

### III. Leading Worship and Ministry

Worship is essentially surrendering to God and engaging his presence. It's a unique time to set our minds on Jesus together. Worship refreshes and realigns our view of God.

Worshiping in life group is an upward experience, but also an opportunity for an outward experience as we pray for one another and encourage them. Songs, scripture, prayers of gratitude or praise can all be part of how we worship in life group. Here are some basic ways to facilitate a life giving worship time:

Pre-worship: (here are some ways to set the stage for meaningful worship)

- 1.! Pray for your LG worship time during the week.
- 2.! Prepare 15-18 minutes of songs.
- 3.! Have song sheets with lyrics or YouTube videos with lyrics prepared. Use our YouTube Red account to access playlists from CrossBridge.
- 4.! Whoever is leading this time, make sure you have given them this info to coach them in leading. One idea is have the host home lead since they know their sound system.

During worship

- 1.! If you have kids, try to begin by worshiping with them to one upbeat, fun song encouraging them to jump, dance, shake an instrument. Conclude with time of prayer as families, kids, or differing groups to generate a culture of prayer and worship with our kids.
- 2.! Have everyone begin standing. Explain they are free to kneel, sit, raise their hands, whatever helps them worship. Encourage freedom in this time.
- 3.! Ministry during worship: Begin by being still and asking the Lord for something encouraging to share with someone in the group. Let the group know our desire is to encourage, comfort, strengthen one another—I Cor. 14:3—New Testament Prophecy. You don't have to "hear" from God to pray for someone. Often the simple exercise of reaching out to bless will open the door for the Holy Spirit to do more than you expected. Here are a few options to start with:
  - ! In the time of waiting, each person ask the Lord for a scripture to share with the group to encourage the group. Sharing God's Word is always a good thing!
  - ! Draw names of group members from a hat and ask the Lord for encouragements to write on the card. Place them back in the hat and at end of worship distribute them to each person to read and be edified.
  - ! During worship, encourage the group to go to a person and pray for them or share something encouraging with them. (a picture, word, scripture, etc.)
- 4.! Periodically worship by participating in communion together.
- 5.! Read a Psalm together: let it inform your praise
- 6.! Picture Jesus: using a scripture that gives imagery to Jesus (Ex: Ps. 23- Good

Shepherd, Rev. 1:12-20 Jesus), share it with your group and have them picture Jesus the way he is described in scripture while singing, acknowledging his attributes, and having fellowship with the Holy Spirit during songs.

### Practicals for leading worship

The source of music can be an instrumentalist, YouTube worship videos, an iPhone or CD. Multiple sources of music open up the door for non-instrumentalists to lead. Here are good tips for worship:

- Song selection: choose 3-4 songs, most of which are familiar. Start with upbeat tempos and progress to more slower paced songs. If you want, maybe introduce only one new song at each worship time. We want them to engage fully, so knowing the songs helps.
- Remind them of why we worship: use the paragraph above to remind the group why we worship.
- Start standing: this is what we do on Sunday and is a good way to get people engaged... especially after a meal.
- Higher volume: set the volume loud enough so that people don't feel self conscious about singing in a small group
- Prayer or scripture between songs: prior to worship ask the group to ask the Lord to bring to mind a scripture to read in between the songs. Don't stop the music, but turn the volume down some, giving people room to share or pray.
- Prayer at end: after the last song pray. Bless the Lord, pray with gratitude, affirm your need for his continued presence in the next part of life group.



Life Drain Alert: allowing the worship time to be stagnant. If something's not life giving, then ask for help, don't do anything for the sake of "just doing it."