



Pathfinder Honour: Trainer's Notes: Short Version Christian Worship 1



Instructions to Trainers / Instructors of this Honour

Thankyou for being involved with this Honour. These notes have been developed to assist in teaching / instructing this honour. We recognise that there is much more information available and we are grateful that you should share your expertise. Please remember that Honours are designed to develop our Pathfinders in many ways; their interests, their knowledge and their relationship with their Saviour and Creator. Your enthusiasm and creativity will have a huge impact on those doing the honour.

To complete an Honour, the following (where applicable) must be completed satisfactorily:

- Physical and Practical Requirements.
- Honour Workbook.
- Honour Assessment Sheet. (*On SPD Honour Website but Leader's level access is required*)

Additional Reference Material

Acknowledgements

These notes were reviewed at the *Honour Workshop* which was part of the SPD 'Move with the Power 3' Youth Leader's Summit which was held at Brisbane in August 2011. Please see the final page the *Christian Worship 1 Honour Requirements & Framework* document for a list of the folk who contributed.

INTRODUCTION: BEFORE YOU START

The aim of this honour is to give an introduction to the wonderful topic of Christian Worship. Christian Worship comes from the heart. The love of God for each of us is difficult to comprehend. When we study His scriptures, we are best to just accept it and wait for heaven.

Only text references are shown in this short version. The document '*Christian Worship 1 Trainer's Notes - Complete*' has all the words of texts mentioned.

Important: Each of the topics in this Honour can be a source of many day's prayerful study (or even years). Use your creativity and imagination. Call on Divine assistance to make each topic real. The message will lose its impact if the honour is dragged out.

Christian Worship 1 Honour: Trainer's Notes – Short Version

REQUIREMENT 1: To help appreciate the character and majesty of the Christian God, briefly discuss what the Scriptures have to say about the following:

The purpose of this Requirement is to give a basic insight into the character of the Christian God. Whether we like it or not, we humans are caught up in a titanic struggle between good and evil. Each one of us can freely choose what side we are on.

We have only allowed one page in the Christian Worship 1 Honour Workbook. We want this to be a snapshot of world history – the conflict between good and evil.

a. Satan's pride, conflict in heaven, Satan thrown out of heaven

Ezekiel 28:17. Isaiah 14: 13, 14. Revelation 12:7-9

b. Creation of the earth and its inhabitants

Genesis 1:1 to 2:3. The story of creation of the earth
Genesis 1:27. Psalms 8:5. Psalm 139:14.

c. Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and their expulsion

The Garden of Eden was a wonderful place, but Adam and Eve had some serious shortcomings. Perhaps we may have done the same things as they did.

- God creates the Garden of Eden, places people in it and gives specific instructions. Genesis 2:8-17
- God places people in the Garden and gives specific instructions. Genesis 2:15-17
- Satan, disguised as a serpent, talks to the woman Eve. Genesis 3:1-5
- Eve is deceived. She eats the fruit and gives some to her husband Adam. Genesis 3:6
- Initial results of eating the forbidden fruit. Genesis 3:7-13
- Terrible results of disobedience - eating the forbidden fruit. Genesis 3:14-24

d. The shortcomings of the human race

- The source of human shortcomings. Ephesians 6:12. John 8:44. 1 Peter 5:8.
- Some shortcomings of those who have gone before us and which may affect us today. Romans 5: 12. Psalm 14:1. Psalm 78:32. Isaiah 46:6, 53:6. Matthew 6:19. Acts 7:52. Revelation 3:16. Romans 3:23.

e. God's iron-clad promise to the human race

- God's fall-back plan before the creation of the earth. Ephesians 1: 3,4. 2 Timothy 1:9
- God's pledge to Abraham, the father of the Jewish nation. Genesis 17: 1,2 Genesis 12:3. Genesis 22:18.
- God's pledge to the Israelites at Mount Sinai. Exodus 19:5.
- God's pledge to send the Messiah:

One of the central themes in the Old Testament is the promise of the coming Messiah. There are more than 3000 verses dedicated to this wonderful pledge. The faithful of the Jewish nation longed for this event.

The word 'Messiah' means 'Anointed One' (in Greek 'Christ'). It comes from the Jewish practice of anointing their priests and kings. It points forward to a future King who would be sent from God to save the human race. Here's some texts:

- The Messiah would be the born of a woman and would crush the head of Satan. Genesis 3:15.
- He would be a descendent of Abraham and would bless all the nations on earth. Genesis 12:3.
- He would be born in Bethlehem of Judah. Micah 5:2
- He would be born of a virgin. Isaiah 7:14.
- He would be pierced for our transgression and crushed for our iniquities. Isaiah 53:5.
- He would die among the wicked ones but be buried with the rich. Isaiah 53:9.
- He would be resurrected from the grave, for God would not allow His Holy One to suffer decay. Psalm 16:10

Christian Worship 1 Honour: Trainer's Notes – Short Version

f. The birth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ

- The lineage of Jesus the Messiah Matthew 1:17.
- Jesus' earthly parents and events leading up to His birth: Matthew 1:18-25
- The birth of the Messiah – Jesus: Luke 2:1-7
- Worship: shepherds and angels: Luke 2:8-20
- Worship by the Wise Men: see Matthew 2:1-12

g. The ministry of Jesus Christ.

- Jesus' childhood: Luke 2:39-52 (KJV)
- John the Baptist prepares the way for Jesus' ministry: Matthew 3(NIV)
- Jesus begins His ministry: Luke 3:23.
- The Baptism of Jesus: Matthew 3 (NIV)
- Why Jesus He came to earth
The word 'gospel' means 'good news'- God's plan to offer the opportunity for salvation to all humanity. This leads to eternal life in God's Kingdom.
 - To spread the good news of salvation. Mark 1:14-15
 - To save the lost: Luke 19:10. John 3:16-18
 - To do God's will. John 6:38.
 - To be the light of the world. John 12:46.
 - To fulfil the Law. Matthew 5:17-19
 - To serve. Mark 10:42-45
- Other aspects of Jesus ministry:
 - He healed the sick as well as proclaiming the good news. Matthew 9:35
 - He performed miracles to demonstrate His divine power. Matthew 9:5-7.
 - He used Parables to explain the Gospel in readily-understood terms. Matthew 13:33-34
 - He blessed the little children. Matthew 19:13-14
 - He explained what the greatest commandment was. Matthew 22:37-40.
 - He described the 'new' commandment. John 13:34-35
 - He predicted His death on the cross to pay for our sins. John 12:27. Matthew 12:38-40

h. The death of Jesus Christ on the cross.

We have only included Matthew's account found in Chapters 26 and 27. It is recommended that you check out Mark 14, 15; Luke 22, 23 and John 18, 19

- The plot to kill Jesus. Matthew 26: 1-5
- The anointing at Bethany. Matthew 26: 6-13
- The disciple Judas agrees to betray Jesus. Matthew 26: 14-16
- Jesus celebrates Passover with His disciples. Matthew 26: 17-25
- Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper. Matthew 26: 26-30
- Jesus predicts that His disciple Peter would deny Him. Matthew 26: 31-35
- Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. Matthew 26: 36-46
- Jesus' betrayal and arrest in Gethsemane. Matthew 26: 47-56
- Jesus faces the Sanhedrin. Matthew 26: 57-68
- Peter denies Jesus, and weeps bitterly. Matthew 26: 69-75
- Jesus handed over to Pontius Pilate. Matthew 27: 1,2
- Judas hangs himself. Matthew 27: 3-10
- Jesus Faces Pilate. Matthew 27: 11-14
- Jesus takes the place of the criminal Barabbas. Matthew 27: 15-26
- The Soldiers Mock Jesus. Matthew 27: 27-31
- The King on a Cross. Matthew 27: 32-44
- Jesus Dies on the Cross. Matthew 27: 45-56
- Jesus Buried in Joseph's Tomb. Matthew 27: 57-61
- Pilate Sets a Guard over the tomb of Jesus. Matthew 27: 62-66

Christian Worship 1 Honour: Trainer's Notes – Short Version

i. The resurrection of Jesus, His ascension to heaven and promise to return

Scripture references: Matthew 28:1-20; Mark 16:1-20; Luke 24:1-49; John 20:1-21:25.

- He Is Risen. Matthew 28: 1-8
- The Women Worship the Risen Lord. Matthew 28: 9,10
- The Soldiers Are Bribeed. Matthew 28: 11-15
- The Road to Emmaus see Luke 24:13-34
- Jesus Appears to His Disciples (Luke 24:36-43)
- Jesus explains the fulfilment of the Scriptures: (Luke 24:44-48)
- Jesus promises the gift of the Holy Spirit after he ascends into heaven: Acts 1:4-8
- Jesus ascends into heaven and the promise of His return: Acts 2:9-11

j. The Holy Spirit is received and the gospel is preached worldwide

- The promised Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost. Acts 2: 1-13
- Peter Addresses the Crowd. Acts 2: 14-41
- Some more Scripture references that help explain why Jesus died for us.
 - Titus 3:4-7. 1 Timothy 1:15-17. Hebrews 4:14-15. Ephesians 2:19-20
- The Gospel commission – to tell the world of the good news of salvation. Isaiah 49:5-8, Matthew 28:18-25
- Apostles Paul and Barnabas in action at Antioch. Acts 13:14-48

k. Christ returns to claim His own; those who are alive, and those who are not

- Jesus describes his second coming John 5: 24-30
- The scriptures describe Jesus Second Coming:
 - Jesus will return the same way as He ascended to heaven Acts 2:9-11
 - It will be one, huge, worldwide event. No one will miss it. Matthew 24:26, 27.
 - It will be heard by everyone Matthew 24:31
 - It will be visible to everyone. Matthew 24:30.
 - The righteous dead will come back to life. 1 Thessalonians 4:16
 - The saved – those still alive and those raised from the dead - will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. Thessalonians 4:17

l. Christ's people in heaven and the new earth forever and ever

- Isaiah's vision of heaven and the new earth Isaiah 1: 6-9
- Paul's encouragement to those who have lost loved ones. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- John's vision of heaven and the new earth Revelation 7:13-17
- John's vision of heaven and the new Jerusalem see Revelation 21
- John's vision of heaven and the new earth Revelation 22: 1-5

Christian Worship 1 Honour: Trainer's Notes – Short Version

REQUIREMENT 2: Describe the modern meaning of the word 'worship' and words of the original Scriptures which have been translated as 'worship'.

The English word 'worship' has its origins in the Old English / West Saxon languages of about the 12th century AD. It was originally the noun 'worth-ship' which was comprised of the adjective 'worth' and the suffix 'ship' denoting a state or condition – the condition of being 'worthy', 'of renown' or 'of honour'. Over time, this meaning changed somewhat to refer to 'respect' and 'reverence'. In about 1300, it was used to describe 'reverence paid to a supernatural or divine being'

Sources: <http://www.word-origins.com/> and <http://www.etymonline.com/>

This certainly gives God the recognition He deserves. However, there are other words in the original Hebrew and Greek that give more meaning to the act of Christian worship. Often there are no English words that accurately translate the original meanings.

Consider the Hebrew word '*shachah*' and the Greek word '*proskuneo*'. These are frequently translated as an act of worship. In simple terms, both these words mean 'to bow down'

The Hebrew word '*shachah*' (Strong's no 7812) describes bowing or prostrating oneself, often before a superior or before God. In the ancient Biblical times, people bowed down before those to whom they wanted to show respect or honour. This act of falling down is often translated as 'worship' in the King James Bible. It reveals the feelings of the worshipper; respect and honour towards the one / object being worshipped. In more recent translations is rendered as 'bowed down' as a token of deep adoration.

Exodus 32:8 King James Version (KJV)

They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

Exodus 32:8 New International Version (NIV)

They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, 'These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.'

The Greek word '*proskuneo*' (Strong's no 4505) literally means to 'kiss the hand toward' someone in a token of reverence. In the New Testament, it means kneeling or prostrating oneself to do homage, to make obeisance, to express respect or to make supplication.

Another important term associated with worship is *homologia*. Worshippers frequently spend some or all of their time professing faith, praising God, thanking God and proclaiming truths about God.

Christian Worship 1 Honour: Trainer's Notes – Short Version

EQUIREMENT 3: Choose at least six (6) scripture references which refer to the true worship of God. Briefly describe how each can be applied to your life.

There are many references in scripture that refer to worship. Here are just a few. They are listed in broad categories

- The Glory of God. 2 Chronicles 5:13. Psalm 8: 1-5. Revelation 5:13. Revelation 14:7
- Enthusiasm. Psalm 100:1-5. Hebrews 12:28
- True Thankfulness Colossians 3:14-17. Nehemiah 8:10. Psalm 95:1-7
- A personal God. Psalm 139: 1-6; 23,24
- Thankfulness for God's word which is a guide to the Christian life. Hebrews 4:12-16. Romans 12:1
- Our approachable High Priest who understands us. Hebrews 4:14-16
- Ask for the Holy Spirit. Luke 11:9-13
- Rejoice and pray always Thessalonians 5:16, 17
- Our Heavenly Inheritance Isaiah 51:1. 1 Peter 1:3-7. Hebrews 12:28.
- Not giving into temptation. Matthew 4:10
- The coming of the Messiah. Matthew 2:1-2

REQUIREMENT 4: Act out at least two of the following and discuss where each was not according to God's will:

- a. **Cain's sacrifice of the 'fruit of the ground' (Genesis 4:2-8)**
- b. **Worship of the golden calf by the Israelites (Exodus 32)**
- c. **Nadab and Abihu's big mistake. (Leviticus 10:1-7)**
- d. **The Pharisee's and the tax collector's prayers. (Luke 18:9-14)**

REQUIREMENT 5: Discuss how the instructions and illustrations provided in the Scriptures can be applied to Christian Worship today. Take into account your local culture:

a. When and where to worship

The Scriptures clearly state that we can worship God any time and at any place. Of course, God has locked in the Sabbath from creation to the end-of-time as a special day to worship Him. We've included just a few texts.

- King David in the Psalms Psalm 34:1. Psalm 92: 1-2
- Jesus example; worship on the special day – the Sabbath: Luke 4:16:
- Apostle Paul's example; worship on the special day – the Sabbath: Acts 17:1,2
- Paul and Silas use creativity to worship God. Acts 16: 23-25
- Worship in a quiet place. Psalm 46:10. Psalms 34:3

Christian Worship 1 Honour: Trainer's Notes – Short Version

b. How to worship

The blessings and joy of meeting with others of like faith. Hebrews 10:23-26. Psalm 22:22

Worship is to be from the heart

The Christian writer Mrs Ellen White expresses it as follows

The incense of true worship, which should have been offered to God, has been mingled with the worship of self. In the place of lifting their thoughts to God, in the place of learning to know Him better, men deny Him in their lives. Their attention is taken up with objects that conceal God from their view. {9MR 386.1}

Meaning of Words in Songs. *As a part of religious service, singing is as much an act of worship as is prayer. Indeed, many a song is prayer. If the child is taught to realize this, he will think more of the meaning of the words he sings and will be more susceptible to their power.--Ed 168. {VSS 432.2}*

Sing With Spirit and Understanding--*The evil of formal worship cannot be too strongly depicted, but no words can properly set forth the deep blessedness of genuine worship. When human beings sing with the spirit and the understanding, heavenly musicians take up the strain and join in the song of thanksgiving. He who has bestowed upon us all the gifts that enable us to be workers together with God, expects His servants to cultivate their voices so that they can speak and sing in a way that all can understand. It is not loud singing that is needed, but clear intonation, correct pronunciation, and distinct utterance. Let all take time to cultivate the voice so that God's praise can be sung in clear, soft tones, not with harshness and shrillness that offend the ear. The ability to sing is the gift of God; let it be used to His glory.--9T 143, 144. {VSS 433.2}*

Beauty in Singing Not Everything--*Many are singing beautiful songs in the meetings, songs of what they will do, and what they mean to do; but some do not do these things; they do not sing with the spirit and the understanding also. So in the reading of the Word of God, some are not benefited, because they do not take it into their very life; they do not practice it.--Ev 508. {VSS 433.3}*

c. What topics to focus on.

The following topics are listed in the Seventh Day Adventist Hymnal

- Adoration and praise
- Dedication
- Communion
- Consecration
- Eternal life
- Faith and trust
- Forgiveness
- God the Father (Love, majesty and power, power in nature)
- Heaven
- Holy Spirit
- Hope and comfort
- Jesus Christ
- Joy and peace
- Judgement
- Meditation and prayer
- Love for God
- Repentance
- Resurrection of the saints
- Sabbath
- Salvation and redemption
- Thankfulness

Christian Worship 1 Honour: Trainer's Notes – Short Version

REQUIREMENT 6: Leadership in worship: Outline considerations and potential pitfalls under the following headings:

The aim of this requirement is to give an introduction to the leadership role in Christian Worship. To many folks, taking a leadership role in a Christian Worship service is a daunting task. Never forget that this leadership role is dedicated to worshipping God and serving His people. Study the scriptures and place yourself in God's hands.

a. Preparation and prayer

The amount of preparation depends on the occasion. Personal devotions (just you and God) are a different situation to ministering to others, be it a few folks or hundreds. Small groups tend to be more informal than large groups. When you have a leadership responsibility, assess the situation and - with God's help - be prepared.

Praying for God's guidance is essential. This includes the preparation phase as well as all elements of the actual program. Include those leading out and all those attending the worship service. Forgetting to pray is like driving a car with one's eyes shut.

To assist in the preparation process, we have compiled a form - '*Christian Worship Honours: Evaluation Form*'. This aid is also intended to help develop one's talents in the sacred role of leading out in Christian Worship. On this form, we've outlined the elements of a 'typical' Christian Worship program. There's a check list of things that need to be done and a section on which to reflect on 'effectiveness'.

The following elements of a typical Christian Worship program tend to be more applicable to large groups of worshippers, but the same principles also apply to small groups. Check it out and see if they can be applied to a small group – say a unit worship at a Pathfinder campout. As an illustration, we'll use '*Paul and Silas use creativity to worship God - Acts 16: 23-25*'. See Requirement 5

- **Worship Title:** The title usually contains key words from the theme or topic. It is often used to inform and create interest. [*Inspiring Tale of Worship in Jail* or '*Praise Him: Whenever & Whatever*' etc]
- **Topic/theme:** This is the topic (or topics) of the Worship Service. [*Worship God, even when things are going terribly against you*]
- **Aim of Service:** This is what we, with God's guidance, would like to achieve [*To help us understand that God is always with us and to be thankful for what He has done, regardless of our circumstances*]
- **The Worship Program:**
 - Call to worship:
Announce the start of the Worship Service, welcome folks, make introductory prayer, use rousing music and singing, etc.
 - Establish a spirit of worship:
Make all worshippers feel they are part of the Worship Service and forget other distractions. Involve them in singing, prayer and offerings to the Lord.
 - Set the 'scene' for the presentation of the message or study:
Maintain the spirit of worship and focus on the theme. Use 'on theme' music, singing, children's story, prayer, scripture readings, special 'item' etc.
 - Present God's message / Study His Word
 - Reflect on the message and its application:
Give testimony, dedication, commitment, quiet personal reflection and prayer, etc
 - End the Service:
Make concluding remarks. Use 'on theme' music, singing and prayer. Dismiss worshippers.

Christian Worship 1 Honour: Trainer's Notes – Short Version

b. The worship topic and appropriate music

As this is an introduction to Christian Worship, it is OK to entrust the delivery of the message (ie the sermon or study) to other suitable folks. Often the topic and associated Scripture has been chosen by others. The following notes offer some suggestions for those who have been tasked with selecting a topic.

Deciding on the topic can be a challenge, especially when it is considered in human terms. Always ask for divine inspiration. The life and sacrifice of Jesus should be a central theme. For starters, here are some ideas:

- Study the Scriptures. Never forget that Christian Worship is based on God's word.
- Check out the lives of those who are mentioned in God's word and reflect on how they impact on us today. Reflect on God's promises and the fulfilment of prophesy.
- Study the congregation and reflect on how they can be encouraged, challenged, inspired and have their knowledge and understanding increased.
- Reflect on what is important to you in your Christian experience. Develop this theme. It's surprising how often it will really touch someone else. There's plenty of scope to include a personal testimony.
- Seek advice from others. Many places run a series of programs. All you need to do is fit in.
- Look at the beauty and wonder of the natural world.
- Check out Christian literature. The writings of the Christian writer Mrs E G White are a wonderful source.

The use of appropriate music is often a challenge. Thinking about it, it comes down to who is being worshipped – me/us or God? Never forget that Christian Worship music is a God-given means for all the worshippers to join together in praise and dedication. It is to be 'from the heart' of all worshippers.

Here are a few things to consider:

- Does the mood and pace of the music/singing match the intended spirit of the composer? For example joyous praise is intended to be sung as such.
- Is the music/singing classed as being 'on auto-pilot' – produced as a dreary ritual and played and sung without conviction.
- Is the congregation familiar with the tune and words? If not, has time been taken to 'teach' them and are the words available? Remember to keep a balance between new songs/hymns and familiar favourites.
- Is the volume of the lead singers and musicians so loud that the response of the congregation cannot be heard? Ask the question. "Who is being worshipped: the singers, musicians or the 'oomph' of the public address sound system?"
- Could the singing / music be classed as entertainment rather than participative worship?

c. The worship 'team' (musicians, speaker/s, deacons, public address people etc)

Everyone in the worship 'team' has an important role. Commitment is crucial. Preparation is most important. Make sure everyone understands what is expected of them. See the Worship Service Checklist on our '*Christian Worship Honours: Evaluation Form*'

Christian Worship 1 Honour: Trainer's Notes – Short Version

d. The congregation (ages, language, personal issues, expectations, cultural background etc)

Christian worship leadership is all about being 'used by God' in bringing folks together in worshipping Him.

This may sound overwhelming. Always remember that you are not alone in reaching others. The Holy Spirit is still very active today. Read chapter 2 of the book of Acts. Note: we covered this in Requirement 1, part 'j' *The Holy Spirit is received and the gospel is preached worldwide.*

This is one of those 'common sense' considerations. For instance it would be silly to give a lengthy, learned, theological elucidation on a doctrinal topic to pre-school children. Aim to use words that will be understood by all. Use examples and illustrations. Jesus often spoke in parables - stories.

Remember that folks are at different 'levels' in their Christian experience; some are new to the faith, while others have been on the journey for many years. Some may be going through depressing times while others may be full of joy. We all need to support each other.

REQUIREMENT 7: Do the following: Complete the Worship Evaluation Form for at least two of each of the following:

a. Conduct a series of private (ie just you & God) Christian Worship services

A private Christian Worship service can be held anywhere anytime. There's heaps of information available on personal study of the Scriptures. Here's some suggestions:

- For those new to the Bible: <http://www.biblehistory.com/links.htm>
- On -Line Bible Study: <http://studies.itiswritten.com/?gclid=CPb1s7CVkqsCFQtU4godHCw4CQ>
- List of great Bible Discovery Courses: <http://www.discoverycourses.com/>
- Kids Bible Information: <http://www.kidsbibleinfo.com/>
- List of Bible Study courses & information: <http://www.nadadventist.org/article.php?id=6>

b. Be part of the congregation of a Christian Worship service

Give the worship leaders your full support. This means giving your undivided attention as they lead the worship of the Creator. Give them encouragement and be thankful for the effort they have gone to. If you are tempted to consider the service 'boring', think. You (and I) may be the ones with the problem.

c. Participate in a worship team

We'll leave this one up to you. Most worship leaders find it encouraging for someone to offer to help.

d. Lead out in a Christian Worship service for a group of at least 5 people.

What more can we say except to say 'God Bless You'.