

# LOVING GOD...

## Deuteronomy 6:4-9 // The Greatest Commandment

*This worship service centers on what Jesus called the greatest commandment – loving God with all of our heart, soul and strength. How do we love God with all that we are? This question is not easily answered, but here are some materials to help you create your own worship service.*

MAIN THEME: *How do we love God will all that we are?*

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## CHOOSING MUSIC // FOR SINGING

- ✪ **10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)**  
Text and Music: Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin  
© 2011 Thankyou Music, Said and Done Music, sixsteps, Music SHOUT! Publishing
- ✪ **Blessed Be Your Name**  
Text and Music: Matt Redman  
© 2002 Thankyou Music (Admin by EMI Christian Music Publishing)
- ✪ **Come, People of the Risen King**  
Text and Music: Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, and Stuart Townend  
© 2007 Thankyou Music (Admin. By EMI Christian Music Publishing)
- ✪ **Here is Love, Vast as the Ocean**  
Text and Music: William Reese and Robert Lowry  
Public Domain
- ✪ **Spirit Fall**  
Text and Music: Kristian Stanfill, Louie Giglio, Daniel Carson, Jason Ingram  
© 2011 Sony/ATV Timber Publishing obo Windsor Hill Music / Sony/ATV Timber Publishing / Sony/ATV Timber Publishing obo West Main Music (SESAC) / sixsteps Music / worshiptogether.com Songs (Admin. at EMICMGPublishing.com) (ASCAP)
- ✪ **The Love of God**  
Text and Music: Frederick M. Lehman  
© 1917, Renewed 1947 Nazarene Publishing House  
(We like the new arrangement by MercyMe)
- ✪ **Worship the King**  
Text and Music: William Gardiner and Chris Tomlin  
© 2004 worshiptogether.com songs/sixsteps Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing)

## CREATING DRAMA // FOR HEARING

Enlist someone to read the passage from Deuteronomy from memory. Read it with conviction and authority, as though it is directly addressed to them from God. Need help reading scripture in public? See Episode #1 in The Studio.

Have an extended time of singing and praising God. As you do, enlist worshipers to read a series of scripture passages exuberantly as expressions of praise to God! Read them between songs, during instrumental interludes, or at other appointed times. See below for scriptures of praise from various translations of the Bible. Or, search for and find some of your favorite scriptures of praise.

### **DEUTERONOMY 16:10-11**

Rejoice in the Presence of God, your God: you, your son, your daughter, your servant, your maid, the Levite who lives in your neighborhood, the foreigner, the orphan and widow among you; rejoice at the place God, your God, will set aside to be worshiped.

### **1 CHRONICLES 29:10-13**

David blessed God in full view of the entire congregation: Blessed are you, God of Israel, our father from of old and forever. To you, O God, belong the greatness and the might, the glory, the victory, the majesty, the splendor; Yes! Everything in heaven, everything on earth; the kingdom all yours! You've raised yourself high over all. Riches and glory come from you, you're ruler over all; You hold strength and power in the palm of your hand to build up and strengthen all. And here we are, O God, our God, giving thanks to you, praising your splendid Name.

### **EPHESIANS 3:14, 20-21**

My response is to get down on my knees before the Father, this magnificent Father who parcels out all heaven and earth. God can do anything, you know--far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.

### **PSALM 96:5-7**

For God is great, and worth a thousand Hallelujahs. His terrible beauty makes the gods look cheap; Pagan gods are mere tatters and rags. God made the heavens— Royal splendor radiates from him, A powerful beauty sets him apart. Bravo, God, Bravo! Everyone join in the great shout: Encore! In awe before the beauty, in awe before the might. Bring gifts and celebrate, Bow before the beauty of God, Then to your knees—everyone worship!

### **PSALM 100:4-5**

Enter with the password: "Thank you!" Make yourselves at home, talking praise. Thank him. Worship him. For God is sheer beauty, all-generous in love, loyal always and ever.

### **PSALM 11:1**

Hallelujah! I give thanks to God with everything I've got— Wherever good people gather, and in the congregation. God's works are so great, worth a lifetime of study—endless enjoyment! Splendor and beauty mark his craft; His generosity never gives out. His miracles are his memorial — This God of Grace, this God of Love.

### **PSALM 145:5**

Your beauty and splendor have everyone talking; I compose songs on your wonders.

## FINDING ART // FOR SEEING

Verses 8-9 in Deuteronomy passage talk about remembering this commandment by tying reminders on the hand and placing symbols on the forehead. You probably don't want to give worshipers tattoos, but you can help them create a reminder to love God with all their being.

Place stations around the worship space where worshipers can create bracelets, necklaces or key chains that serve as this reminder. Provide plenty of chains, beads, pipe cleaners, ribbons, paper, scissors, and other supplies available, and lay out a few samples to help get them started.

You can also offer them a visual reminder if your worship gathering is in the evening. Have someone place candles in the worship space in the shape of a heart. Invite worshipers to light these candles one at a time, with each flame representing an aspect of their love for God.

## LIVING WORSHIP // FOR DOING

We show our love to God by loving all of those things that God loves. Prompt worshipers to make a list of the things that God loves. As they live their lives in the context of family, friends, and community the next week, encourage them to voice silent prayers of praise to God for creation, people, and all they see that God might love. The next time your group gathers, ask worshipers to share their observations with the group.

Encourage worshipers to tweet prayers of praise or post photos of the things around them that they think God reflects the world showing love to God. Consider using the hashtag #lovinggod.

## MAKING SPACE // FOR WORSHIPING

Last week, we encouraged you to create origami hearts and display them in worship. This week, add pictures of places in your community (school, nursing home, work, home, mall, etc.) where people need to know the love of God.

## WRITING POETRY// FOR PRAYING

Use Psalm 118:1-4 as the basis for your own prayer of praise. Then, invite worshipers to spontaneously offer their own one-sentence prayer of praise to God for the ways God is working in their life, their family, their community, their school, or the world.

Pray this prayer in worship from *Psalms for All Seasons: A Complete Psalter for Christian Worship*, based on Psalm 95:

*Holy God – Father, Son, and Spirit, it is too easy for your people to talk about you without actually worshiping you, to worship you without obeying you, and to obey you without joy. Infuse us with such passion for you that our words become worship, our desires become obedience, and our lives reveal the joy that can only be found in you. Amen.*

[From *Psalms for All Seasons: A Complete Psalter for Worship* (Grand Rapids, MI: Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2012): 584.]

# SAMPLE WORSHIP SERVICE

*Loving God... // Deuteronomy 6:4-9 // The Greatest Commandment*

## PRE-WORSHIP ACTIVITY

Verses 8-9 in Deuteronomy passage talk about remembering this commandment by tying reminders on the hand and placing symbols on the forehead. You probably don't want to give worshipers tattoos, but you can help them create a reminder to love God with all their being.

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*[Sing the first stanza of "My Jesus I Love Thee" quietly to draw worshipers into the worship space and call them to a time of worship]*

## WELCOME

Say hi to other worshipers and welcome them in the name of Christ

## SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

*[Ask three worshipers to memorize and practice reading this passage before worship. Have them read it from three different points in the room.]*

## THE LIGHT OF LOVE

Draw the outline of a heart with candles in front of the worship space. Have a leader invite worshipers to come forward and light a candle, which represents the love of God in their life. Have the worship leader play or sing a song as this takes place. Andrew Peterson's song "After the Last Tear Falls" would work well.

## SONG OF LOVE

*The Love of God*

## MESSAGE

## PRAYER

Holy God – Father, Son, and Spirit, it is too easy for your people to talk about you without actually worshipping you, to worship you without obeying you, and to obey you without joy. Infuse us with such passion for you that our words become worship, our desires become obedience, and our lives reveal the joy that can only be found in you. Amen.

*Psalms for All Seasons: A Complete Psalter for Worship (Grand Rapids, MI: Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2012): 584. 1*

## WORSHIPPING TOGETHER IN SONG

### PRAISING GOD THE FATHER

*Blessed Be Your Name*

*10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)*

*[Read scriptures of praise]*

### EXALTING CHRIST THE SON

*Come, People of the Risen King*

*O Worship the King*

*[Read scriptures of praise]*

### GIVING THANKS FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

*Spirit Fall*

### PRAYER OF PRAISE

Invite worshipers to spontaneously offer their own one-sentence prayer of praise to God for the ways God is working in their life, their family, their community, their school, or the world.

*[Return to the refrain of 10,000 Reasons or another song and let worshipers sing it a cappella to conclude the worship time in song.]*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BENEDICTION

**One:** Go in peace and share the love of Christ.

**All:** **With God's help, we will.**