



STORIES **AND** RITUALS

Meaningful **MENTORING**

LESSON 9

Stories & Rituals: Meaningful Mentoring

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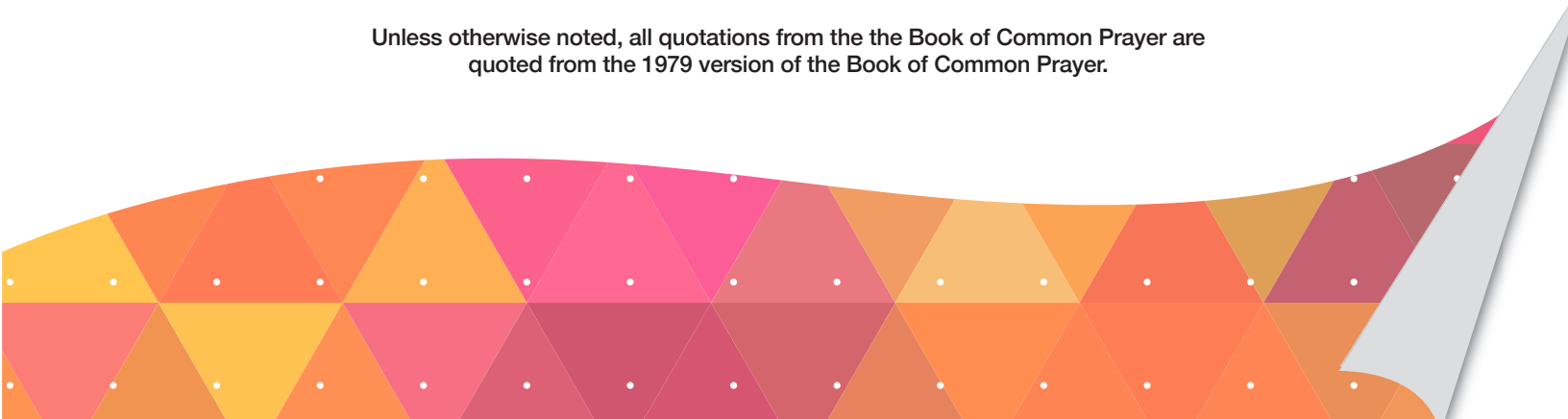
Editor

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MEANINGFUL MENTORING

Servicing in the Service

Lesson Focus: Christian Worship (John 4:21-24)

Lesson Goal: Understand and experience the different ministries and individuals that are involved in the worship service.

Activity: Visit another church with your mentee.

Duration of Lesson: Ongoing throughout month *(length will vary depending on ministry and worship services)*

Materials Needed

- Camera or phone with the ability to take pictures *(optional)*

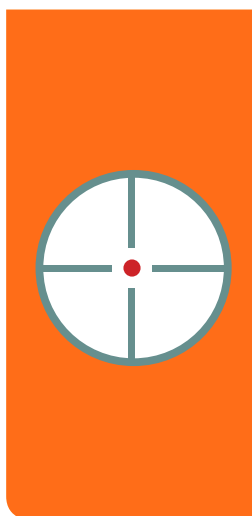
LESSON OVERVIEW



The Story and the Ritual

This lesson will invite both you and your mentee to explore the stories found in your church's worship life. This will happen by getting to know people involved in the worship service and by participating in the act of worship itself. There are many personal, Biblical, and liturgical stories in the many different areas of worship.

You will teach your mentee about the different ministries and individuals that are involved in a worship service at your church. Additionally, your mentee will experience the role that these ministries play in allowing parishioners to focus their hearts and minds of God during the worship service.



What's the Focus?

Worship is an essential part of the Christian faith. We are called to be gathered together to give God praise and thanksgiving through the act of corporate worship (John 4:23-24). Worship provides us the opportunity to be in community with other Christians and to participate in song, liturgy, Scripture reading, and prayer.

Both you and your mentee have most likely spent numerous hours in the pews of the church. During this time, you have made many observations as a passive observer. But, do you and your mentee really know what goes into planning a worship service? How do appropriate linens appear on the table each Sunday? Do lectors have to rehearse or prepare before reading in the service? Who writes the prayers of the people? What do ushers really do? This lesson will invite you to explore the answers to these questions, and more.



What's the Point?

This lesson is meant to be an eye-opening experience. Your mentee will learn more about the ministries involved in the worship service by participating in the worship service than they would by listening to a lecture about the service. If you are directly involved in a worship ministry, use this as an opportunity to “plug them in” to your ministry. They will take an added interest if it is something that you are already involved in.

This is also your opportunity to introduce your mentee to other adult mentors. When working with and learning from your worship contact, teach your mentee how to be respectful, attentive, inquisitive, and, most importantly, focused on God. Encourage your mentee and have fun with the process. The intention of this mentoring session is to open the eyes of your mentee to the important “behind the scenes” components of the worship service.



Preparing for Your Lesson

Familiarize yourself with the contents of this lesson and with the structure of worship in your congregation. This lesson is an ongoing lesson throughout the month; you will need to continuously communicate with and encourage your mentee through this process.

THE LESSON

- Have your mentee contact a member of the clergy or other church leader in charge of worship at your church. Ask this contact for a list of the people who coordinate the various teams involved in the worship service.
- With your mentee, review the contact list. Share with them your understanding of each of the ministries and ask them what they know about the ministries. Use your collective understanding to formulate a list of your top ministry interests. Creating this list will help you in your quest to find the right ministry in which to participate.

1. How is this ministry involved in the worship service?

2. Do people serving in this ministry need to prepare before the service? If so, how?

3. How do people greet you at the door (or do they greet you)?

4. How many times in a month (or year) do people serve in this position?

5. Why is this ministry important?

- Review your mentee's conversation with your ministry contact, and collectively determine if that is the right ministry for them to serve in. If not, review your list and talk to another contact.
- Once you find a ministry in which you can serve, have your mentee schedule a service during which both of you can serve in the service with your chosen ministry.
- On the day of your service, show up early. Observe what happens prior to the start of worship.
- Serve in the service. After the service is over, stay for a few extra minutes and watch what happens after the service is over.
- Take a photo of you and your mentee serving during the service, if desired (*remember to be respectful if taking a photo during worship*).
- Before departing, discuss the following questions with your mentee. Take turns answering each of these questions:
 - 1. What did you know before serving?**
 - 2. What did you learn by serving?**
 - 3. What surprised you?**
 - 4. How has this experience changed the way you will see and experience worship?**
- If possible, plan the next date and time you will meet. Also set a date that can serve as a "Plan B," or backup, meeting (*just in case something happens and you can't meet on the first date you picked*).
- If you are transporting your mentee home, follow all necessary Safe Church policies and procedures.

WRAPPING UP

Take a few moments to reflect on your mentoring experience. Ask yourself the following questions. You may wish to write your answers down in a journal.

1. Was this a growing experience for both you and your mentee? How?
2. Were both you and your mentee able to be open and honest with each other during this session?
3. Were there particular moments in this mentoring session that impressed you or surprised you?
4. Where did you see God during your session?
5. Based on your conversations and experience, do you have any new insights on your mentee? What are these insights?

If necessary, report any new insights, issues or concerns to church leadership.

LOOKING AHEAD

The mentor/mentee relationship lasts long after you have completed the Meaningful Mentoring sessions. Even if you have completed all of the mentoring sessions in this curriculum, continue to meet at least monthly with your mentee. Remember that the relationship you are developing with this student will last forever. Your student will remember your dedication and commitment to their lives!