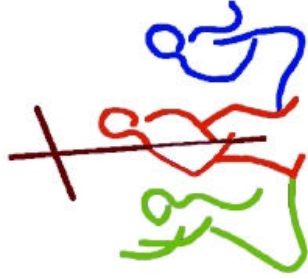




When they said, "Let's go to the house of God," my heart leaped for joy.

*Psalms 122:1*



## *God's Gift of Corporate Worship*

Preparing for the  
Best Day of the Week  
and the  
Happiest Place on Earth

### Introduction

Here are some practical suggestions that I commend to you for your pursuit of pleasing God in worship. I suggest these things for your joy and not as a legalistic weight to burden you. I do not mean to infer that if you follow a formula or plan that you are guaranteed to experience God in an overwhelming emotional way. If this seems overwhelming, I suggest taking one or two things per day as a start. My goal is that we would grow into a mindset and attitude of intentional reliance on God and earnest longing to experience Him in corporate worship. I pray that we would grow to be able to honestly say — Sunday mornings at Grace are the happiest place on earth and the best days of the week.

### MONDAY

**THANK** — Thank God for the privilege of worshipping Him with the church yesterday. Thank Him for the gift of revealing Himself through His Word and through the prayers, songs and fellowship of His people.

**TALK** — Talk to others about the Word that was preached. Tell others what impacted you in the words of the Scripture, sermon, songs, prayers, etc. Talk to your spouse about the service and the evidences of grace you enjoyed on Sunday morning. Talk to your kids about the privilege of worship and ask them what they learned.

**ENCOURAGE** — While it is still fresh, consider who you might encourage with the grace you received from corporate worship on Sunday. Share how you were blessed and give thanks to those who served you. Write an email, letter, thank you note to someone who talked with you, to the nursery worker, SS teacher, usher, elders, musicians, pastors, etc.

**LISTEN/OBEY** — Consider what was preached and how God would have you not only hear but also obey His Word and start right away. If you need to, tell someone else and ask them to keep you accountable. Do not neglect the daily reading and meditation on God's Word and prayer (devotions, "quiettime").

**PRAY** — Declare your dependence on God and ask Him:

- To help you worship Him every day of the week — not just Sunday.
- To help you apply His Word to the coming week.
- To help you faithfully anticipate and prepare for the coming Sunday.
- To work mightily through His Word and our Worship on the next Lord's Day.

**INTERCEDE** — Pray for the other members of Grace in the same ways as above. Pray for the preacher — it is very normal for preachers to experience an emotional low or spiritual attack on Monday.

**JOYFUL GIVING** — If you have kids, consider how they can earn money (allowance) this week and talk to them about the blessing of giving tithes and offerings to God as a joyful opportunity to worship Him and remind ourselves that He owns everything.

**ANTICIPATE** — Remind yourself and your kids that in six days you get to worship God together as a church. Ask God to heighten your anticipation.

### TUESDAY

**THANK** — Thank God for inviting you to worship Him in Jesus name both during the week and on Sunday with God's people! Thank Him for the Word of God that guides you and gives you eternal life (salvation and sanctification).

**TALK** — Look for an opportunity to share evidences of grace that you experienced on the Lord's Day with God's people. Talk with your spouse, children, and /or roommate about one thing that God is showing you about Himself (a promise, something about His character, an insight for living, etc.).

**ENCOURAGE** – Again look for an opportunity to encourage someone by thanking them or sharing how you are seeing God work in their life. Take the time to call someone who was absent last Sunday and without “guilt-tripping” them, let them know they were missed.

**LISTEN/OBEY** – Do not neglect the daily reading and meditation on God’s Word and prayer. Your personal time in the Word daily should heighten your appreciation and effectiveness of listening to the Word preached on Sundays. What do you need to do in response to what was preached or taught or read? One way to prepare for corporate worship privately is to reflect upon a particular character trait of God (love, patience, sovereignty, justice, generosity, etc.) and how that relates to His work in your own life.

**PRAY** – Declare your dependence on God and ask Him:

- To help you grow as a joyful worshipper of Him in Spirit and in Truth.
- To help you delight in being in His Word day and night as well as on the Lord’s Day.
- To help you faithfully anticipate and prepare for the coming Sunday.
- To work mightily through His Word and our Worship on the next Lord’s Day.

**INTERCEDE** – Pray for the discipleship groups (and join one), bible studies and other small groups that meet during the week. Pray that God would give you and others a true appreciation for the body of Christ and the gathering of His people in His name. Pray for the pastors as they perform administrative duties. Pray that they not neglect the important ministry of the Word and prayer and that God would give them fruitfulness in their interaction with others.

**ANTICIPATE** – Remind yourself and your kids that in five days you get to worship God together as a church. Ask God to heighten your anticipation.

## WEDNESDAY

**THANK** – Thank God for giving you the Spirit to be our Helper in all things including the worship of God in Spirit! Thank the Holy Spirit for being your Helper as you follow Jesus.

**TALK** – Talk to others about the privilege of worshipping Jesus with the church on the Lord’s Day. We talk about what is important to us. Look for an opportunity to invite some to join you this Sunday who does not worship with a true church.

**ENCOURAGE** – Again look for an opportunity to encourage someone by thanking them or sharing how you are seeing God work in their life. Again, take the time to call someone who was absent and without “guilt-tripping” them—let them know they were missed. Look for an opportunity to encourage a leader within the church. Let him/her know you are praying for them (and do it).

**LISTEN/OBEY** – Ask God what He would have you do in obedience to His Word? How should you apply the Bible to your life today? Do not neglect the daily reading and meditation on God’s Word and prayer. Reflect on a particular promise of God and revisit it through the day as you deal with conflicts, anxieties, problems, blessings, struggles, etc. Focusing on God and living in reliance of His promises during the week is vital to declaring His goodness and promises on Sunday.

**PRAY** – Declare your dependence on God and ask Him:

- To help you grow in an appreciation for the Truth of God and His Word.
- To help you delight in being in His Word day and night.
- To help you faithfully anticipate and prepare for the coming Sunday.
- To work mightily through His Word and our Worship on the next Lord’s Day.

**INTERCEDE** – Pray for the teens who usually meet this night. Pray that they would not waste the early years of their lives but would live fully for God. Pray for youth leaders and for the parents of the teens. Pray for the preacher as he begins working on the Sunday sermon. Pray that he will not neglect the most important things (the Word and prayer).

**ANTICIPATE** – Remind yourself and your kids that in four days you get to worship God together as a church. Ask God to heighten your anticipation.

## THURSDAY

**THANK** – Thank God for His provision for you—physically, emotionally, relationally and spiritually. Thank Him for all the Spiritual gifts He provides to nourish our soul – including the corporate gathering of His people on the Lord’s Day.

**TALK** – Look for an opportunity to invite some to join you who does not worship with a true church.

**ENCOURAGE** – Consider writing an encouragement note to someone in the congregation. Tell the person that you appreciate and are praying for him. Look for a way that you can serve someone – in or out of the church. Serve someone who can not serve you back.

**LISTEN/OBEY** – Do not neglect the daily reading and meditation on God’s Word and prayer. Reflect on specific works of God in the OT and NT as well as in your own life. Remember that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever.

**PRAY** – Declare your dependence on God and ask Him:

- To give you a proper heart to worship Him this coming Lord’s Day.
- To help you delight in the Gospel – you have been saved by grace through Jesus.
- To help you faithfully anticipate and prepare for the coming Sunday
- To work mightily through His Word and our Worship on the next Lord’s Day

**INTERCEDE** – Pray for Pastor Daniel, Luke and Dave as they discuss the worship service and select songs. Pray for guidance and edification. Pray for Daniel as he prepares the sermon and continues to study and pray. Pray that he would be faithful to the Word. Pray for the Sunday School teachers as they prepare their lessons.

**ANTICIPATE** – Remind yourself and your kids that in three days you get to worship God together as a church. Ask God to heighten your anticipation.

## FRIDAY

**THANK** – Thank God for the coming weekend which includes the Lord’s Day. It is good to work and it is good to rest—thank Him for both.

**TALK** – Talk to others about the privilege of worshipping Jesus with the church on the Lord’s Day. Look for an opportunity to invite some to join you who does not worship with a true church. Consider making plans to fellowship with other believers following the worship service.

**ENCOURAGE** – Let leaders and volunteers in the church who serve on Sunday know that you are praying for them this weekend. Take advantage of email (if you have it). Look for an opportunity to encourage someone with your time this weekend.

**LISTEN/OBEY** – How should you apply the Bible to your life today? Do not neglect the daily reading and meditation on God’s Word and prayer. Begin to read and reflect on the Sermon text and songs that will be used on the Lord’s Day. The pastors will put the songs and Scripture passages on the church website and blog by Friday afternoon.

**PRAY** – Declare your dependence on God and ask Him:

- To give you and undivided heart to worship Him this weekend.
- To give you and undistracted heart to worship Him this weekend.
- To help you enjoy the fact that you are worshipping God with His people.
- To work mightily through His Word and our Worship on the next Lord's Day.

**INTERCEDE** – Pray for Pastor Daniel as he finishes his sermon and prepares for other parts of the service. Pray for Luke and the worship team as they prepare their music and souls for the Sunday worship music. Pray for Dave as he finishes preparing for Berea. Pray that God would produce fruit through the preparation of these things.

**ANTICIPATE** – Remind yourself and your kids that in two days you get to worship God together as a church. Ask God to heighten your anticipation.

## SATURDAY

**THANK** – Thank God for the day off from work or school. Look at it as a gift to serve your family, friends, neighbors as well as to prepare for the Lord's Day. Thank God for rest that is found in Jesus and ask Him to increase your longing to experience Him more and more. Thank Him that tomorrow is the best day of the week and that being with your church is the happiest place on the earth.

**TALK** – Look for an opportunity to invite some to join you who does not worship with a true church. Be careful how you talk (every day this is true). Use your words to build up and not tear down—especially with your spouse and kids (or parents or roommates).

**ENCOURAGE** – It is not too late to call or email people with words of encouragement. Share with people the promises of God in His Word.

**LISTEN/OBEY** – How should you apply the Bible to your life today? Do not neglect the daily reading and meditation on God's Word and prayer.

**PRAY** – Declare your dependence on God and ask Him:

- To give you eyes to see wonderful things in His Word and in the songs.
- To give you and sincere heart as you worship (not a hypocritical one).
- To help you to listen to the Word with an honest and receptive heart.
- To work mightily through His Word and our Worship tomorrow.

**INTERCEDE** – Pray for Luke and the worship team as they practice on Saturday morning. Pray for Daniel (or the preacher) as he finishes the sermon and performs administrative duties. Pray for the congregation. Pray for lost and wayward souls. Pray for discouraged hearts and thank God for gladdened hearts. Pray for the sick both in body and soul.

**ANTICIPATE** – Remind yourself and your kids that tomorrow you get to worship God together as a church. Ask God to heighten your anticipation.

**BEGIN SUNDAY ON SATURDAY** – Let the Lord's Day begin on Saturday evening. Reflect on the Sermon text and songs that will be used on the Lord's Day. Read it over with your spouse and/or kids. Sing songs together. Listen to edifying worship music. Read devotional books. Talk with your kids about your expectations at worship. If necessary, practice sitting still, praying, singing, etc. Prepare yourself and your family to give offerings to the Lord with a glad heart. If possible, prepare most of the Sunday meal on Saturday to avoid Sunday morning stress. Pick out a time and day this week that you can invite someone over that you meet or talk to during the Sunday morning gathering at church. Lay out clothes for the Lord's Day (with modesty, reverence and courtesy in mind). Avoid worldly entertainment that would dull your heart to God and His Word (like most TV and movies). Occasionally get together with other believers to pray. Get to bed early to get a good night of sleep.

## THE LORD'S DAY - SUNDAY

**RISE EARLY ENOUGH** – Get up early enough to spend some quiet moments praying and thanking God for the Day and opportunity to worship together with saved sinners. You want to avoid feeling rushed.

**TALK** – Avoid hurtful and unedifying words but instead look for opportunities to build up with your words as you prepare to go to the church building. Show forbearance to one another in love for Jesus' sake.

**EAT HELPFULLY** – Breakfast is an important meal for your body. Eat to the glory of God. Watch what you drink so that you or your kids do not have to take unnecessary and distracting trips to the bathroom.

**LEAVE EARLY** – Leave so that you can arrive at least 15 minutes before Sunday School or the Worship Service. Please consider coming to Sunday school/Berea.

**FIND A SEAT** – As soon as possible look for a seat several minutes before the service begins. Sit closer to the front if possible and keep others in mind. Sit and quiet yourself in preparation for the corporate worship of God. Teach your kids to sit quietly with you during this time (they can spend time with their friends afterwards).

**PRAY** – Declare your dependence on God and ask Him:

- To help you see and savor Him this morning.
- To help you worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.
- To satisfy you this morning with His unending love in the Gospel of Jesus.
- To work mightily through His Word, prayer and songs.
- To anoint Luke, the musicians and the preacher with Holy Spirit power.
- To produce fruit for the glory of God and joy of all people.

**LISTEN/OBEY** – Listen carefully and prayerfully to what is said and sung. Concentrate. Ask God to help you love His word more than the greatest riches on earth. Take notes. Help your kids take notes or use the kid's bulletin. Listen to the Word with humility and teachability.

**ENCOURAGE** – Look for opportunities to greet and encourage others afterwards. Possibly get together with people to share food together. Look to talk to someone who you don't know or don't regularly talk with. Make plans to get together with someone this week.

**INTERCEDE** – Pray for the word to convict and give life to yourself and others as a result of the preaching. Pray for encouragement for the preacher in Jesus' name.

**TALK/OBEY** – Talk with your family about the service. Talk with others about the worship and word. Look to be a doer and not a hearer only.

**REST** – Make it a habit to get rest during this day. Take a nap. Thank God for the rest that he provides for us by His grace.

**THANK** – Thank God for the gift of worship on the Lord's Day. Ask Him to continue to grow your love for Him and for His Church.



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[www.graceworship.blogspot.com](http://www.graceworship.blogspot.com)

The sermons (both audio and manuscripts) will be posted on the web and blog each week along with the songs and Scripture for the coming Sunday.