



40^{more} Creative
Worship Ideas
For Small Groups



Introduction

These cards are designed to help make creative worship become a regular part of your group.

The 40 cards in this resource cover a broad range of approaches to Christian worship.

Our Lives

The Natural World

Scripture

Games

Objects

I Am Sayings

Words

Hymn Story

Some activities require a number of items you are likely to have around the home. Others require some thought and advance planning and are marked with a shopping basket symbol. Many of the cards, however, are 'ready to use' and need nothing more than your prayers before your small group gathers to meet with God and each other.

We all connect with God in different ways, so this set of cards includes a range of ideas with the hope that everyone in your group can lead worship confidently.

We want to take this opportunity to thank Heather Robertson, and Network Church for some of the ideas. Also our thanks go to Georgie Kelham, Peter Kinahan, Trevor Withers, www.publicdomainpictures.net, www.freepik.com and www.morguefile.com for use of their pictures.



Created by Peter Kinahan

Our story

Requires no preparation: other than the Bible.

Set the scene by reminding the group that the Bible is made up of stories of people's encounters with God down through history.

Read the story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-10.

Explain that we are going to take a few moments to share our stories briefly with each other, focusing on our encounters with Jesus. This could be a recent encounter or how we first met Jesus.

Go round the group and in no more than two minutes each take it in turns to remind each other of your Jesus story.

Spend time thanking God in prayer for each other's stories



One body

Preparation: Requires some bread and wine.



" A unified church is the only offering we dare present to the coming Christ for in it alone will he find room to dwell. "

Charles H Brent.

Read 1 Corinthians 10:16-17:

"Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf."

Share bread and wine together in communion, with a particular focus on the fact that we are one in Jesus.



Hands

Preparation: Requires a bowl of water and a towel.

Look at your hands:

Ask everyone to rest their hands on their laps, palm upwards, and look at them.

Ask the Holy Spirit to come and speak to us, then lead people through a short reflection leaving space between each sentence. Use the words below or adapt them as you feel necessary:

“Remind us of where you are pleased with the way we have used our hands.

Show us where we carry burdens so we can put them down.

Reveal to us how our hands can be more helpful, ‘When you serve others, you serve Jesus’.”

Have a bowl of water for cleansing, and close the time by washing your hands in turn as a symbolic act of offering our hands afresh to God.



Offer your bodies

Preparation: Requires paper and pens.

Give out sheets of paper and pens and ask the group to write down (or draw if they prefer) how they spent the last 24 hours—i.e. approx. how much was working, eating, sleeping etc.

Read Romans 12:1:

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”

Then ask them to think about where they have encountered God during this time.

How has my quiet time infused the rest of my time?

When did I most sense God’s presence and that I was worshipping?



Created by Peter Kinahan

Psalm 23

Requires no preparation: other than the Bible.

Pray this prayer of blessing based on Psalm 23, with a hearty amen in agreement after each phrase. Worship Father God together.

May you know the Lord, the all-powerful, ever-present Lord,
as your Shepherd

May He provide for you in every way

May He physically refresh you, emotionally restore you, and
spiritually renew you

May He guide you in right paths and lead and protect you
through dark valleys

May He prepare an abundant feast for you

May He pursue you with His love and goodness

May you dwell in His house both now and forever!



Philippians 2:5-11

Requires no preparation: other than the Bible.

Print off a copy of Philippians 2:5-11 for everyone to read together (www.biblegateway.com is good for this) :

“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

As you read it, let your voices become increasingly quieter to verse 8 (the verse that mentions Christ's death on the cross). Pause at this verse, then gradually increase your voice levels, so that the final verse is loud praise. Speak out prayers of praise for Jesus.



Acts 16:25-26

Requires no preparation: other than the Bible.

The Power of God is released when we worship Him.

Read Acts 16:25-26:

“About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose.”

Speak out prayers of faith and trust in God over situations that require breakthrough. As you do so, speak out words from scripture that declare His great power, and His great love for people.

Invite God to fill you afresh with His love. Spend a few moments in the quietness.



Created by Peter Kinahan

God is our Shepherd

Requires no preparation: other than the Bible.

God is our shepherd, who knows exactly what we need.

In our worship time we are going to listen to God for each other.

Ask the group to split into pairs.

One person read out Psalm 23 purposely and slowly to the whole group.

Each person listens for a word or a phrase from the psalm that God highlights for the other person in their pair.

When you get to the end of the psalm, pause, then share anything that God drew your attention to and pray blessings on each other.



Life giving water

Preparation: requires a bowl, jug of water and a towel.

Place a bowl and a jug of water along with a towel in the centre of the room.

Ask someone to read John 4:13-14 where Jesus speaks to the woman at the well about life giving water:

“Jesus answered, ‘Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.’”

As the verses are read, take the jug and pour the water out into the bowl slowly and deliberately.

Take time to then wash each other's hands in the bowl, praying as you do that God will refresh your lives again as you do this together.



Isaiah 53:5

Preparation: Requires some large nails, ideally 6 inches long.



Give everyone a nail to hold.

Read Isaiah 53:5:

“But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.”

Encourage everyone to meditate on the words as they look at the nail.

Then offer prayers of gratitude to Jesus Christ, the One whose hands and feet were nailed to the cross for us.



Created by Peter Kinahan

One body

Preparation: Requires paper cut outs.

Depending on the number of people in your group, prepare cut out body parts on card or paper so each person can have one ie 1 x head 2 x legs 1 x body 2 x arms etc.

Prime each person to bring a verse, a song, a prayer of thanks etc. Just as Paul teaches in 1 Corinthians 14:26:

“What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.”

As each person brings their contribution, their ‘piece’ is placed to make up the figure. It shows very clearly how when worship is corporate, everyone’s contribution is valuable.



Created by Peter Kinahan

Fruits

Preparation: requires a bowl of fruit.



Place a bowl of fruit on the table in the middle of the room, and read the following verses:

Galatians 5:22-23

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
Against such things there is no law.”

Ask each person to take a piece of fruit and think about which of the fruits of the Spirit it could represent for them. Ask the group to share why they chose their particular fruit and which gift it represents.

Spend time praying prayers of thanks to God for His gift of these fruits in our lives.



Give thanks



Bring and Share

Preparation: Each person to bring something as below.

Bring and share an item, verse, book, poem, picture, piece of pottery, food item, or piece of jewellery that represents something God has done for you this week.

Everyone place their items on a table for everyone to look at.

Go round the group and share why you brought that item and what it means.
Praise God in prayer.

To extend this idea, guess who brought what by giving items to the leader upon arrival.

A week's notice is needed for this idea.

It may be helpful to text the group leading up to the meeting as a reminder to bring their objects.



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Peace

Preparation: If you wish, print or find an audio version of this prayer.

Use the prayer of St Francis to create a time of quiet reflection for your group.

You can simply read it out and leave a pause after every pair of lines so the words soak in.

Alternatively there are several audio versions online that you could play and then use the words as a reflective response.

Give time for the group to pray in response to the words.

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there is hatred let me bring your love
Where there is injury, your pardon Lord
And where there's doubt, true faith in you

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, only light
And where there's sadness ever joy

Oh, master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul

Make me a channel of your peace
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
In giving to all men that we receive
And in dying that we're born to eternal life

St. Francis of Assisi



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Psalms

Preparation: Requires paper and pens.

The Psalms have been described as the hymn book of the Bible.

They contain a wide variety of situations and expressions of worship and prayers to God.

Ask the group to reflect on the last few weeks and the things that have been happening in their lives at home or work or in the family.

Give out paper and pens and suggest that we are going to write our own Psalms together just as David did.

Leave a time of silence for people to ponder and reflect.

Then simply ask people to write a Psalm, it only needs to be a few lines so just encourage them to start writing.

Encourage anyone that would like to, to read out their Psalm as an offering of worship.



Hymns

Preparation: Print out the words to a hymn of your choice.

Print out several copies of the words of a well known hymn and give them out to the group, but instead of singing it use the lyrics and read them together as an expression of worship. Often when we sing we do not connect with the full treasure that is stored in the words so let them speak to us and inspire us to worship God.

Be creative as you do this, repeat phrases as you feel led, bring emphasis to different verses to bring the text to life.

You could use the one given here as a sample to try.

(You can find the full words to this hymn or a different one of your choice with an internet search.)

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.

Refrain:

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won.*



Newspapers

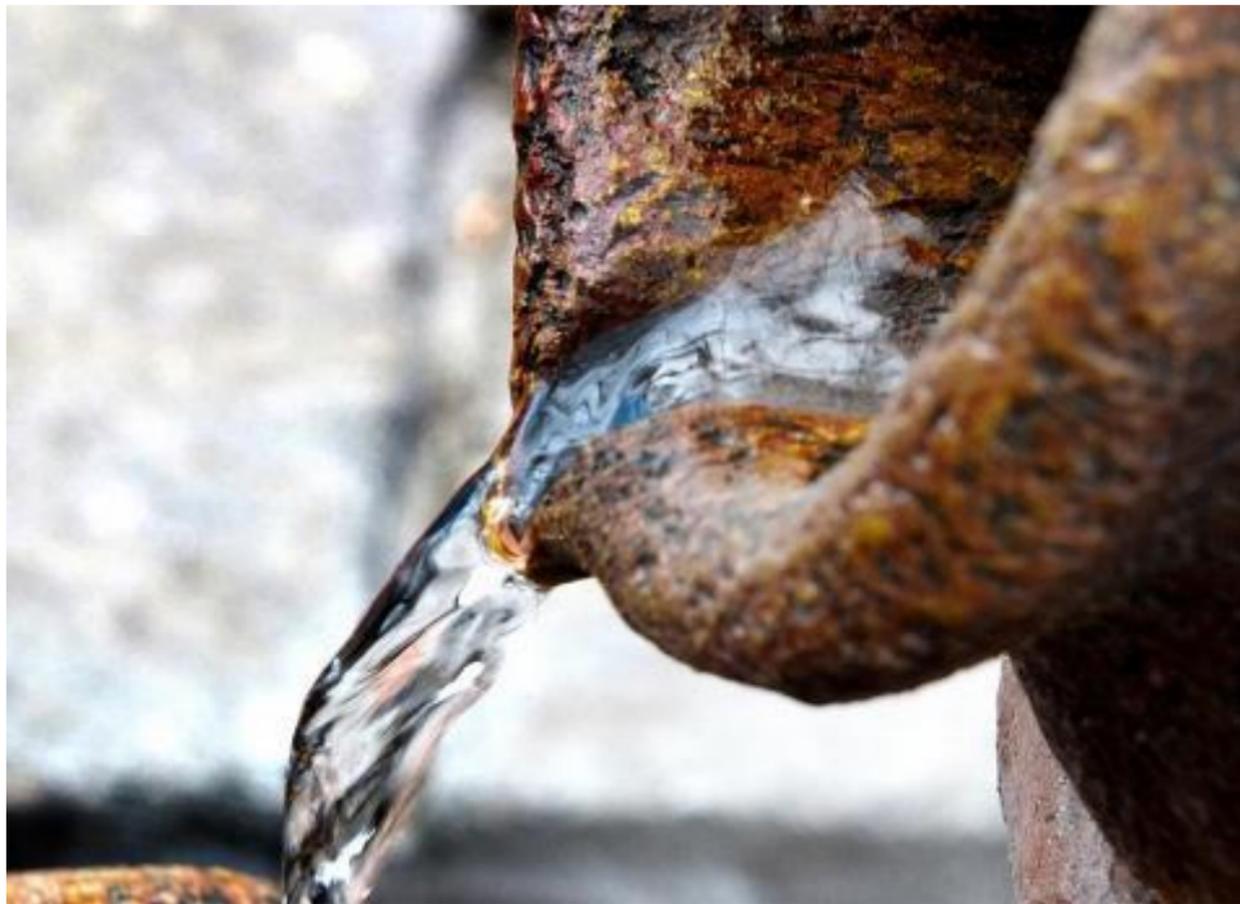
Preparation: Requires some newspapers and pens or highlighters.



Bring a number of local or national newspapers, give them out to the group and ask them to spend time looking through them.

Give them each a pen or highlighter and tell them they need to look for good news stories, this may take some searching so give them time. Ask them to mark or highlight the stories as they go.

Ask the group to share briefly what they have found and use the stories to offer thanks to God. In this way we are recognising that all good things come from Him and acknowledging that He is at work in the world.



Hope

Requires no preparation other than the Bible.

Read Romans 5:5:

‘Hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit’.

Reflect together that a key part of our Christian faith is hope, the hope that we will spend an eternity in God’s presence. But also the conviction that in life despite difficulties we have the hope of God’s presence being with us, and that hope strengthening us in our day to day lives and spiritual journey.

Ask the group to share stories where Christian hope has inspired them to press on despite circumstances.

And then encourage those present to pray out loud thanking God for the hope that He puts in our hearts and the strength He gives us.



Created by Peter Kinahan

Creation

Preparation: Requires items from nature.

Bring an item from the natural world (flower, rock, fossil, feather, piece of wood etc). Place the item or items in a prominent place so that everyone can see them.

Read Genesis 1 together, take a verse each and go round the group to encourage the whole group to engage with the passage.

Before you read together ask the group to reflect on the rhythm of the passage and notice the repeated phrases.

'God said'

'God saw that it was good'

'And there was evening and there was morning'

Use the items and the repeated phrases from the passage as your stimulus for prayer and worship together.



Created by Georgie Kelham

The natural world

Preparation: Requires an old wall calendar that you no longer need.

Bring an old wall calendar which shows attractive nature and landscape scenes, it needs to be taken apart so all the pages are separated.

Spread the pages on the floor and invite the group walk around and pick one up.

Encourage them to use it as inspiration for silent prayer and worship for a few moments and allow themselves to be drawn into the picture.

After a short period encourage all present to talk about why they had taken that page and how it had inspired them to worship God.

Encourage those who would like to pray out their praise to God.



Abundance

Preparation: Requires fruits and seeds,



We live in a world governed by an economic system that is designed around scarcity, where the value of things is determined by how rare or common they are.

As Christians we are called to live differently as we believe in a God of abundance.

We see this in the abundance of resources in our natural world.

Bring some of this abundance to the group in the form of fruit and seeds. Encourage the group to handle these and pass them around, allowing the seeds to flow through your fingers so you experience the tactile nature of this abundance.

Pray together, thanking God for His abundance demonstrated in the seeds and fruit and all the other ways that we experience God's abundant love for us.



Leaving go

Preparation: Requires play dough.



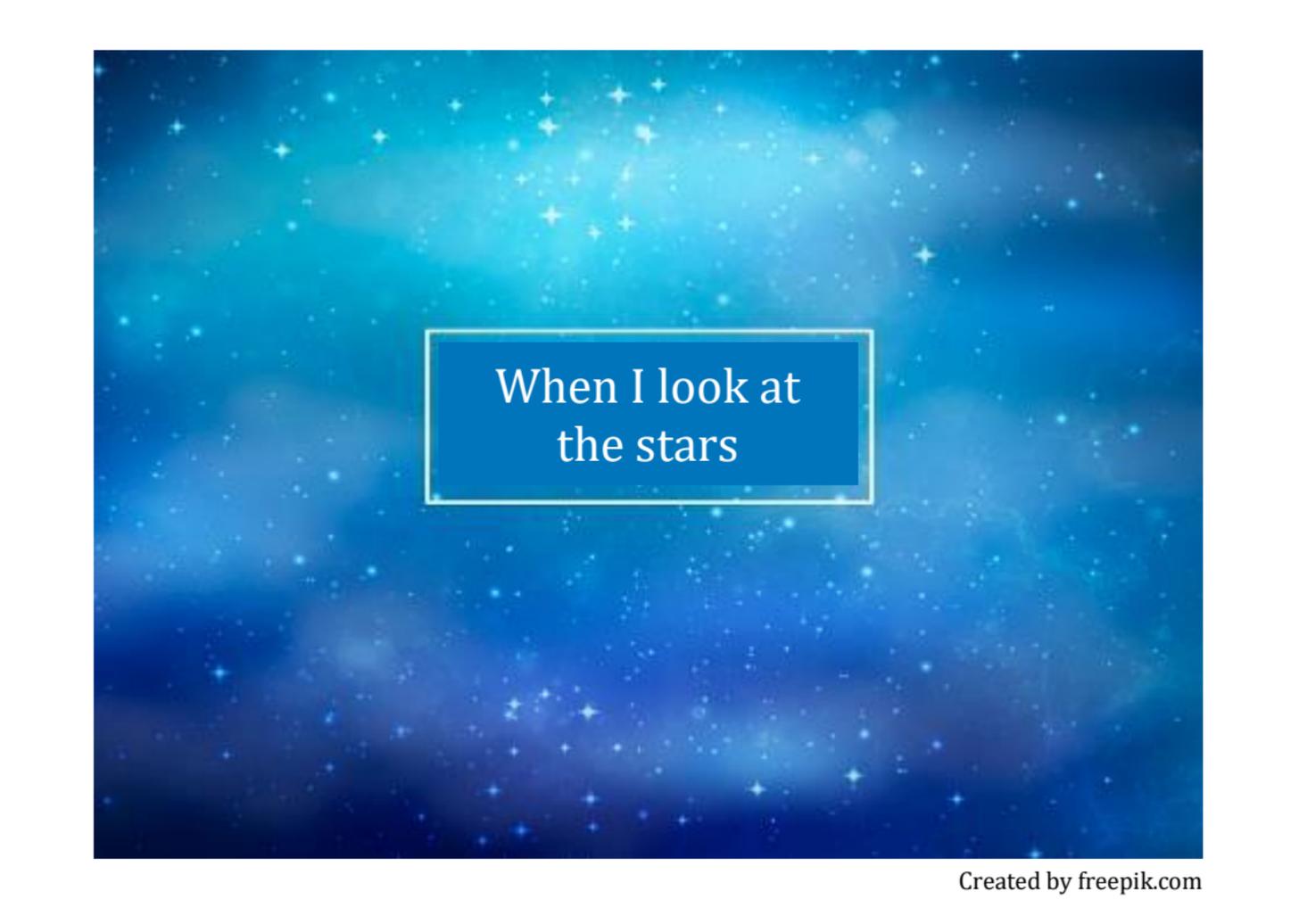
For this worship idea you need a pack of play dough (often available as a set of three or four small pots). Alternatively if you are feeling adventurous there are recipes available to make your own.

Give a piece of play dough to each person in the group and ask them to make an animal of some sort. They can decide what type of animal it can be, either one they make up completely, or a 'real one' such as a giraffe or dog etc. Tell them that this is not a competition to see who can make the best but just for fun so they don't have to worry.

Ask them to give their animal a name.

When they have finished making them, get everyone to stand up and swap animals and as they do so to introduce their animal to the person they are swapping with and tell them about it and ask them to look after it for them.

Share how it felt to give your creation away and spend time thanking God that He has trusted us with His creation.



When I look at
the stars

When I look at the stars

Requires no preparation: other than the Bible.

Choose a clear night and go outside as a group, ideally in an area where there is not too much artificial light pollution.

Read Psalm 8 out loud with pauses between the verses and ask the group to look up at the stars as you do so.

Read the Psalm one more time and ask the group to pray prayers of thanks.



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Walking and talking

Preparation: Requires a short walking route.

Adam walked and talked with God in the cool of the day (Genesis 3:8).

Jesus spent much of his time outside walking and talking with the disciples.

Small groups spend much of their time sitting down inside, so it is good on occasion to get up and out: this card encourages you to do just that with your group.

Take the group for a walk and encourage them to talk to each other and to God as they walk.

Ideas can include: thanking God for the things you see as you walk together; pausing every so often and reading scripture or praying together; asking God to speak to you; praising Him. You could ask the children connected to the group to come and join in.

Things to bear in mind; take a circular route if possible, don't make it too long, tell the group the week before so they can wear suitable footwear etc.

A B C D E F G

H I J K L M N

O P Q R S T

U V W X Y Z

Our God is

No preparation required.

This idea is based on an old parlour game called The Parson's Cat. In that game you go round the circle of people gathered and using the letters of the alphabet starting with A you choose a word beginning with A that describes the cat. We have adapted this and used it as a fun way to worship by saying 'our God is....'

So the first person starts and says our God is amazing, the second person follows on with our God is astonishing and so on round the circle. When you have been around once you move on the letter B and so on through the alphabet. You may have to only do half the alphabet in one week or you will use all your meeting time doing it!

It is often fun as some letters are more challenging than others and depending on the number of people in your group it can get tough as the obvious words get used by those who go first. To help this you can reverse the direction so that those who were going last get to go first.

T

H

A

N

K

F

U

L

Thankful

Preparation: Requires a large piece of paper and pens.

Read Colossians 3:15-16:

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.”

Using a large piece of paper (flip chart size would be ideal), write the word T-H-A-N-K-F-U-L in large letters across the middle.

Encourage each person in the group to write on the paper a word that describes something they are thankful to God for, starting with one of the letters in ‘thankful’ - in the style of the scrabble board game.

You can then extend this by then adding other words and see how you can fill the paper with things that you are thankful to God for.



Created by freepik.com

Worship nets

Preparation: Requires a ball of string or wool.



The idea is to create a visual worship net by using a ball of string.

Explain to the group that you are going to throw the ball of string to someone in the group whilst holding one end of it (you may need to unravel it a bit first). The person who catches it then shares something they want to thank God for. They then throw it to another person across the room, who does the same and so on.

As the ball of string travels across the room between people it creates a net of connections, and shows how we are joined together through our worship.

You can use this in a number of ways not just taking thankfulness as the theme but picking other areas, here are two suggestions:

- Attributes of God, i.e. God is.....
- Naming people we want to bring into God's presence.

Psalm building

Preparation: Print out the words to several Psalms.

The idea is to connect with the themes in a few well known Psalms.

Print out about six short well known Psalms (biblegateway.com is a good place to find them).

Cut them into sentences and mix them up, and without using your Bibles try putting them back together again.

You can do this as a whole group or split the group in half, in which case you will need to have about three Psalms each.

If you are struggling after a bit then use your Bibles to help you.

Psalms you could use for this could include the following:

Psalm 1, 8, 23, 46, 121, 150.



I am the bread of life

Requires no preparation: other than the Bible. Bring some bread if you wish.

Read John 6:35.

Reflect that bread in an Eastern culture was the main staple of life and their daily source of strength. Also, Jesus was speaking to a group that knew about the manna from heaven - the supernatural food given to the people of Israel on their journey out of captivity.

So Jesus is saying in this passage that He is our strength, and He strengthens us supernaturally because of our relationship with Him.

Ask those present to reflect on an area where they have been strengthened by God, or where they need strength. Ask those who would like to share about these areas and then give thanks that Jesus is the bread of life and He will strengthen them.

You could also bring some bread to the group, and give each person a piece of that bread which they can eat with thanks in their heart that this is a symbol of God's strength.



Created by Pinnacleanimates - Freepik.com

I am the light of world

Preparation: Requires a candle.

Read John 8:12.

Light the candle and pray this Celtic prayer:

“We light a light in the name of God who creates life, in the name of the Saviour who loves life, in the name of the Spirit who is the fire of light.”

Ask those present to think of an area of the world or a local situation that needs God’s intervention, that needs light in darkness, and then ask two or three people to give thanks that God’s light shines in the darkness.

Ask the group to think of a personal area in their lives which is a struggle, or is an area of darkness and pray the Celtic prayer again over the group.



I am the door

Requires no preparation: other than the Bible.

Read John 10:9.

Reflect that in this passage Jesus is saying that He is the door, the entry point to new space - both in an eternal sense in terms of heaven but also in life. We go through the door and meet with Jesus, which enables us to make a difference in our world.

Ask the group to reflect - is there an area in their lives where they need to step through a doorway into a new area in their faith. This could be regarding a new challenge or a new opportunity.

Then ask them to pray out in thanks because Jesus is the door. If there is a convenient door in your meeting place ask each group member to walk through the door, as a symbol, with thanks in their heart.



I am the good shepherd

Requires no preparation: other than the Bible.

Read John 10: 11,14.

Ask those present to describe what a good shepherd here in the UK looking after the sheep would look like, with an emphasis on the 'good'.

Reflect that God as our good shepherd would be more wonderful than anything we have just described.

Read Psalm 23.

Ask the group to reflect which verse from this Psalm means the most to them.

Pray the Psalm as prayer over the group by changing 'I' to 'you'. For example, 'The Lord is your shepherd you shall not want'. In this way you are praying a blessing over your group.



I am the resurrection and the life

Requires no preparation: other than the Bible.

Read John 11:25.

Reflect that Jesus is promising eternal life to all who believe in Him, and this speaks to us of how much God loves and values every human.

If every human is of this much value to God, how should this affect us and the way we live and the way we treat people?

Then ask those present to pray out loud, giving thanks that 'I am important' and 'every human is important'. Also thank God for the eternal life He promises us because He defeated death when He was resurrected.



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I am the way, the truth and the life

Requires no preparation: other than the Bible.

Read John 14:16.

The prevailing culture in the UK today is of the view that there are many ways to discover spirituality, that truth is relative and ever changing, and that real life and personal happiness can be found in whatever way people want to find it.

We as Christians can be conformed to this way of thinking. Ask those present to name some of the ways that we as Christians might be embracing this culture and accepting its philosophy. Then read the scripture again, and give thanks that Jesus is the only way, the only truth, the only life.

Pray this Celtic blessing over the group:

“May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sunshine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.”



Created by Peter Kinahan

I am the vine

Preparation: Requires a bunch of grapes.



Read John 15: 1,5

Bring a large bunch of grapes and place it on a table. Ask those present to eat some grapes. Ask them whether the grapes are pleasant or unpleasant to eat.

Reflect from this passage that Jesus is the source, He is the vine, but what people see is us, and they are expecting to see 'fruit' from us.

Read the list of the fruits of the spirit from Galatians 5:22: "But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; and against such there is no law."

Ask the group to share which of these fruits they feel are a regular part of their lives. Give thanks to God in prayer for these fruits which are a result of His Holy Spirit living in us. Ask God for help and for more of His Spirit so we can see more fruits in the areas that are a struggle.



What a Friend We Have in Jesus, by Joseph Scriven 1855

Preparation: Find the words of this hymn online with an internet search, and print them out for your group to see. On YouTube search for 'the story behind the hymn' which will give you a range of short videos (less than 10 minutes) about different hymns, select one about this hymn which your group can watch together. Here is a summary of the story:

Joseph Scriven was a teacher in Ireland, planning to marry and settle down when tragedy struck: the day before his wedding, his fiancé drowned. Overcome with grief, Scriven left Ireland to start a new life in Canada. He met and fell in love, but just weeks before his wedding day his fiancé became ill and died.

Shattered, Joseph found solace in his faith. Still only 25, he took a vow of poverty and gave his life to serving the poor. Ten years later he received word that his mother had become very ill. Not having the funds to go home to help care for her, he instead wrote for her the story of his life in a few verses which he called 'What a Friend We Have in Jesus.'

After watching the video as a group, have 2 or 3 minutes of silent reflection, after which, if you wish, invite those present to speak out their worship.



Created by Yanalya - freepik.com

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing, by Robert Robinson 1757

Preparation: Find the words of this hymn online with an internet search, and print them out for your group to see. On YouTube search for 'the story behind the hymn' which will give you a range of short videos (less than 10 minutes) about different hymns, select one about this hymn which your group can watch together. Here is a summary of the story:

Robert Robinson was a wild youth. Born in Norfolk, UK, his dad passed away when he was only 8 years old. In his youth he endured the hardship of having to be the breadwinner for his widowed mother and himself.

His mother sent him to London to be an apprentice, during which time he associated with a notorious gang of 'hoodlums'. However, he came to repentance listening to the preacher George Whitefield. He became a church pastor and wrote some hymns, including Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing.

After watching the video as a group, have 2 or 3 minutes of silent reflection, after which, if you wish, invite those present to speak out their worship.



Created by morguefile.com

It is Well With My Soul, by Horatio Spafford 1876

Preparation: Find the words of this hymn online with an internet search, and print them out for your group to see. On YouTube search for 'the story behind the hymn' which will give you a range of short videos (less than 10 minutes) about different hymns, select one about this hymn which your group can watch together. Here is a summary of the story:

Horatio Spafford was a successful lawyer and businessman in Chicago with his wife, Anna, and five children. However, their youngest son died from pneumonia, and the remaining 4 children died during a sea voyage to Europe when their ship collided with another in the Atlantic Ocean.

Anna survived the ship collision, and Horatio booked passage on the next available ship and travelled to join his grieving wife. He wrote 'It Is Well With My Soul' while on this journey.

After watching the video as a group, have 2 or 3 minutes of silent reflection, after which, if you wish, invite those present to speak out their worship.



I Have Decided to Follow Jesus, by Sadhu Singh around 1850

Preparation: Find the words of this hymn online with an internet search, and print them out for your group to see. On YouTube search for 'the story behind the hymn' which will give you a range of short videos (less than 10 minutes) about different hymns, select one about this hymn which your group can watch together. Here is a summary of the story:

The lyrics are based on the last words of a man called Nokseng, who lived in India and who, along with his family, came to Christ through a Welsh missionary. Called to renounce his faith by the village chief, Nokseng declared, "I have decided to follow Jesus." His two children were killed and in response to threats to his wife, he continued, "Though none go with me, still I will follow." His wife was killed, and he was executed while singing, "The cross before me, the world behind me." This display of faith led to the conversion of the chief and others in the village. The Indian missionary Sadhu Sundar Singh later made the words into a hymn.

After watching the video as a group, have 2 or 3 minutes of silent reflection, after which, if you wish, invite those present to speak out their worship.



Created by [Furio Franceschinell](https://www.freepik.com) - freepik.com

Blessed Assurance Jesus is Mine, by Fanny Crosby 1873

Preparation: Find the words of this hymn online with an internet search, and print them out for your group to see. On YouTube search for 'the story behind the hymn' which will give you a range of short videos (less than 10 minutes) about different hymns, select one about this hymn which your group can watch together. Here is a summary of the story:

Fanny Crosby lived in New York. When she was 6 weeks old a doctor, with a lack of proper medical knowledge, applied a mustard plaster poultice to her eyes, which destroyed her sight. At 15 she entered the New York Institute for the Blind and later became a teacher there. She met and married a blind musician and they had a child, but the baby sadly died.

When she was aged 53, one day she visited a friend, who played a tune she had recently written on the piano. She then asked Fanny, "What does this tune say?" After kneeling in prayer for a few moments, Fanny declared, "It says, 'Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!'" She then dictated the words to her friend who wrote them down and it became this hymn.

After watching the video as a group, have 2 or 3 minutes of silent reflection, after which, if you wish, invite those present to speak out their worship.