

WEEK 6: Worship at The Table

How the Table Started:

- Meals in homes
- Discipleship
- Prayer

Illustration - on a conference call with a 'church planting guru' - everyone knows unless your initial launch budget is \$250k your church will fail.

Illustration - Friend leaving a mega-church to start a house church - allergy to the Sunday worship gathering.

1. What is worship? It's Not:
 - a. Lecture
 - b. Jesus-themed entertainment
 - c. Holy Spirit Pep Rally

It's an encounter with the presence of God in Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit!

A few assumptions we make about worship:

1. God is already present and at work
 - a. No ice breakers needed
 - b. We don't need to make anything happen - songs/lights/effects
2. We need to LEARN how to worship/pray/respond to God
 - a. There's a belief that authentic or spontaneous expression is more faithful (or most faithful). "If I don't plan it then it must be true"
 - b. "Lord, teach us to pray"
 - c. Psalms
3. Worship is primarily about FORMATION not about EXPRESSION, ENTERTAINMENT, ELATION, OR EDUCATION.
 - a. We are formed by our responsiveness - by saying yes - by surrender and consent to God
 - i. We have to learn how to do this.
 - ii. Worship = training in saying yes to God.

Liturgy walkthrough

2 moves = **Word** and **Sacrament**

- Revelation (CALL) & response / Proclamation & Participation / Preparation & Fulfillment
- God speaks, addresses us and we respond in worship, prayer, confession, participation

4-fold pattern (2 “main” moves with “bookends”)

1. Gathering as the Body
 - a. A call into the encounter, response (in silence many times)
 - b. Respond to God’s presence with praise in song
2. Listening for the Word
 - a. Scripture is read - we encounter Jesus in the reading of scripture (it’s sacramental!)
 - b. Good news is proclaimed, arising out of the text
 - c. We hear the Living Word in the written Word
 - d. What does he say? GOOD NEWS! And then a call to respond so we can participate in the reality proclaimed
 - e. Response here in prayer and confession of faith
3. Communing at the Table (the ultimate response / altar call)
 - a. Confession of sin / absolution (be reconciled!)
 - b. Sign of peace (proclaiming our unity)
 - c. Prayers at the table - then we commune together! A *participation* (communion, intimacy) in the body and blood of Christ... and one another...
 - d. Singing here in response to good news.
4. Sending into Mission
 - a. Prayer of thanksgiving - “Send us now into the world.”
 - b. Sending and blessing (“Go now... and may God...”)