churches label this as “Gathering” or “Gather in God’s Name” in the bulletin or on screen.

Show the *Worship God* infographic poster. Have youth locate steps on the path that make up *gathering*. Discuss the words spoken, people’s actions, music used, and prayers prayed.

Distribute copies of your congregation’s bulletin. Have youth identify the gathering elements on the bulletin and compare them to the poster. Discuss words or actions that help the youth prepare and gather for worship.

WRITING GATHERING LITURGY

QC S

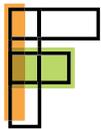
- Copies of Resource Page 3
- Pens

Explain that the Call to Worship, the Call to Confession, and the Invitation to the Table are three parts of the worship service that invite people to gather around important parts of worship: the Word, the table, and the font. Distribute copies of Resource Page 3.

Explain that the Call to Worship invites the congregation to worship together. It is sometimes a piece of Scripture that the leader and the congregation take turns reading. The Call to Confession invites people to pray together and make their confessions to God. The Invitation to the Table invites people to come to the Communion Table to eat.

Form three groups. Assign each group one of the types of gathering liturgy. Encourage them to read an example of their assigned liturgy and use it as a guide to write their own gathering invitation.

Gather the youth and have them share their gathering liturgies. Discuss if they would like to have their words used in corporate worship. Determine how they can do this.



FOLLOWING JESUS

COMMITTING TO THE PRACTICE

C

Remind the youth that the church gathers for corporate worship each week. We can also find ways that we gather around food, water, and Jesus' teaching all week long. Encourage youth to practice gathering with other people at meals this week. If the family eats dinner together, say a prayer to thank God for the food and for the people at the table.

CLOSING IN PRAYER

QC

Invite the youth to join you in a closing prayer. Say a line and the youth repeat it.

God of love, /
you call us into community. /
We gather as one family to worship you. /
Thank you for this family. /
Keep us safe until we gather again. Amen. /

Worship Words

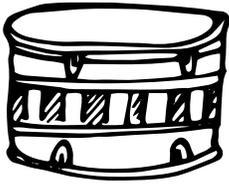


LITANY
PRAYER
CONFESSION
KYRIE
ASSURANCE
SING

PARDON
PEACE
PRAISE
GATHERING
WELCOME
CONGREGATION

CORPORATE
TABLE
FONT
BIBLE

Psalm 150 (adapted) Praising God!



Praise God everyone!

Praise God everywhere!

Praise God's mighty deeds!

Praise God's incredible greatness!

Praise God with trumpet sound!

Praise God with lute and harp!

Praise God with tambourine!

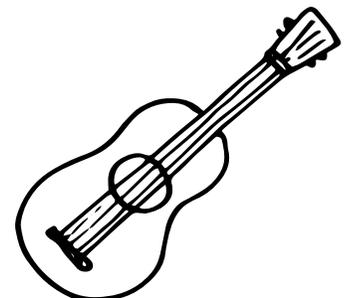
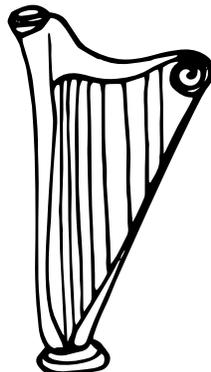
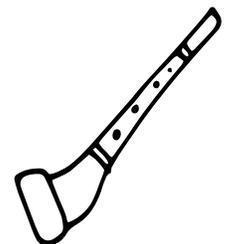
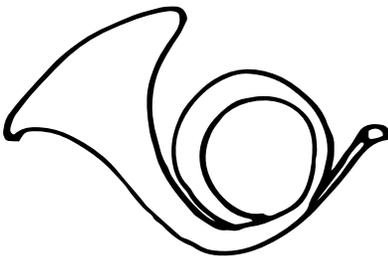
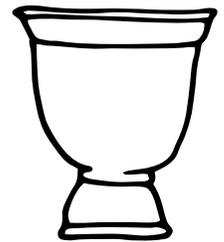
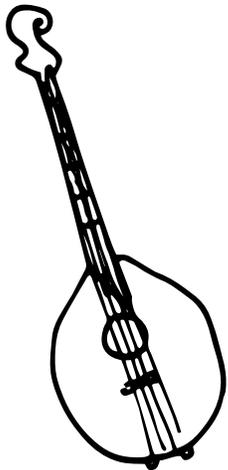
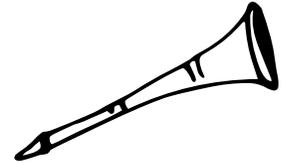
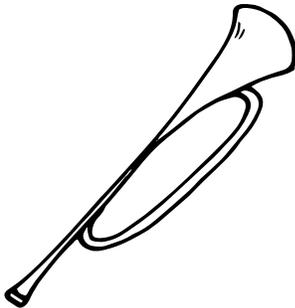
Praise God with drum and dance!

Praise God with strings and pipe!

Praise God with clanging bells!

Praise God with loud clashing cymbals!

Let every living thing praise God!



Keep this Resource Page to use throughout the practice.

Writing Liturgy

Call to Worship

Psalm 100, NIV

¹Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

²Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.

³Know that the LORD is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

⁴Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.

⁵For the LORD is good and his love endures
forever;
his faithfulness continues through all
generations.

Call to Confession

God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the gift of the Holy Spirit.
The proof of God's amazing love is this:
While we were sinners Christ died for us.
Because we have faith in him,
we dare to approach God in confidence.
Trusting this, let us confess our sin.

Invitation to the Table

Here is the table of the Lord,
we are gathered to his supper,
a foretaste of things eternal.
Come, when you are fearful, to be made new in love.
Come, when you are doubtful, to be made strong in faith.
Come, when you are regretful, and be made whole.
Come, old and young,
there is room for all.

From *Gathering for Worship: Patterns and Prayers for the Community of Disciples*, Baptist Union of Great Britain (Canterbury Press Norwich, 2005).