

## Session 5

# How to lead the church in worship

### Small Group Discussion

- Think of the most effective worship leaders you have known. How would you evaluate these people in terms of these qualities: being a worshiper, musical ability, spiritual sensitivity, genuine humility, ability to leader others in worship?
- Are there modes of expression (e.g. poetry, drama, role play, dance, expressive Bible reading, testimonies, and the like) used frequently in your culture that could be incorporated into your worship service? How might you use the modes of expression in a worship service?
- Why is it important to take time to plan a worship service?
- What should be the role of the pastor in planning a worship service? What should be the role of the worship leader?
- Describe the flow of a worship service that was particularly meaningful to you. What elements of the service were most effective? What can you learn from this service to help you in planning worship services for your church plant?

### Exercise in Planning a Worship Service

Instructions: the following steps can be used to help you gain experience in planning a worship service with your church planting team. Discuss each of the following steps with a small group and plan a service. Share your service plan with the other groups.



#### Step 1: Choose a theme

What will be the theme of the worship service? Often the main idea of the sermon fits this need. For example, in the preaching lessons in this training you prepared a sermon on the passage of Ephesians 5:15-21. The main idea of this passage is: “Live as people filled with the Holy Spirit.”



The theme, then, for the worship service could be: “be filled with the Spirit.” This would be a good theme for Pentecost or a Sunday during “ordinary time” (the part of the church year between Pentecost and Advent).

**Step 2: Select songs/music and special events**

What songs and hymns will you use in the worship service? Select those that relate to the theme and that are both contemporary and traditional. Also, be sure the rhythm of the music is varied—both reflecting celebration and contemplation. Will you have any special music, such as a voice or instrumental solo? Will there be a drama illustrating an aspect of the sermon? Will you have any testimonies? Be sure the testimonies you select relate to the theme.

**Step 3: Outline the flow of the worship service**

Have a definite starting and ending time. Include every part of the worship service – songs, sermon, special events, prayer, Bible reading, etc. in the order they will occur. This outline (or order for worship) can then be used by the worship leader and pastor as a reference for the actual leading of the service.

**Step 4: List needed equipment**

Make a list of all equipment you will need for the worship service, such as hymnbooks or song sheets, microphones, any special equipment for drama, etc. Determine who will be responsible for gathering and setting up of the equipment before and during the service.

**Step 5: Determine rehearsal dates and times for musicians and singers**

Decide when you will rehearse worship service. Be sure that all participants are notified and able to attend the rehearsals.

**Step 6: Take time to pray for the worship service**

Ask the Lord to guide and direct the worship service. Pray for people’s

hearts to be prepared to worship the Lord. Pray for the hearts of unbelievers who attend that their hearts may be open to the Lord. Some churches have prayer teams that pray for the worship service while it is happening. Other churches have prayer teams who come to church early and take time to pray for the service and quietly pray for those who are entering the place of worship.

### **Step 7: Evaluate the worship service**

After the service, take time to evaluate it. How were the flow and the atmosphere of worship? What needs to be changed? What should be used again? Did God meet your congregation in a special way? Were any people particularly touched during the worship service? Did anyone turn their life over to Jesus or recommit themselves to Him? Incorporate what you learn from your evaluation into future worship services.

## **Action Plan for Module 11**

With your church planting team and other appropriate people involved in your church plant, plan and prepare a worship service. After the service, evaluate its effectiveness. What worked? What do you need to change? Share these results with your facilitator at the Module 11 training.

If possible, visit other churches in or near your target area. Observe the worship service and notice their forms of worship. What can you learn from your observations to apply in your own church plant?

***Break (15 min.)***