

## Leading Worship

Worship is essentially surrendering to God and engaging his presence. It's a unique time to set our minds on Jesus together. Worshiping in Lifegroup is an upward experience, but also an opportunity for an outward experience as we pray for and encourage others. Songs, scripture, prayers of gratitude or praise can all be part of how we worship in Lifegroup.

## Goal: Increase participation/eliminate distractions.

Here are some basic coaching points for whoever leads worship:

- Pray for your Lifegroup worship time during the week.
- Prepare 15-18 minutes worth of songs. (Two to four songs)
- Sing familiar songs such as songs from Sundays.
- The first song should center around thankfulness as it opens the door to God.
- How to introduce worship:
  - Vision: "Our goal is... so let's feel free to..."
  - Three to four scriptures, possibly from the Psalms
  - Pray and invite the presence of God
- Be active, not passive. Encourage your Lifegroup to stand and raise their hands.
- Sing out loud, so turn the volume way up!
- How to transition at the end:
  - Thank God for His presence.
  - Ask if anyone felt the Spirit show them something to share.

## During worship:

1. Find ways to include the 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. Hearing God for Encouraging Others 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 (1 Corinthians 14:3).
- 3. Communion: Periodically worship by participating in communion together. The Communion Guide is on the Lifegroup Leader Resources Web page.
- 4. Read a Psalm together and let it inform your praise.

## Life Drain Alert

Allowing the worship time to be stagnant drains life. If something's not life-giving, then ask for help. Don't do anything for the sake of "just doing it."