

A Corporate Worship Workshop



RESONANCE



Helping Pastors Think Musically
& Musicians Think Pastorally

HOW TO USE THE WORKSHEET

Each section of this worksheet is designed to help you think through the elements of the service with biblical intentionality. The goal is to ensure that every component contributes to a cohesive, God-glorifying worship gathering.

I. REFLECTION

This step helps you extract the key theological and thematic elements from the sermon text. Think of it as gathering all the essential ingredients before assembling the service. Begin with prayer. Read the service's sermon text a few times. Fill in responses to the prompts below.

1. WHAT DOES IT TEACH US ABOUT GOD?

Worship begins with knowing and proclaiming the truth about who God is. Scripture reveals God's **character** (his attributes, such as holiness and mercy), **conduct** (his works in history), and **concerns** (his commands and desires for his people). Evaluate which aspect is most prominent in your passage to ensure that worship is rightly engaging with the true and living God.

2. WHAT DOES IT TEACH US ABOUT HUMANITY?

Worship involves rightly understanding ourselves in relation to God. Your passage may reveal something about **humanity in general** (as created in God's image), **fallen humanity** (as sinful and in need of redemption), **redeemed humanity** (as transformed by Christ and called to Spirit-led holiness), or **glorified humanity** (as in the new heavens and new earth).

3. PROMINENT DOCTRINE

Identifying a prominent key doctrine in the passage may help ensure the service reflects and reinforces biblical truth.

4. SPECIFIC GOSPEL THEME

The gospel is central to Christian worship. What specific aspect of the gospel does the passage highlight? This will help frame the service in light of Christ's work.

5. EMOTIONAL TONE

Worship engages not only the mind but also the heart. Identify what emotion a passage calls for to help shape the service's emotional setting.

II. CONSTRUCTION

Using your reflections, shape a service that aligns with the theological and emotional weight of the sermon text.

1. SONGS

Provide titles for the songs you'll sing during the service. During your presentation, you'll be asked to explain why you selected the songs (lyrical/thematic connection), so if you'd like to include a line or two from a couple songs on your worksheet that may be helpful.

2. PRAYERS

Outline the key themes and purposes of the prayers included in the service. This may include:

- **Call to Worship Prayer:** A brief prayer of adoration and invocation.
- **Confession & Assurance:** A structured time of corporate confession of sin followed by a reminder of God's forgiveness in Christ.
- **Other Prayers:** Any additional prayers (e.g., pastoral, praise, thanksgiving, illumination, etc.). Be ready to explain why these prayer themes were chosen.

3. SCRIPTURE READINGS

Include which passages will be read publicly, including the call to worship, benediction, and any additional readings. Scripture readings reinforce the themes of the service and allow God's Word to be proclaimed beyond the sermon itself. Consider including a brief sentence explaining why each passage was chosen and how it connects to the service's Scriptural focus.

4. CORPORATE CREEDS/CONFESSIONS

Identify any corporate confession, creed, or affirmation of faith that will be recited during the service. This might include a confession of sin followed by an assurance of pardon, a historic creed (Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed), or a portion of your church's confession of faith. Be prepared to explain why this selection is fitting in relation to the sermon text and worship theme.

5. ORDINANCES

If baptism or the Lord's Supper is included, provide a sentence or two to describe how it aligns with the sermon text and the overall theme of the service.

III. CONSTRUCTION

Assemble all your ingredients into a service appropriate for your particular church and tradition. In the **reflection** section, record your observations. In the **construction** section, add each service element in the left column and appropriate information about the element in the right column. See the example sheet.

WORKSHEET EXAMPLE

SERMON TEXT John 20:1-31

I. REFLECTION

1. WHAT DOES IT TEACH US ABOUT GOD?

Jesus defeated the grave

2. WHAT DOES IT TEACH US ABOUT HUMANITY?

Believers receive peace, the Holy Spirit, and a mission

3. PROMINENT DOCTRINE

Christ's bodily resurrection

4. SPECIFIC GOSPEL THEME

Eternal life through faith in Christ

5. EMOTIONAL TONE

Sorrow/fear/doubt turn to joy in light of the resurrection

II. CONSTRUCTION

1. SONGS

- ***Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery*** – Beholding Christ's death and resurrection
- ***See What a Morning*** – Retells the resurrection story with a focus on its theological significance
- ***Because He Lives*** – Expresses how the resurrection gives confidence and hope for the future
- ***All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*** – Declares Christ's reign as the risen Lord
- ***Living Hope*** – Highlights the resurrection as the basis of our salvation and confidence

2. PRAYERS

- **Call to Worship** – A prayer of praise for the resurrection, proclaiming Christ's victory over sin and death.
- **Pastoral Prayer** – Thanksgiving for Christ's triumph, intercession for faith to grow in those who struggle with doubt.
- **Prayer of Confession and Assurance** – Acknowledging doubt and weakness, followed by the assurance of pardon through Christ's resurrection.

3. SCRIPTURE READINGS

- **Call to Worship** – Psalm 16:7-11 | A prophecy of Christ's resurrection and the joy of eternal life.
- **Assurance** – John 3:16 | Not condemned but have eternal life by faith in God's Son
- **Benediction** – Matthew 28:18-20 | Jesus commissions His disciples and promises his presence

4. CORPORATE CREEDS/CONFESSIONS

- **Nicene Creed** – Emphasizes Jesus' bodily resurrection and reign

5. ORDINANCES

- **Baptism** – Being buried and raised with Christ (Romans 6:3-4), mirrors resurrection
- **Lord's Supper** – Proclaiming Christ's death until He returns (1 Cor. 11:26), with the resurrection as the basis of our hope in His return.

III. ORDER OF SERVICE

REFLECTION

Sermon Text	John 20:1-31
God/Man Themes	God: Jesus defeated the grave Man: Believers receive peace, the Holy Spirit, and a mission
Doctrine	Christ's bodily resurrection
Gospel Theme	Eternal life
Tone	Joyful

CONSTRUCTION

Call to Worship	Psalm 16:7-11
Song	<i>Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery</i>
Song	<i>See What a Morning</i>
Confession/Assurance	Corporate confession of sin, followed by reading John 3:16
Song	<i>Because He Lives</i>
Corporate Confession	Nicene Creed
Pastoral Prayer	—
Offertory	<i>All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name</i>
Sermon Text Reading	—
Sermon	"The Dawn of Life Everlasting"
Communion	—
Song of Response	<i>Living Hope</i>
Benediction	Matthew 28:18-20

WORKSHEET

SERMON TEXT _____

I. REFLECTION

1. WHAT DOES IT TEACH US ABOUT GOD?

Character; conduct; concerns

2. WHAT DOES IT TEACH US ABOUT HUMANITY?

Humanity in general; fallen humanity; redeemed humanity; glorified humanity

3. PROMINENT DOCTRINE

An attribute of God, Christ, covenants, creation, Holy Spirit, image of God, last things, ordinances, spiritual warfare, the Church, the Fall, Trinity, Word of God, etc.

4. SPECIFIC GOSPEL THEME

Adoption, atonement, call, conversion, election, eternal life, glorification, justification, kingdom, perseverance, redemption, reconciliation, regeneration, sanctification, union with Christ, etc.

5. EMOTIONAL TONE

Anticipation/hope, assurance/pardon, communion, contemplative/reverent, conviction/confession, edification/encouragement, joy, lament/longing, thanksgiving, etc.

II. CONSTRUCTION

1. SONGS

4-5 song titles with explanation

2. PRAYERS

Themes for call to worship, pastoral prayer, and any other included prayer

3. SCRIPTURE READINGS

Call to worship, benediction, any other Scripture reading

4. CORPORATE CREEDS/CONFESSIONS

Confession of sin/assurance, Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed, portion of your Statement of Faith

5. ORDINANCES

How baptism or Lord's Supper connects to service themes

III. ORDER OF SERVICE

REFLECTION

Sermon Text		
God/Man Themes	God:	Man:
Doctrine		
Gospel Theme		
Tone		

CONSTRUCTION
