

**“Gathered for Corporate Worship”**  
*Sermon Notes*

**Recognize what matters for corporate worship.**

*\* In devout worship, we will...*

1. Treasure God Almighty (1 Chron 16:8-36; Rev 4-5; 1 Ki 18:21)
2. Attend to three audiences (Ps 100; Col 3:16; 1 Cor 12-14)
3. Assemble weekly but also scatter daily (Jn 4:24; Rom 12:1-2; Heb 12:22)
4. Act in accord with the Word (various texts)
5. Announce the gospel through liturgical rhythms (Isa 6)

**Next week:** Ruth

## Community Group Study Questions

For the Week of September 18<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>

1. *Think about the different religious traditions you have been a part of. What was the worship gathering like? What **similarities** and **differences** have you experienced across churches, traditions, and denominations?*
2. *Think of scenes of worship in the Bible (like Isa 6; 1 Chron 16; Rev 4-6). Who is the object of worship? Why? The Old English word “weorthscipe” meant “to ascribe value”. So what is worship? Why is worship of God so important?*
3. *Who participates in worship? Is worship only God-focused? Or does it also give attention to the people of God (i.e. the church; consider 1 Cor 12-14)? Or is the purpose of worship to evangelize non-believers (e.g. the seeker-sensitive movement)? What happens in corporate worship when the focus is imbalanced towards one of these groups? Give examples from your experience.*
4. *Where and when do we worship? Where does the church worship (consider John 4:20-25; Heb 12:18-24)? What does it mean that the church is the “ekklesia”, the assembly? Why does the church worship on Sunday, the Lord’s Day? And yet, as you read Rom 12:1-2, what does it mean that we are not only gathered worshippers, but **scattered** worshippers throughout the week?*
5. *How do we worship? Consider these **elements** of biblical worship:*
  - *Prayer with and for the community (Acts 2:42; 1 Cor 14:16; 1 Tim 2:1)*
  - *Reading the Scriptures (Col 4:15; 1 Thess 5:27; 2 Thess 3:14; 1 Tim 4:13; 2 Pet 3:15-16)*
  - *Preaching from the Scriptures (Luke 4:20; 1 Tim 4:13; 2 Tim 3:15-17; 4:2)*
  - *Serving the Communion meal (Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor 11:17-34)*
  - *Singing psalms, hymns & spiritual songs (1 Cor 14:15; Eph 5:19; Col 3:15-16; Rev 5:9-13)*
  - *Giving offerings for the poor and the mission of the church (2 Cor 9:11-15; Php 4:19; Heb 13:16)*
  - *Confessing the faith (1 Tim 6:12; 1 Pet 3:21; Heb 13:15)*
  - *Giving and receiving God’s blessing (Luke 24:50; 2 Cor 13:14)*

- *Greeting one another (Rom 16:16; 1 Cor 16:20; 2 Cor 13:12; 1 Thess 5:26; 1 Pet 5:14)*
- *Responding to praise and prayer with the saying of “Amen” (Rom 1:25; 1 Cor 14:16; Eph 3:21)*
- *Testimonies and ministry reports (Acts 11:1-18; 14:26-27; 15:1-35; 20:18-38)*
- *Ordinations and commissioning (Acts 13:1-3; 14:26)*
- *Church discipline (Mt 18:15-20)*

6. *How do we worship? Consider the liturgical rhythm in the chart below. This is our pattern for corporate worship at Mound Free. How does it announce the gospel, telling the story of God’s redemptive work through Christ and calling to mind our God and his covenant with us, his people?*

<b><i>The Gospel</i></b>	<b><i>The Grand Story</i></b>	<b><i>Liturgical Rhythms</i></b>
God is holy	Creation	Adoration
We are sinners	Fall	Confession (and/or) Lament
God saves us	Redemption	Assurance of Grace & Peace Thanksgiving Petition Lord's Supper Word – Instruction
God sends us	Restoration	Response – Commitment/Charge Benediction or Blessing

7. *What have you learned or been reminded of, with regard to God’s design for corporate worship? How are your affections changed for corporate worship? Next Sunday, how will you approach the worship gathering differently?*