

Suggestions for Creative Worship in Cell Groups

Leading worship in a cell group is not just for the musically gifted, but for anyone who has the desire to lead people from where they are to a point closer to God or to be made more aware of his presence.

It is the role of the worship leader to create an environment where the focus is on Jesus- where we recognise and respond to his marvellous love and grace. Singing has a major part to play in this -but if we restrict ourselves to this one form of worship we are limiting ourselves and God! The bible is full of examples of offering our bodies as living sacrifices-holy & pleasing to God as a spiritual act of worship (Rom12v1).

This booklet contains some suggestions for worship that may challenge but hopefully encourage your group not to let worship become a ritual - but to press on in to the very heart of God. Choose prayerfully and sensitively - but be prepared to take risks too!

Not everybody will appreciate everything suggested - however singing doesn't suit everybody either - variety is the key. These ideas can be combined with singing too.



Worship with Words

1. With a suitable CD playing in background -individually write a love letter to God. Let people know they do not have to share their letter with the group unless they wish to. Invite people who wish to share - then pray together in light of what has been shared.
2. Modernise an old hymn - take an old hymn or take a verse each and get people to rewrite it - in more contemporary language - youth cells might use txt language
3. Rewrite a psalm - ask people to choose a favourite Psalm - then rewrite all or some verses of it into their own words.
4. Create a Psalm (i) - choose a theme e.g. God's Faithfulness- everyone write one sentence - one person read the sentences together as in a psalm to God's faithfulness
5. Create a Psalm (ii) Have everyone write the first verse of any Psalm on the top of a piece of paper (or you may want to have these prepared earlier). Each person passes their paper to the right- the next person reads the verse and then adds one to it from their own thoughts, building on the previous verse. Continue until everyone has added to each psalm. Read each psalm aloud.
6. Names of God - give each person an index card or post card. Ask them to write down as many names of God as they can in a set time e.g. 4-5 mins. Ask people to share some of the names. Talk about why these are significant

to particular people in the group. Make this the basis for prayer & praise in the group.

7. Group prayer may be difficult for some new Christians - encourage people to write a prayer at home that they can read out during a time of singing- this also encourages everyone to come prepared for the worship- not just the leader.

8. Have a large sheet of paper in the middle of the room as you either sing worship songs - or listen to a CD- people respond as they wish to write words or simple sentences on the sheet.

9. Encourage people to write out their most heartfelt prayers to God (letting them know they will not be read by others) Place folded slips of paper in a suitable dish and set them alight as an offering to God before moving into a time of singing.

10. Give everyone a prepared sheet that has the word God...or Jesus...or the Holy Spirit....repeated about 30 times(see next page) - people fill in the spaces e.g. God is love. God is Great, God never fails. This stretches people past the first 10-20 things they think about God / Jesus / the Holy Spirit -to go deeper.

Jesus	Jesus	Jesus
Jesus	Jesus	Jesus
Jesus	Jesus	Jesus
Jesus	Jesus	Jesus
Jesus	Jesus	Jesus
Jesus	Jesus	Jesus
Jesus	Jesus	Jesus
Jesus	Jesus	Jesus
Jesus	Jesus	Jesus
Jesus	Jesus	Jesus
Jesus	Jesus	Jesus

Speaking forth ...



11. Go around the group having each person take the next letter of the alphabet to describe an attribute of God. Read Psalm 145 and have a time of thanks to God.

12. Allow people a few minutes to personally reflect on the past week or so, looking for times that God has been at work in your life, answered prayer or been present in a way that you may have overlooked at the time. Listen to each person's experience, then share prayers of thanks and praise for these things.

13. Remind people that they are 'speaking' to God as they sing - read out a song rather than sing it - give any background you may know- have members concentrate on one or two main themes which run through the song.

14. Use each line of the Lord's Prayer as a guide for a few minutes of group prayer. For example, after hallowed be thy name is read, worship by using various names for God in praise. Work through the entire prayer in this way.

15. Responsive / liturgical readings. Having the scripture read and giving a verbal response can be very powerful and bring new insight. Many Psalms are structured as liturgies of praise. Perhaps have the leader and the group alternate reading verses. Responsive readings can also be found in some church hymnals and other worship resources.

16. Go round in a circle with each person saying one thing they appreciate about God

17. Meditate on worshipful scripture and speak out responses e.g. Rev 4:5, Psalm 91, Psalm 63

18. Create a rhythmic chant e.g. His Love endures for ever.

19. Have the Name JESUS written on a large sheet and placed prominently in the room - give people time to simply meditate on the name then speak out responses. Finish with suitable song - e.g. Jesus, name above all names

20. Read a psalm out slowly - pause at particularly significant bits- allow people to absorb what is said, use the time to focus on God then speak or pray out their response.

Creative with Creation

21. Take a walk in the countryside and as you prayer walk together in 2's or 3's thank God for what you see and how it speaks to you about the creator. Finish corporately in a suitable place either outdoors or back inside.

22. Bring creation indoors - use pictures / slides / DVD / Video etc- or simply a display of objects such as flowers, foliage, seed heads, bark, stones, shells etc to - allow people to respond to the display as God speaks to them or direct thoughts in a particular way e.g. creator God, God of the details, God of colour & variety.

23. Give people opportunity to walk around garden or house and each bring something back that speaks to them about God. For special events e.g. Christmas, Easter ask them to bring back something that speaks to them afresh about the Christmas / Easter story.





Arts & Crafts

24. Using Clay - quick drying clay is easily obtained from craft shops or children's play shops (Early Learning Centre) and is a great medium for people to express themselves by.

- Use clay to create something that illustrates your faith - then give people opportunity to explain what they made to the group - pray in 3's on basis of what is shared
- With a familiar CD playing in background or after meditating on a piece of scripture allow people to respond by using the clay.

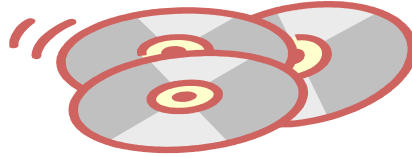
25. Have a variety of materials to hand - twigs, twine, wood, nails, lego blocks, paper, pens, clay, plasticine, paint etc- with a CD focussing on the cross ask people to meditate on what the cross means in their life and then construct a simple cross. Ask people to share how God spoke to them when the group comes back together - finish with prayer of thanksgiving for the incredible work & power of the Cross of Christ.

26. Have some art materials ready - ask people to draw or paint something that expresses their worship to God after a suitable reading of poetry or scripture or after listening to a track of a CD. Continue playing a CD in the background - either on a theme - or instrumental to allow people time with their own thoughts.

27. Have some newspapers and magazines available - ask people to create a collage that expresses something about God- or expresses what they want to say to God. Or simply chose some headlines that reveal something of God's nature.

When using arts & crafts it is important to create the right atmosphere so that people are not just 'doing' but are also given opportunity to think and be stretched in their thoughts and responses to God. Using CD's in the background can help keep focus and a worshipful atmosphere.

It is also important to emphasise that it is not about creating masterpieces - but simple, heartfelt offerings and that each person's contribution is precious and valuable to God and to the group.



Using CDs

This is usually the first thing people think of when challenged to lead worship without using a musical instrument - but as with all aspects of having an effective worship time it needs good preparation and bearing in mind a few practical points

- Make sure there is a CD player available! (don't assume)
- Familiarise yourself with how it works and sit close by it. Make sure it can be heard in all the room- check levels before.
- Do not have too many different CD's to have to change from - create your own mix if possible.
- If words are unfamiliar (even if you know them well others may not!) or hard to make out - have a printed version available
- Allow the Holy Spirit to flow - do not just work through your chosen selection
- Don't forget to use the pause button to allow time for people to respond in between

Try to cut down on anything that would be a distraction to Focussing on Jesus as the centre of the worship time.

Some churches that have the resources may find it helpful to put together a selection of current worship songs on a CD - with and /or without words for use of cells - we have done this at CFC and found it a useful resource.

28. Use a CD to sing along to chosen songs / hymns - have words printed out for everyone

29. Meditate on one track -or a selection of tracks on a theme- share your thoughts and then pray.

30. Play a track of a worship CD - ask people to think about what God might be thinking as He hears this worship - share thoughts.

31. Encourage people to experiment with body posture while listening to a CD
- lie on floor, kneel, stand, lift hands etc

useful scriptures to consider

Neh 8:6, 2 Chron 29:30, Ps95:6, 1Kings18:39,

Rev 11v16-17, Lam 3:41, Ps 28:2, Ps 134:2 Ps 24:7

32. Dance before God If room is not big enough use garden - or arrange to meet in church building one week. Many people would never dance in front of the whole church but may try it in the safety of a cell meeting. Ex 15:20, 2 Sam6:14, Ps 149:3.

33. Flags - likewise there may be people who would never wave a flag in a celebration meeting but would like to express their worship in this way in a cell - and they may even gain the confidence to do it in the bigger meeting in future. Give people opportunity to get used to the feel of the flag - discuss how flags were used in biblical times - then choose suitable music and worship together using the flags.



Other Ideas

34. Break bread / share communion together. (Consideration should be made for any recovering alcoholics in the group when choosing whether or not to use wine at this time.)

35. Encourage people to occasionally keep eyes open during the worship time - while focussing on God also remembering we are together as the Body of Christ - the Church and come to Him not just individually but also as a community of His people.

36. Using candles can be very effective- not just to create an atmosphere in which to worship - but to focus on aspects of God or Jesus - e.g. light of the world, the centre of our worship, the source of our hope - 3 candles signifying Father, Son & Holy Spirit.

37. Using other symbols e.g. give each person a large nail to hold in their hand as you sing or listen to a song focussing on the cross or bring out at intervals some symbols such as a purple robe, a staff, a crown of thorns, some large nails, some wine & bread. Ask people to respond in words & prayers.

38. Stir up spiritual gifts by encouraging people to share prophetic words & pictures during worship time - when appropriate ask people to respond.

39. Use an excerpt from the Jesus video or the Passion of Christ DVD with a music track in the background.

40. Make a joyful noise - bring along some percussion or kids instruments - drums, bells etc - use along with singing or with a CD.

What ever you do - do it as unto the Lord! Have fun - and bring Him pleasure.