



WORSHIP GUIDES

The following guides are intended to be used in two ways:

- 1). As a focal point for the worship team as they gather prior to the service. The scripture passage will lay a foundation for the worship gathering. The key quotes from the book will illustrate these biblical truths. The prayer prompts can be a kick-starter for the team's personal prayers as they commit the service to the Lord.
- 2). As the basis for a "Call to Worship" following a similar format. The prayer prompts can be offered in similar words by the leader or used to provide a guide for responsive prayers.

Find more resources at www.transformingpresencebook.com and www.strategicrenewal.com

What We All Want

SCRIPTURE READING

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. (John 16:7)

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- We all want the same thing: a true, biblical, transforming, Christ-honoring experience of the indwelling Spirit of God.
- Clear New Testament truth is important, not to question our experience of the Holy Spirit, but to challenge us to think of His work more clearly and speak from His word more biblically so we can experience His transforming power in our lives more consistently.
- How we think and speak of the Holy Spirit will either eclipse or exalt the finished work of Christ and the gospel. Words matter.
- We must be resolute in honoring the finished work of Christ by embracing a truly gospel-based understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit, leading to genuine transformation.
- If we have a clear understanding of the cross, we will no longer speak of the work of the Holy Spirit as some potential outside-in occurrence but rather as a powerful inside-out assurance.

SUGGESTED PRAYER PROMPTS

- Father, in Jesus name, thank you for sending the Spirit into our hearts because of what Jesus did on the cross. Thank You that we have experienced the Holy Spirit's help in our lives when...
- Help us to remember the Holy Spirit's desire to glorify Jesus in and through us, especially when...
- Because of the gospel, we thank You that the indwelling Spirit can transform our...

Agree to Evaluate Your Assumptions

SCRIPTURE READING

And he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition!” (Mark 7:9)

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- All our enthusiasm about the Spirit as we gather on weekends must equip us for empowerment by the indwelling Spirit for every day of the week. Anything less than this is a disservice to God's people and sets them up for spiritual defeat.
- The Spirit's purposes must be clear to us —to take the Word of Christ and make it real to the people of Christ so they would honor the person of Christ in the mission of Christ for the glory of Christ.
- Lasting inside-out change can happen because of what Jesus promised us in the person and power of His Holy Spirit.
- Not only is the Holy Spirit often the ‘forgotten God,’ but for many of us He may be the ‘misrepresented God.’
- The good news of the gospel must trump any and all of our ‘fake news’ about the person and work of the Holy Spirit.

SUGGESTED PRAYER PROMPTS

- Father, we praise You that during this past week the truth of your dwelling Spirit empowered us to overcome... (confusion, discouragement, conflict, etc.)
- We invite your Spirit to take the word of Christ, make it real to the people of Christ, so we will honor the person of Christ in the mission of Christ for the glory of Christ. As we worship today, remind us that our mission in this world is...
- Lord, we are grateful for our various backgrounds, traditions and unique journeys. But, give us a willingness to evaluate our preferred assumptions so that...

Embrace the Holy Spirit's Primary Purpose

SCRIPTURE READING

"But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me . . . He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you." (John 15:26, 16:14)

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- The most important issue in our understanding of the Holy Spirit is the why, the ultimate and guiding purpose, for which He was sent – the glory of Jesus Christ.
- Instead of arguing our various viewpoints about how the Spirit works, as we so often do, let's seek resolute agreement on why the Spirit works.
- What matters is not how high you jump on Sunday but how straight you walk on Monday.
- We don't live at Disneyland. Most days are not a mountain peak. The work is in the valleys. Yet, the indwelling Spirit of God can make the mundane meaningful and the ordinary extraordinary as we walk with Christ day by day.

SUGGESTED PRAYER PROMPTS

- Father, in Jesus name, thank You for the indwelling Spirit's purpose to glorify Jesus. Lord Jesus You are worthy of all glory because...
- Spirit of Truth, thank You that Jesus is the Word of God. Remind us by your indwelling ministry that Jesus has taught us...
- In the mundane days of life, help us to focus on glorifying You, especially when...

Live in the Power of the New Covenant

SCRIPTURE READING

"Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life." (2 Corinthians 3:5–6)

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- We actually enjoy a new experience of the Holy Spirit because of the gospel. Our language and practice can and must reflect the reality of these amazing privileges.
- To understand the impact of God's transforming presence we must have clarity and conviction to interpret our daily lives and our corporate worship by seeing through a distinctly new covenant lens.
- The gospel is the new and powerful lens through which we see and experience the transforming presence of the Spirit of God.
- The possibility and privilege of living in the freedom of this new covenant came at a high price—the sacrifice of the life of the Son of God. This is one reason I want to be sure I get it right, sing it right, and say it right.

SUGGESTED PRAYER PROMPTS

- Father, in Jesus name, thank You that the Spirit gives us life as new covenant believers. We have experienced the life-giving presence of the Spirit many times, especially when...
- Lord Jesus, because you sacrificed_____ so that we could experience life in the new covenant, help us remember that...
- Give us a true new covenant lens so that as we read your word we will understand that...

Pursue the Indwelling Person, Not and External Presence

SCRIPTURE READING

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.” (John 14:16–17)

“And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” (Galatians 4:6)

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- God’s power and light now reside in our hearts, making us agents of the ‘light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.’ (2 Cor. 4:6) Impact proceeds from intimacy.
- In too many places we are conjuring up an elusive ‘it’ rather than celebrating and cherishing the transforming power of an indwelling ‘Him’ – the person of the Holy Spirit.
- We cannot think of the Holy Spirit in impersonal terms. His ‘presence’ is not some mystical gas or the arrival of some nondescript energy force. His presence is very personal. He lives in us personally. He works in us personally. He moves in and among us personally.

SUGGESTED PRAYER PROMPTS

- Father, in Jesus name, we thank You for sending the Spirit of your Son into our hearts, giving us an intimate personal relationship. As we cry, “Abba! Father!” We remember that You are a Father who...
- Help us to remember your personal presence in our hearts when we are tempted to...
- Jesus, by your Spirit, we trust you to manifest your personal character through us so that we will...

Worship Like You Are the House of the Lord

SCRIPTURE READING

“But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.” (John 4:23)

“For we worship God by means of his Spirit and rejoice in our life in union with Christ Jesus. We do not put any trust in external ceremonies.” (Philippians 3:3 - GNB)

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Real worship is not just something we do in a church building. It is the lifestyle and passion of a true Christian 24 /7.
- The more we understand the reality of true worship the less we will be attached to and reliant upon superficial forms. This is why it is so important to teach on the gospel-delivered, inside-out work of the Holy Spirit.
- Inside-out thinking helps us to transcend the “forms” that might not be to our liking because our emphasis is on what God is doing in me, not on the superficial elements that might be happening around me.
- When spiritual reality captivates our heart, our concern over superficial forms no longer sours our attitudes. Our concern for “holy things” will start with the temples of our hearts, seeking the full control of the indwelling Spirit so that everything we think, say, sing and do genuinely honors Christ.

SUGGESTED PRAYER PROMPTS

- Father, in Jesus name, thank You that we can worship in “spirit and in truth” because of the cross. Right now, the indwelling Spirit prompts us to worship You because...
- Jesus, because You are the reality and focus of our worship, help us not to become attached to superficial forms, like...
- Father, because our hearts are now your very temple, indwelt by the Spirit, empower us to live holy lives especially when...

Experience the God Who Already Showed Up

SCRIPTURE READING

“...and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” (1 Corinthians 12:6–7)

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Jesus did not die to sanctify and fill buildings or ‘atmospheres.’ His work on the cross changed everything. He died to cleanse, fill, and empower our human hearts.
- The Bible is fully sufficient, especially the gospel language of the Word of God, to give us clear and Christ-honoring words to describe the work of the Spirit.
- Since the Scriptures were written as a holy ‘biography’ or ‘operator’s manual’ for the Spirit, I believe He would be honored if our descriptions of His person and work were consistent with what He has told us about Himself.
- The glory of God is Jesus *in us*—not floating above us, around us, hovering in the building or waiting in the lobby until we find the right formula to coax Him in.
- The question is not whether the Holy Spirit works in overwhelming ways at times—He does. The question is how does this happen and why? Our answer must be a clear gospel answer.
- Rather than being compelled to see the manifest presence of God, we should commit ourselves to be the manifest presence of God.

SUGGESTED PRAYER PROMPTS

- Father, in Jesus name, thank You for the indwelling person and grace of the Holy Spirit. His presence in us is so powerful that He can . . .
- Lord, as we worship today, let each of us fully cherish and understand the indwelling person and presence of your Holy Spirit so that we will manifest your life by...
- Lord, help us to remember that You want to manifest your Spirit in and through each of us. Let us find opportunities for Spirit-initiated and empowered ministry this week as we...

Seek a Filling, Not a Falling

SCRIPTURE READING

"And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ." (Ephesians 5:18–21)

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Instead of singing for the Spirit to ‘fall afresh on’ us, we should pray that He would work afresh *within* us.
- Instead of anticipating what the Spirit might do to us, we would do well to focus on what Spirit is wanting to do in us.
- The New Testament doesn’t encourage us to think of a perpetual ‘pouring out,’ but rather a personal ‘living out’ of the indwelling Spirit of God, residing in us through the work of Christ.
- The Holy Spirit motivates our behavior; our behavior does not manufacture the Holy Spirit.
- When we reenact old covenant approaches, we overshadow new covenant promises and power. We end up with a Spirit who comes and goes rather than one who indwells and transforms.
- When we pursue ideas that are not taught in the New Testament we may experience moments of temporary inspiration but will fail to experience the promises that produce long-term transformation.

SUGGESTED PRAYER PROMPTS

- Father, in Jesus name, thank You that today your Spirit wants to work afresh in us in order to...
- Holy Spirit, take control of our hearts today that we might sing with gratitude, thanking You for ...
- Lord, transform us each day by your indwelling presence so we will live with heartfelt submission, and that others will see that we are willing to ...

Filter the Message in the Music

SCRIPTURE READING

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Colossians 3:16–17)

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- “Let me make a nation’s music, and I care not who makes her laws. I will control that nation.” Scottish Poet Carlyle
- “If you want to reach young people in this country, write a song, don’t buy an ad.” Serge Denisoff, Bowling Green University,
- Words have meaning, and when those words are implanted in the heart with catchy melodies they become a part of who we are.
- Today we need creativity that will clarify truth, not confuse it; an artistry that will accentuate the gospel, not obscure it; songs that will declare the wonders of the finished work of Christ, not distract from it.
- We do not sing in order to be filled with the Holy Spirit. We are filled with the Holy Spirit so that we might sing.

SUGGESTED PRAYER PROMPTS

- Father, in Jesus name, thank you that the word of Christ motivates our song. We praise you that Jesus is...
- Let us teach and admonish one another today in all wisdom as we apply gospel truth to our lives. Help us humbly receive the truth that teaches us...
- With grateful hearts help us worship (today and every day) “in the name of the Lord Jesus,” being careful to honor Him by . . .

Enjoy the Gift of Biblical Emotion

SCRIPTURE READING

*"And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment.’" (Matthew 22:37–38)
"for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." (2 Timothy 1:7)*

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Any discussion about the work of the Holy Spirit must include a balanced, biblical understanding of our very real and necessary emotions.
- Emotion is a gift from God to help us relate to Him and one another. Our feelings are important to our journey of faith.
- So as we think about the inside-out work of the indwelling Holy Spirit, let Him engage and empower your emotions, but also govern them.
- When we are filled with the Spirit, our truth-based and truly healthy emotions are focused on the astonishing wonder of the person and work of Jesus.

SUGGESTED PRAYER PROMPTS

- Father, in Jesus name, thank You for your holy and faithful example of commitment to Your children. Thank you that Scripture says You feel _____ toward us, even when...
- As we worship today, may our emotions be guided by your word that tells us...
- This week, let us surrender moment-by-moment to the Holy Spirit so that we will demonstrate healthy and holy emotions, especially when...

Maximize Your New Covenant Life Plan

SCRIPTURE READING

"If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you." (Romans 8:11)

"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us," (Ephesians 3:20)

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- You can wake up every morning, cherish every moment, and experience every day knowing, not just that you are in the presence of God, but that the presence of God is in you.
- We are to walk each day in a lifestyle of conscious, consistent dependence on the person of the Holy Spirit so that He can implement His supernatural life plan in and through us.
- His transforming presence changes everything from the inside out, ultimately reshaping all of our ambitions and efforts to center on God's glory.

SUGGESTED PRAYER PROMPTS

- Father, in Jesus name, thank You that the Spirit that raised Christ from the dead lives in us. Because You give life to our mortal bodies we have experienced...
- Because of the power of your life at work within us, we know that you are able to...
- Help us this week to remember the power of your indwelling Spirit, especially when...

Pursuing the Hope of a New Covenant Revival

SCRIPTURE READING

“To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” (Ephesians 3:21)

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches...” (Revelation 2:7,11,17, 29; 3:6, 13 & 22)

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Stephen Olford noted, “Revival is not just an idea; still less is it mere emotion or excitement. Revival is ultimately Christ himself; seen, felt, heard, living, active, moving in and through His Body, the Church on earth”
- Could it be that the “revival” we long for and labor over is essentially and extraordinary sensitivity, surrender and obedience to the Holy Spirit?
- Norman Grubb wrote, “Indeed, revival is really just obeying the Holy Spirit.”
- In revival, Spirit-filled Christians testify to one another about the great work of Jesus in their lives. They walk in the light as He is in the light. Roof off. Walls down. Continuous Revival.
- The transforming presence of the Holy Spirit is available and sufficient for every Christian and produces radical, unstoppable gospel transformation – in us, through us and beyond us.

SUGGESTED PRAYER PROMPTS

- Father, in Jesus name, thank you that the “Reviver” lives in us – by the indwelling Holy Spirit. Praise you that you are able to “bring back to life” our...
- So that we might experience the fullness of your life, give us a deeper sensitivity and obedience to the Holy Spirit especially concerning...
- Because we want to live with “roof off” in our relationship with You, we confess...
- Because we want to live with “walls down” help us share openly and honestly with one another about...