

# LEADER GUIDE – FORMED BY THE GOSPEL

## SESSION 2:6 | WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

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### Overview for Leaders

This session centers on Ephesians 5:17–21, Colossians 3:16–17, and 1 Corinthians 10–11. Worship together is not merely music style, personal preference, or individual experience. Paul pictures worship as Spirit filled, Word shaped participation where believers address one another, sing, give thanks, submit to one another, and gather around the Gospel. Communion becomes a tangible picture: many people, one body, gathered around one Savior. This session guards against: 1) reducing worship to music preference, 2) evaluating worship like consumers, 3) privatizing worship and communion, and 4) waiting for community to happen instead of creating it.

### Big Idea

Worship together is not individualistic consumption but Spirit-filled, Word-shaped participation: many people, one body, gathered around one Savior to glorify God, encourage one another, give thanks, around the Gospel.

### Your Role as Leader

Keep the group out of worship-war trenches. Preferences are real, but they are not ultimate. Continually redirect the conversation toward Paul's vision: Spirit-filled people glorifying God and ministering to one another. Help participants see their active role in gathered worship, communion, group life, and ordinary encouragement. The goal is to become people who worship together for God's glory and the good of the Body.

### Session Flow – Adjust as Needed

- Icebreaker
- Scripture Engagement (reading + context)
- Discussion (10 questions) — 40–45 min
- Application Challenge — 5 min
- Prayer & Reflection — 10 min
- Announcements — 2 min

### Key Scriptures

- Ephesians 5:17–21
- Colossians 3:16–17
- 1 Corinthians 10:16–17
- 1 Corinthians 11:20–22
- 1 Corinthians 11:23–26
- 1 Corinthians 11:33

## **LEADER NOTES, GROUP QUESTIONS, & COMMENTARY**

(Use these notes to frame discussion and connect themes)

**Icebreaker Purpose** – Surface assumptions about music, preference, shared experience, worship, and how easily personal taste can become the lens for evaluating gathered worship. Suggested options:

- What song or shared experience instantly takes you back to a particular season of life?
- What is one worship preference you have learned is a preference, not the point?

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

#### **1. Spirit-Filled Worship** – Read: Ephesians 5:17–21

Question: What is the central command in this passage, and what flows out of being filled with the Spirit?

Leader Insight: The central command is to be filled with the Spirit. Addressing, singing, making melody, giving thanks, and submitting all flow out of Spirit-filled life. Worship is not driven merely by mood, style, or preference.

Cue: Keep the passage connected. Do not treat the commands as disconnected worship tips.

#### **2. Addressing One Another** – Read: Ephesians 5:19

Question: Paul says worship includes “addressing one another.” How does that expand our view of singing beyond personal experience?

Leader Insight: Singing has a vertical direction toward God and a horizontal ministry toward the Body. When we sing truth together, we encourage and form one another.

Cue: Ask: “How would Sunday singing change if you saw it as ministry to the people around you?”

#### **3. Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs** – Read: Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16

Question: How does Paul’s broad language challenge the way we reduce worship to style, expression, or preference?

Leader Insight: Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs point to worship rooted in Scripture, praise, and Spirit-shaped expression. Paul does not narrow worship to one style; he emphasizes Spirit-filled purpose.

Cue: Refuse worship-war detours. Ask what the purpose of worship is before debating the packaging.

#### **4. Thanksgiving and Submission** – Read: Ephesians 5:20–21

Question: Why does worshipping together include thanksgiving and mutual submission out of reverence for Christ?

Leader Insight: Spirit-filled worship forms grateful, humble people. Thanksgiving turns us Godward; mutual submission teaches us to consider the Body rather than enthrone our preferences.

Cue: Connect preferences with humility. Ask where gratitude needs to come before critique.

#### **5. The Word of Christ Dwells Richly** – Read: Colossians 3:16–17

Question: What does it mean for the word of Christ to dwell richly in a worshipping community?

Leader Insight: Worship is Word-shaped. Teaching, admonishing, singing, gratitude, words, and deeds all flow from the Word of Christ living richly among God's people.

Cue: Expand the conversation beyond the song set. Worship includes the whole life of the gathered people.

#### **6. Participation, Not Consumption** – Read: Colossians 3:16–17; Hebrews 10:24–25

Question: How do teaching, admonishing, singing, thankfulness, words, and deeds make worship bigger than a Sunday song set?

Leader Insight: Gathered worship is not spiritual consumption in the same room. It is communal participation where each person comes to glorify God and build up others.

Cue: Ask: “What did you bring for the Body, not just what did you get out of it?”

#### **7. Many People, One Body** – Read: 1 Corinthians 10:16–17

Question: How does communion show that many believers are one body around one Savior?

Leader Insight: Communion is deeply personal but never merely private. One bread, one body. Together we remember Christ's body broken for us and proclaim His death until He comes.

Cue: Emphasize the manuscript's contrast: communion is not just “my-union” with God, but our shared communion with Him and one another.

## **8. When Worship Becomes Divisive** – Read: 1 Corinthians 11:20–22

Question: What went wrong in Corinth when the Lord’s Supper became individualistic and divisive?

Leader Insight: The Corinthians turned a shared act of worship into a self-serving and shame-producing meal. They stopped considering one another and, in doing so, despised the church of God.

Cue: Ask for modern parallels carefully: preference, status, hurry, exclusion, or consuming spiritual moments without love.

## **9. Wait for One Another** – Read: 1 Corinthians 11:33; Philippians 2:3–4

Question: What does “wait for one another” teach us about worship, preference, and considering the Body?

Leader Insight: Worship requires patience, awareness, and love for the Body. Waiting for one another is a simple phrase with a whole theology of mutual consideration behind it.

Cue: Make it concrete: seating, hospitality, song preferences, communion, group conversation, and leaving room for others.

## **10. Help Create Community** – Read: Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 10:24–25

Question: What is one way you can help create, not merely consume, worshipping community this week?

Leader Insight: Community is not something we simply consume; it is something we help create. We step toward one another by loving, serving, forgiving, encouraging, and worshipping together.

Cue: Land with one action before Sunday or group: encourage, invite, pray, sing, serve, or make room.

## **APPLICATION** (Leader Version)

**Application Focus:** This application is about helping people examine where they have approached worship as consumers and inviting them into Spirit-filled participation for God's glory and the good of the Body. The goal is not to erase preferences, but to put preferences in their proper place under love, gratitude, mutual submission, and the Gospel.

**Leader Tip:** Ask: "What is one way this week you will participate in worship for God and for the people around you, not just evaluate it for yourself?"

### **Examples:**

- Participation: Sing with the church even when the style is not your favorite.
- Encouragement: Come to worship or group ready to build someone else up.
- Gratitude: Name reasons to give thanks before critiquing preferences.
- Communion: Prepare for the Lord's Supper as shared remembrance, not a private spiritual moment.
- Hospitality: Make room for someone else in conversation, group life, or Sunday worship.

### **Group Prayer Time at End:**

- Spirit-filled worship that glorifies God and strengthens the Body
- Gratitude that comes before critique
- Humility to submit preferences out of reverence for Christ
- A richer experience of communion as one body around one Savior
- Courage to help create the community we hope to receive

**Close with:** "Father, fill us with Your Spirit and let the word of Christ dwell richly among us. Teach us to worship together with gratitude, humility, and love as one body gathered around one Savior. Amen."

### **Leader Follow-Up Midweek**

- Ask About Participation: Ask how they actively encouraged or considered someone else in worship or group life.
- Reframe Preferences: Remind them that preferences are real, but not ultimate.
- Point to the Table: Use communion language to reinforce that we are many people, one body, gathered around one Savior.