

## How to Plan a Worship Time

1. Pray and ask God for direction and wisdom, that His work would be accomplished.
2. Consider how God has been speaking to you in the past couple weeks, through His Word and other people. There may be something here that you can build on.
3. Seek to follow this basic framework in the worship “journey”:
  - a. God: His character and works (call to worship)
  - b. Confession and our need for God
  - c. God’s grace and the gospel
  - d. Celebration and our response of devotion
4. Begin to brainstorm how you might fill in each of the four areas above with different elements of worship that will engage people to connect with God, whether it be song, Scripture, prayer, etc.; this is when you want to pull out all your *resources* and maybe talk with other people...
5. I suggest the Worship Idea Sheet as a planning guide; you can fill in categories there with specific ideas and then write beside them which area of the worship journey (item 3 above) each fills.
6. As you’re planning, keep in mind your *theology of worship* and think about what it will be like for everyone, how they will be engaged, and what special needs there might be.
7. Contact any people who will be helping you and plan any practice time needed.
8. Prepare any materials needed for the worship time (make copies, gather pens and paper, etc.).
9. Pray for the worship time, that God’s work would be accomplished and that He would receive all the glory.

### Non-traditional ideas:

- Ask several people to tell a short story of God’s faithfulness, and then sing a song worshipping God for His faithfulness.
- Have people write down their sins on a red card, then burn the cards or nail them to a cross and celebrate communion together.
- Say the Apostle’s or Nicene Creed or pray a liturgical prayer together (see *Leading in Prayer*, *The Worship Sourcebook*, or *Valley of Vision*), then sing a hymn a cappella.
- Sing a worship song together while young children are drawing pictures for Jesus; afterward, have them explain what they drew and why.
- Choose a piece of Christian art (project or print it) and lead people through a time of observation, reflection, and meditation on an aspect of God or the Christian journey.
- Check out *Alternative Worship* by Baker and Gay for some creative ideas.