

## WORSHIPING – CONNECTING - INVITING

This information is the fourth and final part of a four part training called GROWING DEEPER. In the following pages we will consider worshiping, connecting, and inviting.

Throughout the following pages, please use the Scripture by each statement/question as a guide to determine your best choice for a word to [fill in the blank](#). Also, please give thoughtful consideration to the [questions/statements](#) which are included throughout the following pages.

### WORSHIPING

#### Worship includes music (plus a whole lot more)

*“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.”* (Romans, chapter 12, verse 1)

Worship through music is only a small portion of what true, biblical worship is all about. Worship is the process of surrendering your entire life into God’s hands. Here are ten habits that will build worship into your life.

#### Ten ways to worship without music (adapted from article “Ten ways to worship without music” @ [www.pastors.com](http://www.pastors.com))

1. **Live a life of purpose.** God has created you to grow, serve, worship, connect, and invite.
  2. Worship through **prayer**. The first item in TALC is Thanking God. Thank God not only for things and answers to prayer, but also for who He is: patient, loving, kind, etc.
  3. Build into your life the **attitude of thankfulness**. This moves beyond the prayer of thanks and requires looking at the world through a different set of eyes. When we look through the lens of thankfulness, we see our lives – and everything in it – as all gifts from God.
  4. Get in a regular habit of **reading the Bible**. The Bible says that we worship God in “spirit and in truth.” How can we worship God without a clear understanding of who He is? The truth about God is essential to worship.
  5. **Obey God**. When we read the Bible, we should read for application and then obey God.
  6. **Tithe**. If you want to know what in your life you worship, look at your checkbook register. The Bible teaches us this important lesson: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Mathew 6:21 NIV) God wants us to surrender our entire being to Him. One way to show that is by making Him Lord of our finances. If you are already a committed tither, consider raising the percentage you are willing to give.
  7. **Serve others**. Jesus tells us that “when you did it to the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did to me!” (Matthew 25:40 NLT) When we serve one another, Jesus tells us we are really serving Him.
  8. **Build deep relationships with other Christians**. The Bible teaches that God designed us to live in community with other Christians. We bring God pleasure by getting to know others and being known by them. We will learn more about this in our consideration of “Connecting.”
  9. **Share your faith**. God wants every person on the planet to worship Him, not because He is an egomaniac who needs our praise, but because worship is how we are designed by God. He wants the best for us. Take time this week to share your spiritual journey with someone else. Tell them how you came to faith in Christ. Don’t worry about their response. We will learn more about this in our consideration of “Inviting.”
  10. Begin **turning over to God areas of your life** that you have never committed to Him. This is the heart of worship – surrender. God won’t settle for 90 percent of your life; God wants all of it. You might have been a follower of Jesus for years, but you still have areas of your life that you are holding back from God. What are those areas? Only you know that. Two good places to look are your checkbook and your planner. Look at the areas of your life where you spend the most money and the most time. Do they honor God?  
If you are human, you have sin in your life that you need to surrender. Think back over the past month and write down all of the times you remember disobeying clear teaching from God. Then look for patterns. If you find patterns of sin in your life, these are areas of your life you need to surrender to God. Right at the moment, start praying for God to help you overcome that sin. Ask Christian friends to pray for you as well.
- Identify one area (or more) in which you can strengthen your expression of worship.**

## CONNECTING

### WHY IS CONNECTING (FELLOWSHIP) SO IMPORTANT?

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ in God's family with other believers.

*"You are a member of God's very own family ... and you belong in God's household with every other Christian."* Ephesians 2:19

2. I need \_\_\_\_\_ to grow spiritually.

*"Let us think of one another and how we can encourage each other to love and do good deeds."* Hebrews 10:24

3. I need \_\_\_\_\_ to grow spiritually.

*"People learn from one another just as iron sharpens iron."* Proverbs 27:17

4. Christ is \_\_\_\_\_ when we fellowship together.

*"For wherever two or three have come together in my name, I am there, right among them!"* Matthew 18:20

5. There is \_\_\_\_\_ when people pray together.

*"Whenever two of you on earth agree about anything you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven."* Matthew 18:19

6. Fellowship is a \_\_\_\_\_ to the world.

*(Jesus) "My prayer for all of them is that they will be of one heart and mind...so the world will believe you sent me."* John 17:21

7. I am \_\_\_\_\_ to every other Christian.

*"There are different kinds of service to God...together you form the body of Christ and each one of you is a necessary part of it."* 1 Corinthians 12:5, 27

### The "One Anothers" of Fellowship:

Serve one another	Galatians 5:13
Accept one another	Romans 15:7
Forgive one another	Colossians 3:13
Greet one another	Romans 16:16
Bear one another's burdens	Galatians 6:2
Be devoted to one another	Romans 12:10
Honor one another	Romans 12:10
Teach one another	Romans 15:14
Submit to one another	Ephesians 5:21
Encourage one another	1 Thessalonians 5:11

### HOW CAN A CHURCH MAINTAIN CLOSE FRIENDSHIPS?

When every person is part of a small group.

*"(They met) day after day, in the Temple courts and from house to house."* Acts 5:42

At Discovery Church, we believe our church must grow **larger** and **smaller** at the same time.

Growing larger involves what we will consider in the next section, "Inviting."

Growing smaller involves more people becoming involved in small group opportunities.

**Describe how you can increase your level of connection with other people in Discovery Church.**

## INVITING

### Who invited you to become involved with Discovery Church?

#### COMPASSION TO INVITE

God has communicated his love toward us and we are moved to communicate God's love to other people. *"God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die."* John 3:16

A leader in the early church named Paul demonstrated his compassion to invite by using various approaches in order to be effective in reaching out to various types/groups of people.

*"I have become all things to all people so that by all means I might save some."* 1 Corinthians 9:22

*"Are we in America prepared for the fact that most non-Christians yet to be won to Christ (even in our own country) will not fit readily into the kinds of churches we now have?"* Ralph Winters

Compassion drives us to do whatever it takes to invite people to discover God.

(This does not mean compromise of the message in any way. It means maintaining a high commitment to communicate effectively a never-changing message to an ever-changing world.)

#### WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE:

**If God were to talk with you about your heart condition – your compassion to invite –he might say:**

**"I may need to perform CPR"**

**"I recommend some more exercise"**

**"I am well pleased with what I see"**

#### COMMISSION TO INVITE

Jesus' words recorded at the end of Matthew often are referred to as the Great Commission.

*"Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to do everything I have told you. I will be with you always, even until the end of the world."* Matthew 28:19-20

Some people have observed that for many churches in America it is the Great Omission.

Jesus never indicated that invitation was to be an optional activity or something for pastors only or for super-Christians. All Christians and all churches share responsibility for invitation.

*"One of the most striking features in evangelism in the early days was the people who engaged in it. Communicating the faith was not regarded as the preserve of the very zealous or of the officially designated evangelist. Evangelism was the prerogative and the duty of every church member."* Michael Green

#### WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE:

**On a scale of 1 (you are not concerned at all about whether people have a relationship with God) to 10 (you are right up there with Billy Graham), where do you think God would place you?**

#### COMPULSION TO INVITE

When you have news which is too good not to share, you cannot help yourself. That's the way it was for Peter and John who kept sharing the good news of God's love even after they had been ordered to remain quiet.

*"So the officials called Peter and John back in and told them that they must never, for any reason, teach anything about Jesus. Peter and John answered, 'Do you think God wants us to obey you or to obey him? We cannot keep quiet about what we have seen and heard.'" Acts 4:19-20*

*"If God is bigger than us, and if he lives inside of us, then shouldn't some of him show through?"*  
child's question to parent

While in America we are not called upon to pay a price of imprisonment for inviting people to discover God, we sometimes are called upon to pay other prices, (i.e., unpopular, regarded as unintelligent, etc.)

## WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE:

**Which statement best describes you:**

**I speak with other people about God every chance I get**

**I often feel uncomfortable about talking with other people about God**

**I almost never talk with anyone about God**

## RESISTANCE TO INVITATION

Jesus' experience

Not everyone whom Jesus called to follow him responded willingly. Throughout his ministry he encountered resistance and rejection, and ultimately he was crucified.

*"Jesus met people at their point of interest/need. Yet he never forced a commitment. Thus, according to many modern standards, Jesus was a failure in dealing with the rich young ruler."*

Paul Cedar

Paul's experience

While Paul is remembered as a great missionary in the early church, there were times when he encountered resistance.

*"Some Jewish leaders from Antioch and Iconium came and turned the crowds against Paul. They hit him with stones and dragged him out of the city, thinking he was dead."* Acts 14:19

Adoniram Judson's experience

This great missionary hero from the Baptist tradition reached out and invited people for 7 years before the first person in Burma accepted the invitation to discover God.

## WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE:

**What resistance have you encountered as you have invited people to discover God?**

## CONFIDENCE IN INVITATION

Confidence in invitation is not so much a matter of our determination as it is depending upon the power of God which Jesus promises to us.

*"But the Holy Spirit (the presence of God) will come upon you and give you power. Then you will tell everyone about me...everywhere in the world."* Acts 1:8

*"Probably the most dangerous thing about methods is that when they do work, we begin to rely on them."*  
J. Peterson

## WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE:

**To what extent do you depend upon the power/presence of God as you invite people to discover God?**

Distractions:

Other concerns:

The men to whom Jesus originally spoke the words we just considered should have been out inviting people already, but they were scared, somewhat confused, and concerned about other matters.

*“While the apostles were still with Jesus, they asked him, ‘Lord, are you now going to give Israel its own king again?’ Jesus said to them, ‘You don’t need to know the time of those events that only the Father controls.’”* Acts 1:6-7

Internal matters in the church:

There are many concerns of people who already are part of the church and they need attention, but if they are not addressed adequately, it can cause problems which will distract from invitation. In Acts 6 we read about how the early church dealt constructively with such a problem.

*“God’s message spread, and many more people became followers...”* Acts 6:7

*“A church that isn’t evangelistic isn’t a church...You can’t fish and fight at the same time. You must neglect your net or your gun.”* Fritz Ridenour

**WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE:**

**What distracts you from invitation?**

**What can you do to deal constructively with your distractions?**

Discouragements:

I don’t have the gift of evangelism:

Not everyone has the gift of evangelism. But everyone is called upon to invite people to discover God.

*“It was Christ who gave some to be evangelists...”* Ephesians 4:11

*“You must work hard to tell the good news and to do your job well.”* 2 Timothy 4:5

**WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE:**

**Do you have the gift of evangelism/invitation?**

**Do you recognize your responsibility to invite people to discover God?**

I don’t have adequate knowledge:

While we are called upon to grow in our knowledge of God, it is never stated as a requirement that a person must have a certain level of knowledge to invite other people to discover God. In fact, it can be as simple as sharing the story of how God has changed your life.

*“The man replied, ‘I don’t know if he (Jesus) is a sinner or not. All I know is that I used to be blind, but now I can see!’”* John 9:25

*“Many people are like the little girl who crawled up in her mother’s lap and requested, ‘Please tell me a story with me in it.’”* Jeannette Clift George

**WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE:**

**What personal story would you share to tell other people about God’s love?**

I don’t have enough boldness: Boldness in invitation is not something which should come from ourselves.

Boldness should come from God. Consider how Peter and John depended upon God for boldness.

*“Now Lord...enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.”* Acts 4:29

**WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE:**

**What are the dangers of depending upon ourselves for boldness?**

**What are the strengths of depending upon God for boldness?**

I don’t see results: We are not always called to be involved in the entire process. The next section, “STAGES OF INVITATION,” will address this subject.

## STAGES OF INVITATION

*“Many pre-packaged evangelism programs are based on the false assumption you can just go out and harvest without sowing any seeds.” Paul Cedar*

In the early church, Paul explained how he worked together with other people, including a man named Apollos, in a process of invitation.

*“Apollos and I are merely servants who helped you to have faith. It was the Lord who made it all happen. I planted the seeds, Apollos watered them, but God made them sprout and grow. What matters isn’t those who planted or watered, but God who made the plants grow. The one who plants is just as important as the one who waters. And each one will be paid for what they do. Apollos and I work together for God, and you are God’s garden and God’s building.” 1 Corinthians 3:5-9*

And while attention often is given to the final stage when a person makes a decision to follow God, Jesus commended the early work as more difficult.

*“So, the saying proves true, ‘Some plant the seed, and others harvest the crop.’ I am sending you to harvest crops in fields where others have done all the hard work.” John 4:37-38*

However, the bottom line is that God is the source of life and everyone gets to celebrate.

*“Everyone who planted the seed and everyone who harvests the crop will celebrate together.” John 4:36*

### WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE:

**What opportunities has God provided in the past for you to plant? to harvest?**

**What opportunities is God providing for you now to plant? to harvest?**

## PRAYER AND INVITATION

*“To the use of the Scriptures the early Christians added prayer as a prime necessity in all evangelistic enterprise. When the twelve poured out their hearts to God in prayer they were filled with the Holy Spirit, they spoke the Word of God with boldness, and multitudes believed.” Michael Green*

Jesus instructed his followers to pray regarding invitation.

*“He said to his disciples, ‘A large crop is in the fields, but there are only a few workers. Ask the Lord in charge of the harvest to send out workers to bring it in’” Matthew 9:37-38*

The church at Antioch is a great example of the importance of prayer.

*“While they were worshiping the Lord, and going without eating, the Holy Spirit told them, ‘Appoint Barnabas and Saul to do the work for which I have chosen them.’ Everyone prayed and went without eating for a while longer. Next, they placed their hands on Barnabas and Saul to show that they had been appointed to do this work. Then everyone sent them on their way.” Acts 13:2-3*

### WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE:

**Will you pray for opportunities for yourself and for other people to invite people to discover God?**

## BROAD SCOPE OF INVITATION

Jesus dared to reach out to all people. This frequently offended “religious people,” who considered some folks to be “not our kind of people.”

*“As Jesus was leaving, he saw a tax collector named Matthew sitting at the place for paying taxes. Jesus said to him, ‘Come with me.’ Matthew got up and went with him. Later, Jesus and his disciples were having dinner at Matthew’s house. Many tax collectors and sinners were also there. Some Pharisees asked Jesus’ disciples, ‘Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?’*  
Matthew 9:9-11

Jesus seized this teachable moment to make clear that his mission was broad. It follows that the mission of the church of Jesus Christ is to be broad as well.

*“Jesus heard them and answered, ‘Healthy people don’t need a doctor, but sick people do. Go and learn what the Scriptures mean when they say, “Instead of offering sacrifices to me, I want you to be merciful to others.” I didn’t come to invite good people to be my followers. I came to invite sinners.’”*  
Matthew 9:12-13

## WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE:

**Will you ask God to help you to see, to care about, and to invite people to discover God?**

# CONGRATULATIONS!

You have completed the fourth and final class of GROWING DEEPER.

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Please let us know your response to the statements below in one of following ways:

**Good:** Bring a hard copy of your responses to us in person on a Sunday morning or mail a hard copy to Discovery Church, P.O. Box 357, Newark, OH 43058.

**Even Better:** Send your responses by email to: [discoverychurch@gmail.com](mailto:discoverychurch@gmail.com)

**Best:** Complete all four of the GROWING DEEPER classes and indicate your responses by filling in the online form: [Click here to link to the online response form](#)

*(Or click on the link for the online response form on the GROWING DEEPER page on the church website.)*

**Identify one area (or more) in which you can strengthen your expression of worship.**

**Describe how you can increase your level of connection with other people in Discovery Church.**

**Describe one way (or more) in which you can strengthen your efforts to invite people to discover God.**