

# Worship Together

This worship experience is to help people have some time for personal reflection, as ministry teams and all together.

Take time to read it out loud and shape it in your own words. The **big** idea *our individual gift, placed in a team for a purpose combines with the universal declaration of God's love for the world – bringing glory and honour to Jesus.*

## You will need:

- Paper squares (provided in your box)
- A table or the floor covered in black or white cloth that can be the backdrop for a design
- Background music to play

## SECTION 1:

Give each person some paper pieces (a single colour ~ 10 pieces per person)  
(Hold back the rest of the squares to use in section 3)

“One of the purposes of the church is to worship God and since Connect isn't just about equipping and conversations – the foundation of ministry is a response to God's work in our lives. So we are going to take some time to give attention to our connection with God.

In front of you are some small pieces of paper take a just few of them maybe one for every day of the week you have. Shape them into an image that symbolises God's work in your life his gifting his empowering, his grace

Allow time – have background music




1 Peter 4:10 says “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.”

As you continue to shape your pieces of paper and reflect on God's work in your life I wonder do you ever feel like what you have to offer in ministry is small. Do you feel inadequate or powerless?

Do you wonder if it makes a difference if you offer your gifts or not. Perhaps you resonate with Dave Hopwood poem Small Wonders a few lines from it ...

When we feel small and inadequate,  
powerless and easily swayed.  
when we wish we could be heroes,  
yet find ourselves adrift in a sea of straying  
When we find ourselves in a land of giants,  
when others seem to ignore us  
or disregard us, or let us down,  
when we feel we fail to make the kind of impact we long for  
we wonder once again who are we that you should care so much for us





The call of 1 Peter 4:10 is to be faithful stewards of what God has given us .. our part is faithfulness. Its his gifting and his grace in its various forms. verse 11 of 1 Peter goes on to say If anyone serves they should do so with the strength God provides.

Ask God for his strength ask him to show you the form his grace takes in your life, to know what gift you have to offer. And the Spirit to empower you to be faithful.

## SECTION 2

Invite people to take their squares with them as they form a group with people from the ministry team they came with today or others from a similar ministry area from other churches.

Rarely do we serve in isolation though we are usually part of a team. The bible speaks numerous times of all the different gifts God endows the church with, Paul uses the image of a body. And earlier in 1 Peter there's the very well known passage with a series of collective nouns ... a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God.

It amazes me the way that different gifts and skills can combine in a team. And where each one serves with their gift the team sees ministry happen. The ministry takes a unique shape in part because of the unique make up of that team. Each one bringing their gifts.

These individual gifts are combined for a purpose. What is that purpose for your team?

Talk together in your groups and come up with one word that articulates what that purpose is. For example if your team was a toddler group like mainly music or a playgroup perhaps your word would be "link" as you seek to link up with families from the community or as a youth ministry it could be "hope" for a generation that is anxious.

When you have that word come to the table and find a spot to combine your paper squares and make that word - you need to use all your squares". (You can also give people a few extra pieces of paper for the members of their team who aren't there today, but encourage them as much as possible to use what they have after all that's how it is in ministry too.)

Allow time for conversation within teams about the gift they think they bring individually and the purpose of their team.

Notice the words other teams have used as well.

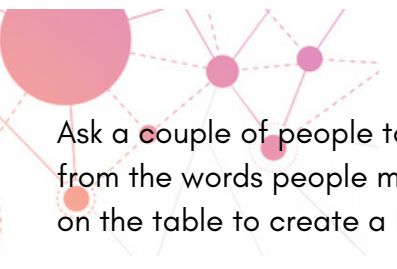


Invite people to pray together as a team to thank God for the gifts he has placed in their team and that the Holy Spirit would continue to gift and empower their team to live out that purpose.

## SECTION 3

You've just "shaped" out why you serve. You've used words like ..... and ..... and ..... to describe some of the purposes of your team's ministry. All of those in the end are about drawing people to Jesus about helping people find him and follow him.

As we each love and serve in response to God's love for us, in the spaces God has for us our individual efforts and the ministry of our teams and our churches combine into a global kingdom bringing declaration and demonstration of God's love.



Ask a couple of people to use all the pieces from the words people made on the table to create a heart.



When you pause for a minute and think of all the ways God's grace in its various forms is being enacted for the glory of Jesus by the ministries represented in this room for this region - its encouraging.

Imagine all the people at other Connect days doing this same thing and if we could combine their pieces with ours (sprinkle some more paper pieces)

Imagine all the churches ministering across Australia, all the different denominations and movements also working towards speaking out and showing Jesus love. (add more shredded paper)

Let alone around the world, (add more paper) - its humbling and its inspiring.

When you think about all the people who have gone before us - the great crowd of witnesses as the writers to the Hebrews describes them (add more paper)

As we raise up leaders who will come after us and create new and different expressions of ministry (add more paper)

We realise as we bring our little pieces as stewards of God's grace - we are not alone. Our ministry is not small because the ministry we are involved in is part of a much much bigger story.

The end of verse 11 in 1 Peter 4 says *"so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ to him be the glory and the power for ever and ever."* All of this is so that God might be praised.

End with prayer

Father, Thank you for the opportunity to use the gifts you have given us, to bring our small piece to the table, to grow and develop and learn as we contribute what we have. To experience the work of your Spirit in our lives and in our communities and throughout the world.

We know that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses who each played their small part in this ongoing story of your kingdom. In each of our churches and communities are stories of individuals offering what they have. The sharing of your story and the making of disciples is not about what one person one ministry one church or one region does. It's about you Jesus and your shaping and making a way for all people to hear. accepting the invitation to join you in all that you are doing God, in the ways you are working and moving bringing people to you.

Forgive us for the times we compare.

Forgive us for the time we don't offer what we have for the benefit of others.

We forget that there are brothers and sisters also working towards your reign Jesus being seen more and more.

Thank you for the invitation to partner with you in your heart for the world.

May you be praised God. May all glory and power belong to Jesus for ever and ever Amen.