



PURSUING BIBLICAL COMMUNITY

Study 2: The Church: Worship & Mission

ICE BREAKER

We are going to have a little fun this week. Think of a song that might describe you. Bonus points if you can sing it (if you need some ideas look at appendix 1). Alternatively, what was your favorite music group when you were in high school?

OPENING PRAYER

LOOPING BACK

(If you committed as a group to access the articles and tools.)

How were the articles and tools you accessed on your own beneficial to your understanding of True Fellowship? Is there anything in particular you have changed as a result of them?

INTRODUCING OUR TOPIC *(invite 1 person to read and then discuss very briefly)*

Throughout Biblical history believers have gathered to:

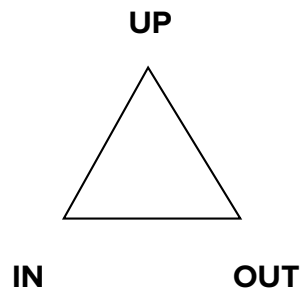
1. worship the God of creation and salvation;
2. build up the body; and
3. bear witness of God's reality to an unbelieving world.

In the Old Testament God commanded His people to invite the nations to experience His revealed glory. Israel was to be the epicenter of worship for the entire world. Psalm 105 commands believers to engage in worship and mission by singing to God and by declaring His wonderful acts to both believers and nonbelievers alike.

In the New Testament, we see Peter commissioning the Gentile Church, “*You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*” (I Peter 2:9).

In the Old Testament people came to the center of worship at Mt. Zion (i.e. Jerusalem), but in the New Testament we come to the heavenly Zion through our great and eternal high priest, Jesus Christ (Hebrews 12:22-24).

One simple model of this is the UP-IN-OUT triangle.¹ As a body of believers we relate UP to God in worship, praise, prayer, and hearing His voice, we relate IN to one another as interdependent members of His body, and we relate OUT to the world in word and deed to touch peoples’ lives with the kingdom of God. All three must be present.



Question: What do you think of this model?

OPENING OUR BIBLES

1. Everyone turns to the passage and have one person read it out loud
2. Pause for a moment and allow people to quietly reflect on the passage
3. Ask the question/s in the text box after reading all passages in the section.
4. Passages with an asterisk are optional depending on timing (consider doing these on your own if they are not covered during your group time)

¹ From Mike Breen and Steve Cockram’s book, Building a Discipleship Culture.

Section 1: Our mission

What do we observe about worship from the following Old Testament passages?

Exodus 20:1-11

Psalm 96

Zechariah 8:1-8 & 20-23 (*optional)

1 Kings 8:12-21 & 54-66 (*optional)

How does worship relate to mission, i.e., the advance of the gospel among the nations?

How would we summarize what we have learned in one sentence? (What's the bottom line)

Section 2: Our mission expanded

What do we observe about worship from the following New Testament passages?

John 4:16-26

Romans 12:1-2

Revelation 7:9-12

I Corinthians 11:17-26 (*optional)

Matthew 28:16-20 (*optional)

Luke 24:50-53 (*optional)

How does worship relate to the Church's expansion into the nations?

How would we summarize what we have learned in one sentence? (What's the bottom line)

APPLICATION

How do you regard your view of worship - either private or corporate worship?

How do you see the style of worship at NCC serving the mission of the church, both to build up the body of Christ and to welcome those outside the body?

Are there subtle changes we could suggest or implement?*

ENHANCEMENT

On our NCC website <https://www.newtoncovenant.org/pbc> you will find an excellent tool by Adele Calhoun “*A practical guide to worship*” with some excellent reflection questions and spiritual exercises. To get the most out of this study we really want to encourage you to access these. (If we can commit as a group to doing this between now and when we next meet, we can engage together on what we learned and how it’s impacted us.)

It’s also possible for you to engage with just one other person either in your group or a friend.

CLOSING PRAYER

There are blank pages at the back of your study to jot down prayer requests. It would be wonderful to commit to praying throughout the week, checking in on someone you prayed for and to refer back to this list to rejoice in answered prayer.

- ❖ If you have time share prayer requests
- ❖ If you are limited in time, break into smaller clusters for prayer
- ❖ If you are very short on time, one person to close in prayer

Please try to ask for prayer for yourself or someone close to you. It’s easy to evade our own needs by asking for distant prayer needs but that really does not build true community. Prayer is how we care for one another and lift one another’s joys and burdens before the Lord.