

HOW WOULD JESUS LEAD WORSHIP?

VIDEO COURSE USER GUIDE

Every local church worship team needs regular, systematic training, with time in between sessions to practise and develop. We believe that the best kind of learning happens in community, where we can encourage one another and see development happening over time, keeping each other accountable.

This is why we have made this video course. The teaching and discussion questions are designed to help you learn from Jesus what it means to lead worship. You will explore how to grow as a team, become more confident musicians and (most importantly) develop as whole-hearted followers of Jesus. And it's available for free, for anyone in the world to use, thanks to our bunch of generous crowdfunders!

You can use this video course in many different ways, depending on how much time you have as a group and how deep you want the learning to be.

THE LIGHT TOUCH OPTION:

Each video is just over 10 minutes long. You could use one video at the beginning of each worship team rehearsal and pause for the discussion questions as they come in the video. This way you get a small burst of input and discussion each week. We recommend that you run the videos in order, which would make one week have more of a Bible study flavour (the videos marked A), and the next one a more applied and practical tone (the B videos). This way you will end up using this material over 12 weeks.

THE WHOLE EVENING OPTION:

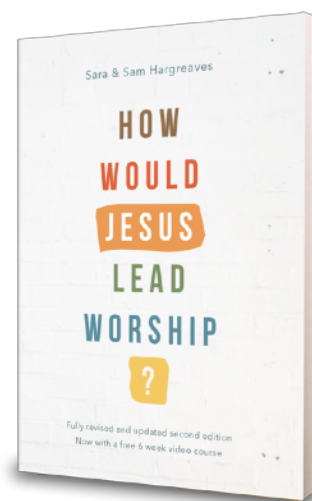
This second option is for those of you who want to focus more intentionally over six sessions, which could be once a week or split over a longer period. If running this option, we recommend making use of this User Guide to the full: engaging with the ice-breakers, extra discussion questions and Bible study, as well as the practical exercises at the end. This option involves watching both the more theoretical video (A) and the practical one (B) during the same session, so you will end up with a six week course.

Note that in the layout of the sessions, we've put a prayer activity right in the middle. It is perhaps more common to end a small group session with prayer, but our experience is that this means it is often the thing that gets pushed out when time is short. By all means

add a time of sung worship or a simple closing prayer at the end, but try to not skip the middle prayer section: we believe that God has more power to change us than however many exercises or discussion questions!

USING THE BOOK

To get the most out of this course, make sure everybody in your group gets hold of a copy of our book *How Would Jesus Lead Worship?* (2nd edition). The videos are based on this text, and the book goes into greater depth and contains much more Bible content as well as practical ideas. We recommend that the members of your group come prepared to the sessions having read the following chapters:



Session 1 (videos 1A and 1B) - Read chapters 1-2

Session 2 (videos 2A and 2B) - Read Chapter 3

Session 3 (videos 3A and 3B) - Read the first half of Chapter 4 up to page 93

Session 4 (videos 4A and 4B) - Finish Chapter 4, pages 93-104

Session 5 (videos 5A and 5B) - Read Chapter 5

Session 6 (videos 6A and 6B) - Read Chapter 6

The book is available exclusively from engageworship.org, and you can get group discounts on both physical and PDF copies to make this accessible for as many people as possible.

SESSION 1 - 'JESUS OUR WORSHIP LEADER' AND 'WHY DO WE SING?'

LEADER'S ADVANCE PREPARATION

- Look through the session and tweak any discussion questions to work better in your context.
- Print-out a few copies of either your church's core repertoire list (the songs and hymns you choose from), or a list of the songs used in, for example, the last 3 months.
- Bring three different coloured highlighter pens, preferably enough for each group of four to have one set.

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Ensure that your group feels welcomed and comfortable, whether that means a cup of tea or a warm hug in your context. Open the session in prayer, welcoming God to come and speak to the group and giving the group a chance to be welcomed in turn by God. A moment's silence for making yourself fully present may be a good idea.

ICE-BREAKER

Ask each person in the group to share how they first got involved in worship ministry and what role models they based themselves on. If your group is larger than eight or so people, make space for the sharing to happen in twos or threes to ensure a sense of safety.

WATCH:

Video 1A: "Jesus our Worship Leader".

Pause for discussion question: *What aspects of Jesus' life and character could inspire you as a worship leader or team?*

BIBLE STUDY

Read: Hebrews 9:1-7 and Leviticus 16:2.

Discuss: How would you describe the worship that took place in the tabernacle and temple in the Old Testament? What seems difficult and what seems inspiring?

Read: Hebrews 10:19-25.

Discuss:

- How does Jesus fulfil the roles of priest / sacrifice / temple?
- What does this mean for our drawing near to God?
- Do you ever rely on other things, rather than the actions and person of Jesus, in order to come and worship? A test for this might be the question: Have you ever thought or said "I can't worship if I don't have: music / that person leading worship / the right technology..." or something similar?

REFLECTION

Ask the group to close their eyes and hold their hands open before them in their laps, as if receiving a gift.

Without rushing, read John 6:1-10, and then Luke 9:14-17.

Lead the following reflection:

Imagine that you are that child with a packed lunch. Imagine holding the lunch in your hands; enough for one person, enough for one meal. If you were that little boy, would you have believed that your small meal would ever feed so many? Now imagine instead that you hold your own resources in your hand. It could be your gifts and skills in music or leadership, it could be the songs you write, it could be your position in your church. Imagine these in your hands, and see how small they are compared with the need for the Church to enter into the presence of our Holy God. If you feel ready to, hold your hands up to offer what you have to Jesus. Ask him to "take, bless, break and give" your offering to his church.

PRAY:

Jesus, we bring you our gifts, our skills, our opportunities and our resources. We know that they cannot bring people to the Father in worship and we acknowledge their inadequacy. Please, take these small things and make them useful for your kingdom, break and give and multiply our offering we pray. In Jesus' name, Amen.

WATCH:

Video 1B: "Why Do We Sing?"

Pause for discussion question: *Think through the last worship time you were part of; what truth do you feel the congregation gained from the songs? Are there gap areas in the themes you focus on?*

Pause for discussion question: *Which songs do you feel your congregation sings most confidently? How can you add more songs like that?*

Pause for discussion question: *How can you create space in your services for the congregation to be filled with the Spirit?*

EXERCISE

Look at the list of songs that your church uses, and assign a colour of a highlighter pen for each of these headings:

Truth-dwelling

Unity-building

Spirit-filling

Then, either together or in smaller groups of four, go through and mark out the songs that function particularly well for truth-dwelling (contains good truth about God) in one colour, the songs that are good for unity-building (makes people sing, everyone knows them well etc) in a second colour, and those songs that are good for Spirit-filling (less information, spacious, inviting the Holy Spirit) in a third.

Look together at the results and discuss:

- Which function are we strongest at as a church?
- Which function do our songs serve the least?
- What can we do to address the imbalance?
- (if time) Look at your 'truth-dwelling' songs: do these cover a range of themes of God's character and our Christian story? If not, what gaps do we need to fill?

SESSION 2 - 'HUMBLE SERVANT' AND 'PLANNING A WORSHIP JOURNEY'

LEADER'S ADVANCE PREPARATION

- Look through the session and tweak any discussion questions to work better in your context.
- Assemble scrap pieces of paper and pens for the icebreaker, and perhaps a prize for the winners.
- Make enough copies of the service planning sheet provided below (pages 8 and 9).

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Ensure that your group feels welcomed and comfortable, whether that means a cup of tea or a warm hug in your context. Open the session in prayer, welcoming God to come and speak to the group and giving the group a chance to be welcomed in turn by God. A moment's silence for making yourself fully present may be a good idea.

ICE-BREAKER

In pairs or threes, come up with as many words as possible to describe Jesus in one minute. Compare with the rest of the group. Any word that another group also has gets 1 point, any unique words scores 2 points. Award a prize to the winners.

WATCH:

Video 2A: "Humble Servant".

Pause for discussion question:

What would developing Jesus' humility mean for:

- *the way you choose songs?*
- *how you work with other musicians and leaders?*
- *your attitudes towards marginal groups in the church?*
- *and the way you approach menial tasks and difficult services...?*

BIBLE STUDY

Read: Luke 18:9-14.

Discuss:

- What did the Pharisee base his righteousness on?
- What was the Pharisee's sin?
- Why do you think Jesus declared the tax collector justified?
- In what way do we tend to compare ourselves, or our churches against other churches, within worship ministry?
- What are you at risk of basing your righteousness on?
- Based on this parable, what ought to be our attitude towards our ministry?

REFLECTION

Ask the group to close their eyes, then read aloud Luke 9:23-26 slowly, three times.

Ask them to pick out a word or phrase that jumped out, and to think about it reflectively for a few moments. What does the word or phrase say to them?

Have a time of open prayer, asking your group to respond in prayer to the words they've heard: does it lead to devotion, confession or prayer for someone else?

End with resting in the stillness of God's presence for half a minute or so.

WATCH:

Video 2B: "Planning A Worship Journey".

Pause the video and write down your typical service order.

Note: *Do this individually without talking about it first, and then when everybody is finished you can compare notes. It can be quite revealing to see what comes out of this exercise: What are the elements that people remember? If we have a 'free' service structure, how free are we really? Do different people major on different things in the service?*

Pause for discussion questions:

- *Think about the service plan you sketched out earlier. How could this kind of journey planning work out in your context?*
- *How can you develop the way you prepare worship so that your services flow as a meaningful journey?*

SERVICE PLANNING EXERCISE

Give groups of twos or threes a copy of this service planning sheet each. You can either run this exercise as an imaginary, blue-sky thinking activity, using the different ideas below. Alternatively, you can use it to actually plan a service in your church.

Choose one of these imaginary scenarios for planning a service. Then turn over and begin to plan a service based on the situation.

Scenario 1:
Type and theme of service: Messy Church special, theme: <i>"We all belong"</i> .
Bible readings: Ephesians 4:1-6.
Congregation present: Mix of ages, several families who don't normally come to church.
Extra elements required: There is also a baptism planned.
Any other info: Youth band leading, limited musical ability and repertoire.
Desired destination: God loves you (as he loves everybody).

Scenario 2:
Type and theme of service: Holy Communion service.
Bible readings: Deuteronomy 30:15-20, 1 Corinthians 3:1-9.
Congregation present: Normal mixed congregation, children going out to groups before sermon.
Extra elements required: Holy Communion and a fixture to pray for a missionary.
Any other info: There is an organist, one guitarist and one flute player on the rota.
Desired destination: You are sent to be God's hands in our community.

Scenario 3:
Type and theme of service: Sunday Evening Special Celebration, theme <i>"Encounter God"</i> .
Bible readings: Joel 2:12-29
Congregation present: Mostly young adults and some keen older people.
Extra elements required: The preacher is known to speak for a long time. There will be an expectation for prayer ministry towards the end.
Any other info: No real time limit.
Desired destination: Confession and receiving forgiveness.

Planning a service as a worship journey

STEP 1: What external information do I have for this service? What is the basic **structure**?

STEP 2: What does God want to achieve in this service? What should be the **destination**? (For this exercise this has been decided for you - normally pray and seek God).

STEP 3: Plan the journey. Which **functions** do we need?

STEP 4: Insert the **media** (songs, prayers, activities etc)

SESSION 3 - 'LEADER WITH AUTHORITY PART 1' AND 'LEADING THE CONGREGATION'

LEADER'S ADVANCE PREPARATION

- Look through the session and tweak any discussion questions to work better in your context.
- Bring a blindfold, for example a long scarf or an eye mask.
- Make sure you have access to an instrument for the exercise at the end, and enough space to stand in a circle if possible.

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Ensure that your group feels welcomed and comfortable, whether that means a cup of tea or a warm hug in your context. Open the session in prayer, welcoming God to come and speak to the group and giving the group a chance to be welcomed in turn by God. A moment's silence for making yourself fully present may be a good idea.

ICE-BREAKER

Enjoy a silly game together: start by blindfolding one volunteer in the group. Take turns giving the person directions to get to various places in the room / to sit in a different chair / to offer biscuits around or any other task you can think of. Talk about what it was like giving clear instructions and reflect on which instructions worked better than others.

WATCH:

Video 3A: "Leader with Authority Part 1".

Pause for discussion questions:

- *In the last two sessions we've looked at humility and leadership: Which are you (and your church) strongest at?*
- *How could you grow in the areas where you are weaker?*

Pause for discussion question: Christ-like leaders:

... know where they're heading.

... give clear directions.

... lead by example.

- *In which of these concepts is your leadership already strong? Where is there room for improvement?*

BIBLE STUDY

Read Luke 9:1-7a.

This is Jesus sending out his team with the challenge to be the kind of leader he has shown himself to be.

Discuss:

- What words do you pick up in this text which seem to talk about leadership?
- Why do you think Jesus gives the instructions in verse 3?
- What is the relevance of verse 7a?
- Imagine that you are training a bunch of worship leaders in your church: you may not give the exact instructions as Jesus gave in verses 3-5, but how could you capture the meaning behind these verses in your instructions to your team?

REFLECTION

We've said that, like Jesus, a good leader knows where they're going. Many of us are too busy in our everyday lives to be silent and reflect, so give your group the gift of silence in this session. Hand out some paper and pens. Start by inviting God to come and nudge, speak and direct you by the Holy Spirit, and then let the group know how long you will leave silence for. Encourage the group to reflect, journal and listen to God for this question:

- What is God speaking to me about at the moment? Is there a particular direction he has for my life, or my worship ministry? What is his word to me in this season?

WATCH:

Video 3B: "Leading the Congregation".

Pause for discussion question:

- *As a worship team, where can you grow in the area of guiding the congregation during the worship time?*
- *How could you move forward with that?*

Pause for discussion question:

- *What has been your experience of teaching songs before you use them?*
- *Can you see this being useful in your context?*

Review the video content after watching:

- Can you remember the examples of different ways we can give cues to the congregation?

[There were visible cues: how we are positioned / if we are seen, stepping up and away from microphone, using facial expressions and keeping my eyes open.

Then there were audible cues: singing the tune clearly, speaking or singing where the song is going next (using words of song).]

- Can you remember the examples of different ways we can handle 'junctions' within a worship service?

[We talked about speaking out simple instructions, reading some Scripture that links the two sections, praying a prayer that introduces the next song and doing nothing or just leaving quiet or music playing.]

EXERCISE:

Choose a short song that everybody knows, preferably one with more than two sections. We like using "The Lord is Gracious and Compassionate" by Graham Ord for this exercise, because it has three easy and distinct sections, which all start with different words.

Stand in a circle and ask a confident member of the group to accompany on a guitar or a piano. You all need to be able to hear each other. Start by singing the first part of the song, and after each section had been sung, go clockwise in the circle to let everybody have a turn to decide which section to sing next. They can lead the group into their chosen section by speaking the line by which it starts, or singing the first few words, or by giving a hand signal such as the verse number or a "chorus" symbol.

Be creative and think about different ways you can communicate with each other (playing the role of the congregation) and the musician (playing the role of the band) where to go next in the song.

Allow for this exercise to both cause giggles at times and lead into wonderful, worshipful times as well.

Discuss afterwards:

- How did you experience that exercise?
- Which instructions worked best?
- This was a safe place to have a go at something - are there other things we could practise in the safety of the group before trying it before the congregation?

SESSION 4 - 'LEADER WITH AUTHORITY PART 2' AND 'ARRANGING SONGS AND LEADING MUSICIANS'

LEADER'S ADVANCE PREPARATION

- Look through the session and tweak any discussion questions to work better in your context.
- Prepare a card or piece of paper for each member of your group with their individual names on. Make sure you have enough pens for everyone.
- Make preparation for the final exercise: If your group needs sheet music, make sure you have enough copies. Find a suitable way to enable music making: If you are in your church, with a band set-up already there, then use that. If you're meeting in, for example, a front room, you may need to get creative and gather together some simple acoustic instruments such as djembes, ukuleles, cajons, flutes, violins, etc.

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Ensure that your group feels welcomed and comfortable, whether that means a cup of tea or a warm hug in your context. Open the session in prayer, welcoming God to come and speak to the group and giving the group a chance to be welcomed in turn by God. A moment's silence for making yourself fully present may be a good idea.

ICE-BREAKER

Put the cards with people's names on in a central place, as well as a pen. Put some music on and spend a few moments (try not to take too long) in silence writing briefly on each others' cards what we appreciate about each other. As long as people haven't written essays, perhaps encourage each person to read their card out loud (there's a difference in speaking positive things about yourself out loud, compared to just reading it quietly and then stuffing the card in a pocket!).

WATCH:

Video 4A: "Leader With Authority Part 2".

Pause for discussion question:

- *How well would you say you know each other in your worship team?*
- *How could you grow your relationships?*

BIBLE STUDY

In pairs or threes look at these different passages and answer the question: What can we learn about team building from Jesus in these passages?

- Matthew 17:24-27
- Luke 10:17-24
- Acts 1:4-9
- Mark 3:13-15

Present your findings to one another.

PRAYER

Spend a couple of minutes praying for each other, either as a whole group or in smaller groups. Pray that each person in your group would be empowered by God to lead, and find which way they can best influence others towards the way of Jesus. If appropriate, you may want to give space for people to share how they feel about their leadership before you pray into this.

WATCH:

Video 4B: "Arranging Songs and Leading Musicians".

Pause for discussion question:

Talk about the instruments you have and how you might grow in playing together.

INSTRUMENT	ROLE IN BAND
Acoustic Guitar	Mid-or-high harmony, strummed or picking
Piano/keyboard	Range of harmony (avoid clashing with others), block chords, arpeggios, lead lines
Bass guitar (and other bass instruments)	Bass notes, occasional riffs and fills
Drums/percussion	Percussive, beat, tempo, dynamics
Woodwind/strings/brass	Melody, Intro/link melodies, counter melodies, block chords, stabs
Electric guitar	Rhythmic chords, held chords, arpeggios, lead lines
Vocals	Lead vocal, harmony vocals, ad-libs, block chords, counter melodies

Pause for discussion question:

- *What aspects of your musical arrangements could you develop as a team?*
- *Do you have agreed visual signals? How could you use these more effectively?*

EXERCISE

Use one of your favourite songs or hymns for this exercise - one that everybody knows well. Explain that you're going to experiment with arranging the song. Try the different things mentioned in the video:

- With the instruments and voices you have available, decide who should play the different roles. Try a version of the song where you build up the number of people singing and playing, and see the difference this makes to the sound.
- Decide what the natural dynamics is for your chosen song: are there places that lend themselves to being quiet / loud / busy / simple? Try playing the song in this way.
- Have a go at varying the dynamics by: 1) instruments dropping in and out, 2) instruments playing louder and quieter, and 3) instruments playing simpler / sparser and busier / more intensely.
- Try different intros for the song: 1) All in for an intro (for example, the last line of the song), 2) One instrument setting the rhythm, and the rest coming in after first verse, and 3) A melody line instrument playing an intro. Which worked best?
- Try different endings for the song: 1) All slow down together to an end, 2) All but one or two instruments drop out, and end quietly, or 3) Segue into another song.

Afterwards, discuss:

- Which arrangement worked and which didn't?
- What have you learned that you'd like to apply in your regular worship times?
- How could you grow in this?

SESSION 5 - 'CREATIVE COMMUNICATOR' AND 'ADDING CREATIVE ELEMENTS IN WORSHIP'

LEADER'S ADVANCE PREPARATION

- Look through the session and tweak any discussion questions to work better in your context.
- Get enough play-dough for everyone in the group to have a lump. You can buy cheap clay from a discount shop or make your own - there are plenty of good recipes online.
- Bring print-outs of the last five weeks' orders of service from the church you are part of. If you don't have formal orders of service, you may need to sketch these out in retrospect.
- Come prepared to plan something for the next available worship service: clear in advance with whoever is responsible that your group may be responsible for an element such as reading, intercession or response, and find out all the information needed to plan that element.

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Ensure that your group feels welcomed and comfortable, whether that means a cup of tea or a warm hug in your context. Open the session in prayer, welcoming God to come and speak to the group and giving the group a chance to be welcomed in turn by God. A moment's silence for making yourself fully present may be a good idea.

ICE-BREAKER

Give everyone a lump of play-dough and put some quiet music on in the background. Ask each person to shape something that represents how they're coming before God at this time. Some will feel flat and exhausted and will make a flat blob, others might make tiny pieces to show how shattered they feel, whereas some will create a figure in some sort of posture before God - let people know that there is no right or wrong! If time, allow people to share what they've made and why and then pray, accepting God's welcome to us all wherever we find ourselves.

Leave the play-dough shapes out on display throughout the session.

WATCH:

Video 5A: "Creative Communicator".

Pause for discussion questions:

- *When have you experienced creativity used effectively in worship?*
- *What was involved in that working well?*
- *Who is in your congregation that you could encourage and make space for their gifts?*

BIBLE STUDY

Split into pairs or threes and share out the following Scripture passages about Jesus between each group (if you are a very small group, then just pick a couple of texts):

Luke 24:36-43

Luke 19:37-42

Luke 22:54-62

Luke 19:1-6

Luke 20:20-26

Luke 18:15-17

Allow each group to read their texts, discuss these questions and then feedback to the larger groups:

- Which senses are involved in this passage?
- How can you respond to this story and to Jesus using the same senses? Are there any artforms that lend themselves to use in worship as you reflect on this story?

REFLECTION

Pick up your lump of modelling clay from earlier. Think of what you've heard about Jesus today. God has seen and accepted each individual as they are, but now think about how you can change your shape, your sculpture, to respond to the Jesus you've encountered in Luke's gospel. How can your shape become a prayer of response?

WATCH:

Video 5B: "Adding Creative Elements in Worship"

Pause for discussion questions:

- *How do you think your church would respond to adding creative art forms outside of what you usually do?*

- *What creativity might be 'indigenous', springing from within the church, and an easy first step into new expressions?*

Pause for discussion questions:

- *Are there ideas from this video you could use in your context, or could adapt to work?*
- *How can you develop a sense of leading creative worship as a team?*

Exercise

Look at the services in your church over the last five weeks, using the printed orders of service:

- Is there one element in each service that could have been done creatively; using several senses or other art-forms?
- Is there one element in each service that was good, but would have been even better if you had added an extra sense or creative element (for example, a simple sign language response in a prayer, or pictures on the screen during the response etc.)?
- Consider the VARK learning modes: how much of your service time is directed towards the different styles of learning (visual, auditory, reading/writing, kinaesthetic)? Can you think of members of your congregations, or different age groups, that would be helped by expanding the learning style used?

Now set about planning just one creative element for the next available worship service. Whether it's welcome, children's talk, intercession, confession, reading, response, sending or any other element, think of how you could use different art-forms, appeal to several different learning styles at once and use at least two senses.

If you are a large group, you may need to split into smaller sections for this, but still plan the same section of worship. In that case, explain that you won't be able to use all the ideas, but pick one that's doable. It's interesting to see the variety of creativity in a group, and when the pressure of something actually being used is somewhat removed, greater out-of-the-box creativity is often stimulated.

As you plan, keep in mind the principles shared in the video:

- Whatever you do, it ought to be indigenous.
- Make things accessible for everyone.
- Do this as a team.
- Keep things simple and sustainable
- Make sure to invite and encourage - don't order and demand!
- Be prepared to make mistakes.

SESSION 6 - 'RELIANT ON THE SPIRIT' AND 'LEADING SPONTANEITY'

LEADER'S ADVANCE PREPARATION:

- Look through the session and tweak any discussion questions to work better in your context.
- Have a musician and song prepared for the final exercise.

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Ensure that your group feels welcomed and comfortable, whether that means a cup of tea or a warm hug in your context. Open the session in prayer, welcoming God to come and speak to the group and giving the group a chance to be welcomed in turn by God. A moment's silence for making yourself fully present may be a good idea.

ICE-BREAKER

Ask people to say the first thing which comes into their heads when you say these words:

- Spirit-filled worship.
- Hearing God's voice.
- Gifts of the Spirit.
- Spontaneity.

Talk about these immediate reactions - where do they come from? As a group do you have similar responses or is there a range?

WATCH:

Video 6A: "Reliant on the Spirit".

Pause for discussion questions:

- *What practices do you need in your life to keep "watering" yourself?*
- *How do you care for your soul and seek God's presence in the secret places?*

Pause for discussion questions:

- *What do you rely on more than the Holy Spirit to make your worship "work"?*

- *Are there things you could simplify in order to put your focus back on God?*

BIBLE STUDY

Read Luke 4:1 and Luke 4:14.

- What do these verses tell us about Jesus' relationship with the Holy Spirit?
- What situation was Jesus coming from in each of these verses?
- What situation was Jesus going into in each of these verses?
- How did Jesus need to be reliant on the Spirit for these situations?
- Can we learn anything from these texts for us?

Read Luke 5:42-44.

- What kind of day had Jesus had leading up to this moment?
- How do you tend to respond to similar kinds of days? What can we learn from Jesus here? What would that practically look like in our lives?
- What were the consequences of Jesus' early morning solitude?

PRAYER

When we pray for each other, we often speak more than we listen. But when Jesus spent time in silence and solitude, he seemed to be hearing the will of the Father.

Pray for each other in a listening way. Either as a whole group or in smaller sections, take turn to listen to God for each other. It might be helpful to have some pens and paper available, and perhaps suggest a specific question to ask as you listen ("God, what do you love about this person?" "How did you make this person?" etc). Commit to having at least 2 minutes of silence per person as you ask God these questions. Remember that God can whisper words in your hearts, but can also just as well speak through nudges, senses and images. After the silence, allow the listeners to feed back briefly, and the person being prayed for might indicate if something rings true or not. End by one person praying into all the things that had been heard.

WATCH:

Video 6B: "Leading Spontaneity".

Pause for discussion questions:

- *How could you develop your abilities as musicians and leaders to be open and responsive to the Holy Spirit?*

EXERCISE

Experiment with singing in a spontaneous way, to simple accompaniment such as a piano or guitar.

You can begin by singing the chorus to mid-tempo song, for example “Heart of Worship” (Matt Redman, in the key of D). When you get to the end, continue to play the chords D and G in a loop, and invite people to sing the name “Jesus”. This might just be using just one or two notes, this is not so much about composition as it is singing from the heart.

This might be enough for your group, and you might want to leave the following two steps for a later occasion, like your next rehearsal. If your group seems confident and at ease, however, try the next stages too.

In the next step, ask people to pause and reflect on a name of Jesus which is important to them at the moment (e.g. Prince of Peace, Bread of Life, Lion of Judah etc). Then invite them to sing this out over your two chords, once again playing around to see what works.

A third stage would be to give space for people to sing the name they were playing with, and for the rest of the group to join in that melody.

AS YOU CONCLUDE THIS COURSE

Encourage the group to engage with the Closing Reflection on page 162 of *How Would Jesus Lead Worship*. Discuss how you’ve grown during this course, and where you feel God is leading you next.