

4. One of the goals of worship is that spiritual inquirers “will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, ‘God is really among you!’” (1 Corinthians 14:23-24). How does the congregation’s gathering for worship lead, at times, to this result?

5. How can we be a church and small group that equips seekers and beginners to swim in the shallows and on the surface, while still taking others on a deep dive?

6. Is there anyone on your BLESS List (a.k.a., “Top 5”) who is ready to be invited to a Five Oaks worship service or fellowship event? If so, pray for that person as a group.

**Recapturing the Wonder that is the Church
(A BLESS Series)**

“4 Realizations That Recapture the Wonder (Part 4)”
Psalm 96:1-3,7-10

The power of gathered worship for bringing people into a relationship with God is a significant _____ weaving its way through the Bible story.

4 Realizations that Recapture the Wonder (Part 4)

1. We get to belong to God’s church.
2. We get to welcome others to God’s church.
3. We get to gather as God’s church.
4. We get to _____ when we worship together as God’s church.

The Great Commission and Temple Worship

Genesis 12: ¹ The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

² “I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.
³ I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

Israel was called to be a “city on a hill,” shining in the darkness that would attract the nations to come and see by...

- Living _____ and righteously (Deuteronomy 4:5-8).

- Being the recipients of God’s miraculous signs and _____ (Numbers 12:38).

- Incorporating _____.
- Temple _____ (2 Chronicles 6:32-33; Psalm 96:1-3,7-10; 75:9-11; 66:1-8; 108:1-5; Mark 11:17).

The Great Commission, Synagogue Worship, and the Expansion of the Church

“The Jewish colony in Antioch grew in numbers... They were constantly attracting to their religious ceremonies multitudes of Greeks, and these the Jews had in some measure incorporated with themselves.” (Josephus)

Acts 13: ¹⁶ Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: “Fellow Israelites and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me!”

From a purely historical standpoint, the first-century church spread quickly thanks to the groundwork laid by the _____.

The Great Commission and the Church Worshiping Together

When Jesus gives the great commission, the new element is “_____.” Go to all the nations. But he never cancels the “city on a hill,” come and see approach of reaching people through worship.

1 Corinthians 14: ²³ So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and inquirers or unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind? ²⁴ But if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all, ²⁵ as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, “God is really among you!”

We have to intentionally and consistently create and execute plans to help seekers and those early in the journey, who are in the shallows, learn to swim. But they need to learn to swim. They need to move into the _____, fully equipped to dive deep, not remain on the surface of the water.

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week’s sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. How much of a role did Christians gathered for worship and/or fellowship influence your seeking or coming to Christ?
3. Read 2 Chronicles 6:32-33, Psalm 96:1-3,7-10, and Mark 11:17. How did the temple and temple worship help Israel in its mission to bless the nations?