

# *Spiritual Formation in Worship, Part 1: Practicing the Presence — Leader's Guide*

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This study encourages participants to discern the Holy Spirit more deeply and grow closer to Christ as they by faith “tune in to” or “practice” God’s presence in worship. This Leader’s Addendum complements and clarifies the Participant’s Guide; use both in leading the study. Reviewing both Guides, especially the Summary, before the study will help you anticipate questions and reactions. Talking about encountering the Holy Spirit in worship may be a foreign or intimidating concept for some!

The introduction is meant to be brief, to put everyone “on the same page” and focus us in on the topic. Since the Bible study segments become increasingly reflective and open to dialog, your skill in moving things along early on will allow more time for discussion later. Be sure to solicit reflection and comment at each point in the Discussion section (as a “guide on the side” rather than the “sage on the stage”). Finally, the image of the *orant* is a visual aid for participants’ personal reflection; it may be included in the discussion as time permits.

## **Introduction – 5-8 minutes**

*Below are New International Version translations of portions of study passages with added emphases*

- Matt. 28:20 – And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.
- John 14:19-20 – . . . On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.
- John 15:5 – Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. (New Living Translation)
- John 16:5-7 – . . . It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.
- Gal. 4:6 - Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts. . . .
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- Matt. 18:20 – For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.

## **Exploration – 10-15 minutes**

- Eph. 1:17-19 – I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.
- Eph. 3:16 – I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.
- 2 Cor. 3:17-18 – Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

- 1 Cor. 4:20 – For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.
- 2 Tim. 1:12 – Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

Discussion – 15-20 minutes

Application and Provocative Questions – 10-15 minutes

A few examples of Practicing the Presence in worship:

- Praise – praise songs and hymns; Gloria; Alleluia verse; Holy, Holy, Holy
- Thanksgiving – worship songs, This is the Feast; “Lift up your hearts;” Thank the Lord and Sing
- Repentance – confession and forgiveness; Create in Me a Clean Heart
- Petition – Kyrie; Prayer of the Day; Prayers of the People; Lord, Now Let Thy Servant
- Word (scripture) – Invocation; Benediction
- Sacrament – making the sign of the cross (remembering baptism); Lord’s Supper

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Accompanying Participant’s Guide is also available from the Center for U.S. Missions.