



MT. CROSS MINISTRIES
Providing profound experiences in God's creation



A little bit of prep goes a long way.

Go through this sheet to set up your space

and then use the next one as a fill-in-the-blank format for your worship!

Worship is when we intentionally take time to connect with God, together. It's not done alone or off-the-cuff. Prayer can be done anytime, anywhere; devotions can be done alone. But worship is when we set aside some intentional time to come together with other people of faith and connect with God and each other - including those who have gone before us and those who will come after us.

At camp, we worship twice a day - right after breakfast and right before bed - and we call them Alpha and Omega, the Greek words for "beginning" and "end" (which is also how we see God - the beginning and end of everything!). The formats are pretty similar, only in the morning we start quiet and end with loud energy and at night we start high-energy and end quiet. Below is our basic format; just plug in the scripture and the songs that you like!

But first, set up your space.

- **Altar.** Initially, these were built out of stones found in a place where you met God. So if you're walking down the street and felt the presence of God, you'd stop, pick up some rocks, and build a little altar (totem). Later, altars came to look differently and meant different things. But for us right now, it can be a kitchen or coffee table, or you can clear a space on your floor or deck... but you'll want a space that you can gather around, and that can "hold" the presence of God for worship (which will be represented by the next items). As you gather around this altar, know that you're gathering together around and with the presence of God.
- **Fire.** This can be a candle or a campfire. Fire and light show up a lot in the Bible. When the Israelites wandered in the desert, God's presence led them as a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night. The book of John talks about Jesus being the light of the world. We light fires for worship to represent a lot of things, but here it will be the sign that the presence of God is among us in this place.
- **Water.** When we were baptized, God claimed us as children. It's the basis of our entire relationship with God. So we have water present to remind us that, first and foremost, we're children of God. And when we show up to worship, that's how God sees us: as beloved kids.
- **God's Word.** This takes a lot of forms, but for now, we mean scripture - the Bible. If you don't have one, talk with your pastor and they'll be happy to help you get one. Otherwise, you can go to www.biblegateway.com and type in the verses you want and it'll show up. We recommend the Contemporary English Version (CEV) for an easy reading level.

Once you've picked the songs you want to sing and the scripture you want to read and you've set up your space, you're ready to go! It will be easiest if you pick one person to be the leader before your start, but you can also have people take turns.

If you need additional tips for worship, see the last page of this document.

Worship from Home

Leader: Welcome to worship in the name of God the Creator, Jesus the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit, the Sustainer. Amen (*make the sign of a cross while you say this*). In this place, we are gathered with God and reminded by fire that God's presence is with us and leading us in this life. We are reminded by the water that we are children of God. We are reminded by scripture that God is always speaking with us, and we are reminded by each other that God's love and peace is shared through others.

Leader: As beloved children, we can bring everything to God. Let's take a minute to bring our whole selves before God - our desires, our failures, our hurts, the ways we've hurt others, and the ways we hope we'll be - and lay them before God. (*silence for everyone to do this*)

Leader: Know that God has seen you, understands you, and loves you. What you have done wrong is forgiven, where you are weak God has strength, in your times of feeling alone God is with you, and where you feel overwhelmed God is willing to guide. In all of your successes and failures God is here for you and will keep you close.

Dip your finger in the water and mark a cross on everyone's forehead or palm and say the words "Child of God, you have been marked with the cross of Christ and sealed with the Holy Spirit forever."

You may also have each person do this for the person next to them.

Song: _____

Prayer (*You may say your own or choose one of the prayers on the website or the next sheet.*)

Song: _____

Scripture: _____

Digging In with God's Word

Use any of the methods on the next sheet to help you think about and digest the scripture you read.

Song: _____

Prayer (*Ditto to above*)

Song: _____

Blessing & Dismissal

Leader: May the Lord bless and protect you, and show you mercy and kindness. May the Lord be good to you and give you peace. (*make the sign of the cross*) Everyone: Amen.

Leader: Let's go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Everyone: Thanks be to God and we will!

Extra Tips & Ideas

Bringing Everything to God:

- At the beginning, when you're told to bring yourselves to God, this is typically what we call "confession". This can be done silently, or you can have everyone write/draw it out and then burn the paper as a symbol that God's presence consumes and surrounds all of us.

Songs:

- There are 8 camp songs on our Camp at Home website. But you're not limited to these. Pick any faith-based song you like!
- If you're really up for a challenge, try to pick songs that match the message from scripture that day.

Prayers:

- On the Camp at Home website under the "Want More?" section you'll see a link to a bunch of camp prayers. Choose any one for these slots!
- To be more like the "prayers of the people" at church, do a popcorn prayer or squeeze prayer.
 - Popcorn: one person starts and then everyone else "pops up" with their prayers to God at random. When you think everyone is done, the person who started the prayer then ends it as well.
 - Squeeze: everyone joins hands. One person starts the prayer and then squeezes the hand of the person next to them when they're done. That person prays and then squeezes the next hand when they're done, and so on until the last person who says their prayer and then closes it.

Scripture:

- There are many ways you can go about choosing your passage:
 - Pick one of the ones matched with the Camp at Home activities
 - Rotate through everyone's favorite passages/stories
 - Go to www.workingpreacher.org to find the texts assigned for the week. Some churches use the Revised Common Lectionary and some use the Narrative Lectionary. Both are fine for you to choose.

Digging In With God's Word:

- Again, there are many ways to do this. A few easy ones:
 - Lectio Divina. One person reads the passage and everyone else listens. Then there's a time of silent reflection before the leader reads it again. After the second reading, everyone takes a turn saying what stood out to them and why. Then discuss together!
 - Be a Character. Together, really get into one character's perspective on the story. Why were they at that place? What were they thinking and feeling? What did they hope would happen? How are you like that character? Hint: don't always pick the obvious or "good" characters - pick the people on the sidelines or the ones you love to hate... or pick God! God's always a character in the stories.
 - Pictionary Plus. Alone or in teams, each person comes up with one or two words/phrases that describe the point of the passage you read (e.g., we will bless others). Then that person/team draws that word/phrase and the others try to guess what it is. Afterwards, talk about why you think that was the point of the passage. Did you all come up with different things? The same thing? Sometimes a passage can't be reduced to just one thought. Are there lots of things to gain from this text?