

# LEADER GUIDE — FORMED BY THE GOSPEL

## SESSION 1:6 | Life of Worship

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### Overview for Leaders

This session brings Gospel-Formed Living to its end: a whole life of worship. Scripture reveals that worship is not optional or occasional, it is foundational to what it means to be human. Everyone worships something. Paul's call in Romans 12:1 frames worship as a whole-life response to God's mercy. Jesus Himself embodies this life of worship through humility, obedience, and service, culminating in His death on the cross and exaltation by the Father.

### Big Idea

A gospel-formed life is a life of worship, offering our whole selves to God in response to His mercy, following the example of Jesus, who humbly served and trusted the Father with glory.

### Your Role as Leader

Create space for honest self-examination about what participants are truly serving. Keep the conversation focused on formation, and gospel motivation, not guilt or religious pressure. Help the group see worship as a response to mercy, not a requirement for acceptance. Invite clarity without coercion.

### 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

- Romans 12:1
- Philippians 2:5-11
- Luke 4:8
- Romans 1:21-25
- Matthew 7:16–20
- Colossians 3:17

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

*(Use these notes to frame discussion and connect themes)*

### **Icebreaker (Choose One)**

Purpose – Surface assumptions about worship and devotion. Keep this exploratory.

Suggested options:

- When you hear the word worship, what do you instinctively think of?
- What do people most organize their lives around today?
- Where do you see people finding meaning, identity, or hope?

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

#### **1. Everyone Worships – Read: Romans 1:21–25**

Question: *According to Paul, why is worship unavoidable for human beings?*

Leader Insight: Worship is not invented—it's redirected.

Cue: Keep focus on universality, not judgment.

#### **2. Mercy Comes First – Read: Romans 12:1**

Question: *Why does Paul ground worship in God's mercy rather than human effort?*

Leader Insight: Worship flows from grace, not guilt.

Cue: Guard against performance language.

#### **3. A Living Sacrifice**

Question: *What would Paul's original audience have found shocking about the phrase "living sacrifice"?*

Leader Insight: Worship now involves daily surrender, not ritual death.

Cue: Connect worship to everyday life.

#### **4. Worship as Service – Read: Romans 12:1**

Question: *How does understanding worship as embodied service reshape how we think about devotion?*

Leader Insight: True worship is lived, not merely felt.

Cue: Avoid reducing worship to emotion.

#### **5. Jesus' Example of Worship – Read: Philippians 2:6–8**

Question: *How does Jesus define worship through humility, obedience, and service?*

Leader Insight: Worship is trusting God with glory.

Cue: Emphasize obedience as worship.

#### **6. Who Do You Serve? – Read: Luke 4:8; Matthew 6:24**

Question: *Why does Scripture consistently link worship with service?*

Leader Insight: What we serve reveals what we worship.

Cue: Invite personal reflection, not comparison.

#### **7. Worship and Glory – Read: Philippians 2:9–11**

Question: *Why does Jesus' worshipful obedience lead to exaltation by the Father?*

Leader Insight: Glory is received, not seized.

Cue: Highlight God's initiative.

## **8. Singing as Response – Read: Philippians 2:10–11; Colossians 3:17**

Question: *How does singing function as a response to worship rather than a replacement for obedience?*

Leader Insight: Songs confess what lives proclaim.

Cue: Keep music connected to life.

## **9. What Your Life Produces – Read: Matthew 7:16–20**

Question: *Jesus says we recognize a tree by its fruit. How do the outcomes of our lives reveal what we've been worshiping or serving?*

Leader Insight: Worship is rarely exposed by what we claim to value, but by what our lives consistently produce over time.

Cue: Keep this reflective, not comparative. Invite participants to look at direction, not isolated moments.

## **10. Whose Glory?**

Question: What does it look like for an ordinary life to be lived for God's glory rather than self-exaltation?

Leader Insight: Worship aims life toward God, not self.

Cue: Transition to application.

## **APPLICATION (Leader Version)**

### **Application Focus:**

This application invites participants to identify what currently receives their deepest devotion—what they serve with their time, energy, and loyalty. Worship is not measured by songs we sing, but by the direction our lives move. The goal is not to add religious activity, but to re-aim our lives toward God in response to His mercy.

**Leader Tip:** Ask: “What are you currently serving with your life—and what would it look like to offer that area to God as worship?”

### **Examples:**

- Reordering schedules around what honors God
- Choosing faithfulness over convenience
- Redirecting focus from self to God
- Living as a servant rather than seeking recognition
- Trusting God with glory instead of chasing it

Worship is not how we earn God’s mercy, it’s how we respond to it.

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

- Pray over themes:
- Hearts rightly aimed toward God
- Freedom from misplaced worship
- Grace to live as servants
- Joy in offering life to God

Close with: “Lord, receive our lives as worship. Teach us to serve You alone and trust You with glory. Amen.”

### **Leader Follow-Up Afterwards**

- Name the Worship: Ask what has claimed attention and energy this week.
- Encourage Offering: Invite one concrete act of obedience as worship.
- Gospel Reframe: Remind them that worship flows from mercy, not pressure.