

Worship Guide for West Morris Gatherings

August 29-30, 2020

Instructions: *The following worship guide is designed to help guide your time together as a gathering. Whether you're meeting online, outside or around your kitchen table - whether you're meeting with a group of people drawn from many places, or your immediate family unit - use this guide however it would best serve your gathering. Follow it exactly or use it as a starting point, and allow the Spirit to guide you and your gathering! Include as many people as possible in the service - invite different people to read scripture, lead music, lead prayer, ask questions, etc. The goal is that everyone present would be actively involved throughout the entire time - reading, praying, and discussing.*

Opening Call to Worship - Read Exodus 3:1-5. One person may read it, or follow the following responsive reading together.

- **Reader 1:** Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.
- **Reader 2:** There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush.
- **Reader 1:** Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.
- **Reader 2:** So Moses thought,
- **Everyone:** "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."
- **Reader 1:** When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush,
- **Everyone:** "Moses! Moses!"
- **Reader 2:** And Moses said,
- **Everyone:** "Here I am."
- **Reader 2:** "Do not come any closer," God said.
- **Everyone:** "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."

Worship in Song - Choose 2-3 songs to listen to/sing together from the list below, or select your own. You can use YouTube or Spotify, or sing acapella. If someone plays an instrument, they may lead you as well.

- **Potential acapella songs to sing together:**
 - Amazing Grace
 - How Great Thou Art

- My Jesus I Love Thee
- Seek Ye First
- I Love You Lord
- **YouTube song to listen to together:**
 - O Come to the Altar - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYQ5yXCc_CA
 - Is He Worthy? - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FkRiYsTN7KY&list=RDrYQ5yXCc_CA&index=2
 - Do It Again - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0B_InQIITxU&list=RDrYQ5yXCc_CA&index=9
 - Holy Water - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7KLO2AXQmtA&list=RDrYQ5yXCc_CA&index=15

Connection - Take a brief time to share either as a large group or in small groups of 2-3. Select one or more questions to discuss.

- Where have you seen God at work this week?
- What is the state of your soul? How are you really doing?
- What has coronavirus taken from you? What are you grieving?
- What has coronavirus not taken from you? What are you thankful for?
- What has God given you? What blessing do you need to celebrate and share?
- What do you most need in this season? How can we pray for you?

Prayer - Invite someone to lead the prayer by starting and closing the prayer time. Use some/all of the following prayer prompts and invite everyone to contribute.

- God, thank you for _____.
- God, would you _____.
- God, I'm grieving because _____.
- God, please help me _____.

(If you have children in your group, this might be a good time to dismiss them. If you're anticipating kids being at your gathering, ask 2 teens/adults to lead the short children's time in the basement, backyard, etc during the teaching time. See the file "Children's Teaching Time" for an easy children's teaching guide.)

Teaching - The teaching time will be structured as a “sermonic conversation” - time spent together in shared conversation among participants. One discussion guide/question-asker needs to be designated - they will simply guide the conversation and ask the following questions. Note: select a few questions from the list to discuss - there are more provided than you will be able to fully respond to.

- **Read:** Philippians 1:12-2:4. (Select an easy-to-read version such as NIV, NLT or NIRV.)
- **Share:** Ask everyone to share one word that stood out to them in the reading.
- **Discuss:** Select several questions to discuss together. If your group is large, you may consider breaking into smaller groups of 3-4 to discuss each question to allow greater participation. When beginning the discussion, invite people to share freely, but to also limit their comments to 2-3 minutes to allow opportunity for everyone to share.
 - What makes your heart sing in this scripture? What makes it sting?
 - What does this passage reveal about God’s heart?
 - What questions do you have in response to this scripture?
 - In verse 12 Paul said, “What has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel.” How do you identify with him in this?
 - In verse 18 Paul says he is rejoicing because the Gospel is going forth. What is causing you to rejoice these days? How have you seen the Gospel go forth in the past several months?
 - In verse 27, Paul says, “Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.” What does that mean for you today - especially in light of the divisiveness and turmoil in the midst of the pandemic, economic downturn, and the upcoming election.
 - In light of this scripture, what is God asking you to continue? What is God asking you to change or stop?
 - What does “being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind” look like with your family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc - especially when you live, think, believe, or vote differently?
 - How can you practically demonstrate humility in the next week?
 - How is God calling you to be part of “advancing the Gospel” in the next week?
- **Conclude:** Take a moment of stillness and ask the Spirit to show you what you need to take from today. What is God showing you? How will you respond? (Invite people to share if they wish.)
- **Closing Prayer:** Invite someone to close the teaching time in prayer

Benediction - Invite someone to read this over the group as a sending forth blessing.

- “May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.” (2 Thess 2:16-17)

Notes - Here are a few announcements to share with your gathering.

- Next Sunday we will be gathering for our Parking Lot Service at West Morris Church (2302 West Morris St) and online at 10:30 AM. Everyone is welcome.
- At the Sept 6 Parking Lot Service, we will celebrate communion together and have a baptism service. Is anyone in your group ready to take the next step of obedience and be baptized? If so, contact Pastor Kristen (317-464-7360).
- Would you like to meet again? Next scheduled time is September 27 - but certainly could meet again sooner!
- Our next sermon series will be based on *The Art of Neighboring*. Would this group would be interested in meeting to discuss this book throughout the next month?
- Exchange contact information with each other so you can follow up with one another in the next several weeks.
- Looking for information? The West Morris website is the best place to go - westmorrisfm.org.