

2025 WORSHIP ARTS SUMMIT NOTES

WELCOME AND BRIEF OPENING PRAYER

BREAKFAST & ICE BREAKER QUESTION

Optional discussion topics:

- What is something fun you did this summer?
- What is your favorite thing to put on the grill?
- What do you think the weather is like in heaven?

INTRO ITEMS

- **Welcome New Members**
- **Special Thanks** (Linda, Diane, Khai & Ashley)
- **Today's Plan**
 - We plan to cover announcements, worship together, briefly review recent years themes, dive into our theme for this year, and then end with a time of consecration.
- **Announcements**
 - Introducing Elijah Henderson in his new role.
 - Worship Jams Announcement
 - Fireside Worship Announcement
 - Worship Arts Info Page (includes new items)
 - Choir Guidelines
 - Praise & Worship Team Guidelines
 - Choir Brunch Rotation
 - Color Palettes
 - Choir Schedule
 - Dress Guidelines
 - Parking Guidelines
 - Vocal Training Materials
 - Past Summit Presentation Info
 - Orientation Videos (new)

BREAK

CENTERING PRAYER

For our centering prayer, I'm going to share an excerpt from a prayer book called *Every Moment Holy*. Let's pause...take a few breaths and close our eyes...

Most awesome, most excellent Lord! All glory to Your Name! Without you, Father...Our lives are so small. Our vision is so limited. And our courage is so frail.

We come this morning to declare our need for You. We're called together into this work we don't yet know the fullness of. And so we ask You for grace and guidance for the journey ahead.

We offer you our dreams, our plans, and our vision. Shape them as You will. Our moments and our gifts. May they be invested toward bright and eternal ends.

*Please...unite Your people and multiply our humble offerings, that all might resound to Your glory. And... we ask that you keep us from growing enamored of our own accomplishment **or** entrenched in old habit. Instead, in this endeavor, may we listen for **your voice**, with our hearts always open to the quiet beckonings of Your Spirit.*

May we remain ready to move at the impulse of your love.

We welcome you to shape our hearts and our hands, and build your Kingdom among us. In Jesus name, Amen.

ACOUSTIC WORSHIP

🎵 ***Holy Forever***

🎵 ***Mighty One***

RECENT YEARS REVIEW

In past years, we discussed these concepts:

- Worship is happening in Heaven

- The Tabernacle
- Worship in Spirit and in Truth
- Being Vessels/Channels of the Holy Spirit
- The Anatomy of a Worship Leader

And now, to introduce this year's theme, we have a video to share...

THEME INTRO

Video - Galaxy Quest Clip

THEME INTRO DISCUSSION

Group discussion questions/points:

- What is going on with this guy?
- Seems like our society has an obsession with special effects, space, awe inspiring things...
- But If we really think about it, this is God's creation, and we were designed to marvel....

*** Our mission is to create space for God and His people to meet.**

When He does, something beautiful happens—we're filled with awe, wonder, and a deeper love for Him."

Which leads us to our topic for the day - ***Awaken the Wonder.***

THEME DEFINITION (Oxford Dictionary)

As we spend some time with this topic, let's start with a definition of the word, "wonder."

* Definitions:

Wonder (Noun) - A feeling of surprise mingled with admiration, caused by something beautiful, unexpected, unfamiliar, or inexplicable.

Wonder (Verb) - Desire (or be curious) to know something.

THEME BACKGROUND

When we want to grow deeper in understanding, to find Biblical roots of a term, it helps to reference the original language of the ancient Hebrews, to learn their definitions and even study the ancient Hebrew text, which was picture based, somewhat like Hieroglyphics, and **loaded** with meaning.

The Hebrew word for "wonder" or "marvel" is פֶּלֶא, pele`.

*** Display the word, followed by just the short (bold) definition, and then each letter, one-by-one as an indented pop-up, followed by the short (bold) definition, as they are presented. The last pop up will be the “more complete” definition shown at the bottom.**

פֶּלֶא, (Pele`) - Wonder

Generally speaking, this word signifies something extraordinary, a miracle, or a supernatural deed beyond human ability. It is more specifically used to describe God's extraordinary acts and dealings **with His people**. Where it gets even more interesting is when we look at the breakdown of each letter. Their script is from right to left, so we will start with the last letter, which is, “Pey”:

פ (Pey) - Mouth This letter is an image of a mouth, and by extension is associated with word, expression, vocalization, speech, or breath. This letter is also a combination of two other ancient Hebrew letters which symbolizes “container” and “soul.” Essentially, referencing our mouths as containers for the soul.

ל (Lamed) - Staff (pronounced “lah-med”)
This letter is an image of a shepherd’s staff, and symbolizes both teaching and learning.

א (Aleph) - Two Yods (meaning hand) and a Vav (connection)
(pronounced “a’-lef” and is usually silent)
This provides a visual of the moment when the higher and lower realms connect. *** (Picture of Michelangelo's painting shown.)**

So when we put it all together, a more complete definition says:

**** We can marvel when we experience the moments when God reveals Himself from the supernatural realm into our natural world, leaving us inspired to both learn and teach, with declaration and proclamation from our mouths.***

And when this happens, we are led to a deeper connection with God and a deeper understanding of His profound mysteries.

And from this exploration, we have some much more context about how to process miracles:

**** Covenantal Context: These "wonders" are not random displays of power, but covenantal acts that unveil God's character and His relationship with His people.***

This is beautiful and great news! This is supported in scripture, as we observe the testimony of Moses who witnessed countless supernatural moments with God. Here is what he says in Deuteronomy:

Has any other people heard the voice of God speaking out of fire, as you have, and lived? Has any god ever tried to take for himself one nation out of another nation, by testings, by signs and wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, or by great and awesome deeds, like all the things the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your very eyes?

You were shown these things so that you might know that the LORD is God; besides him there is no other. -Deuteronomy 4:33-35

So we respond in awe for how He covenants Himself with us!

THEME EXPLORATION: EVIDENCE OF A DIVINE REALITY

- The vastness of the universe
 - Observations to date show the universe is at least 93 billion light years in diameter. This “observed” number is always growing. Science is proving the universe itself may be infinite, as there are parts we will never see.

- There are more galaxies in the observed universe than grains of sand on the earth, including all beaches, deserts, etc.
- Each galaxy can contain billions or even trillions of stars.
- The hubble telescope looked at a tiny “dark patch” for several days and found it contained over 10 thousand galaxies.
- The astounding complexity of atoms (quantum mechanics)
 - Atoms make up all matter.
 - Particles (electrons, protons, etc.) form atoms.
 - Particles can exist in multiple states or locations simultaneously!! Only when observed, it “collapses” into a single state.
 - Touch example
 - When two particles “entangle,” the state of one can instantly affect the other, even if light years apart. Immeasurably fast!
 - Particles can pass through barriers/walls.
 - We cannot make these things happen, but it shows that miracles are possible.
- The beautiful design of our biology
 - Cells
 - Every cell in your body contains 6ft of DNA.
 - There are 37 trillion cells in the human body.
 - If unraveled, the distance would be equivalent to the distance between Earth to Pluto and back, 4 times.
 - Yet, it fits into a cell nucleus smaller than a slice of dust.
 - Brain
 - The brain contains 86 billion neurons
 - Each neuron can form up to 10 thousand connections.
 - One quadrillion connections are more than all of the stars in the milky way.
 - Heart
 - The heart beats over 100K times per day.
 - It pumps over 2K gallons of blood per day, with no consciousness from you.
 - Body
 - You make 25M cells every second.
 - Your skin completely renews itself every 2-4 weeks.
 - Your skeleton renews itself every 10 years.
 - Perception
 - Electro Magnetic Spectrum

- Radio Waves, Infrareads, UV, X Rays, Visible Light:
Human eyes can detect >1% of all of this spectrum.
- Sound
 - Humans hear a certain range of frequencies and waves, ranging from 50ft to ¾ inches.
- Other animals
- Some animals have a totally different reality than us, i.e., bees, whales.
- No wonder God says in Isaiah:

As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. -Isaiah 55:9 NIV

JESUS IS OUR ULTIMATE MARVEL

- And all of this beauty and wonder points back to one person - Jesus! Jesus is our ultimate marvel!
- Going back to our ancient definitions again - פֶּלֶא, (**Pele`**) - **Wonder** is also a regular name that the ancient Hebrews used for the coming Messiah. We see this example here in Isaiah:

*And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
-Isaiah 9:6b NIV*

- His being and His teachings reflect all of the power and glory of the universe!

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. - John 1:1-5 NIV

- He is the living Word!

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. -John 1:14 NIV

- The Word is a guide for life and is a prophetic and historical marvel! It contains over 350 fulfilled prophecies, and these are just those accounting for the life of Jesus. Archaeological and historical evidence supports the Bible more than any other literary work in the world.
- And this is just the tip of the iceberg. Because of these things and more, we can't help but have a healthy fear of the Lord, which is also an element of how we marvel Him.

Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth! Psalm 96:9 NIV

DISCUSS THE WONDER

Around your table discussion:

- What is an experience that resulted in awe and wonder? The time limit is 2 mins per person. Then Chris & Michelle share their testimonies. Chris will share about a book he wrote...

THEME CONCLUSION

- We want to end this portion of our time with one more exploration. Let's appreciate the concept of seed, more specifically, the eternity of a seed.
- Seeds are a most fundamental element of reproduction for plants. We can plant them, water them, and watch them grow into full on plants. We see these plants serve an incredible purpose, providing oxygen, sustenance and nutrients. All the while, the plant, within itself, is having more seeds developed. The Bible speaks often of seeds, and now, we're going to explore a passage centered around this concept - by means of a group guided meditation. Are you ready?

MINI GUIDED MEDITATION LEADING TO CONSECRATION AND WORSHIP IN SONG

I am sharing the words of Jesus from Mark 4:26-29. Please close your eyes and receive the Word of the Lord. Keep your eyes closed after the reading, and continue to ponder the scripture's message...and it reads:

(He also said,) "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the

soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.” -Mark 4:26-29 NIV

Continue with eyes closed. I'll read it again, but this time as I read, think about the seed? What does the seed represent? And how might this story apply to you?

(He also said,) “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.” -Mark 4:26-29 NIV

Now imagine this metaphor where people (perhaps you and I) represent the seeds, and if so, then what does the *sickle* symbolize? And the sickle...Why the sickle? I'll read the passage once more.

(He also said,) “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.” -Mark 4:26-29 NIV

So here's our challenge. How we process the idea of the sickle in this passage can reflect how we process the idea of the sickle in our day to day lives. Does it simply represent death, or destruction, or desolation, or defeat? No. This is not the complete answer. Rather, the scriptures' focus is explicit. The sickle symbolizes harvest. It's the manifestation of the journey, and the glorious moment that purpose is fulfilled. The sickle comes to unveil **new life** in a more **dimensional** way than previously experienced. This is what renewal is all about: transitioning from death to life.

And as we process our lives, we'll see that the actual growth and transformation that occurs in us is indeed a mystery worked by God. We can

have patience, trust, and faith in God's process, reminding ourselves that a harvest will come in due time, ultimately producing a legacy of new seeds.

And just like the seeds, He's calling **us** to newness of life! This newness is for **now**, because the kingdom is here now. AND...this is for **forever**! We, like seeds, were designed for eternity. We were designed to worship God forever! This is how our worship can remain fresh - because the Lord is always renewing us. We are in the midst of glorious spiritual life cycle. We're in the midst of Kingdom - exceedingly and abundantly above all we can ask or think! And we say have your way, Lord. Have your way.

TIME OF WORSHIP/PRAYER/CONSECRATION

🎵 ***Come and Move***

🎵 ***Let there Be Light*** song track

WRAP UP/CLOSING PRAYER

Thanks again for coming! See you this fall!