



Living Our Values in Lockdown

WORSHIPPING



Churches understand worship as the daily practice of making the Gospel reality. They search for creative opportunities to celebrate worship in everyday life and are committed to making the Sabbath a meaningful experience.

Jesus emphasises that where we worship is not important. What's important is **how** we worship – in spirit and truth (John 4:25).

We are used to focusing on truth. We do this every week when we meet for Sabbath School and a Church Service. This resource focuses on the Spirit part of worship.

Spirit – this is a great time to focus on the spirit part of worship. Think of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-26: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. All these qualities should be woven into our worship.

- › **Love** – show someone you love them by “inviting” them to participate remotely in your “at home” worship-experience, rather than passively watching an online service. Read the Bible together. Share how God has worked in your life over the years. Pray. Sing.
- › **Joy** – share the joy you have found in Jesus by recording a short testimony (3-5 minutes). Do not simply upload it to Facebook, or YouTube, but send it to a few people to encourage them.
- › **Peace** – many people right now are unsure about the future. This can be related to financial security, housing, or spiritually. Re-write and personalize some of the greetings from Paul in the New Testament where he mentions peace and send them to your friends. Ask God to grant you peace of mind, so you can remain calm, and hopeful as people turn to you with their fears.
- › **Patience** – ask God to give you patience. It's difficult being at home most of the time. Demonstrate the patience you would like to experience from others. Remember this when you talk to colleagues, family members, and friends.
- › **Kindness** – be kind to the people you meet, when you must go out. It could be at the grocery store, or at the bank where a little act of kindness might go a long way.
- › **Generosity** – when you order take-out make sure you tip well. Call your local barber and volunteer to pay her/him in advance for your next haircut. Remember to return your tithes and offerings even though you are not physically in church.

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- › **Faithfulness** – be faithful in the little things. Do not try to do everything at once. Choose a few people where you can make a difference and stick with it. Do not forget them.
- › **Gentleness** – remember that many people are scared and anxious. Be gentle with other people's fears and worries when you talk to them.
- › **Self-control** – spend time with Jesus at home. Make use of the time you would normally spend in traffic, or on the bus. This could be your opportunity to spend time daily in Bible study and prayer. Make it a habit. Practice self-control by switching off your devices, so you don't get distracted.

Useful links

If you are looking for worship-experiences online, here are a few recommendations:

- › Every week Pioneer Memorial Church at Andrews University creates resources for children's Sabbath School: <https://vimeo.com/pmchurch>
- › Every morning for the past month, Macy Weir, a pastor in Oregon, has read stories and done object lessons for children live on Facebook. These videos are available here: "Stories with Pastor Macy": <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9dSiXTwZrxH8DP91BrL5kDzADBI4tJ1B>
- › www.ignitermedia.com is packed with inspiring video clips that you can use in online worship.
- › https://disciple.org.au/resource_category/home-church-sabbath-school-resources/

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