




















**Stepwise Faith-filled Worship –  
Stream Outline**



Group Session number	Session Title	Session summary	By the end of this session...
 <p><b>Session 0</b></p>	<b>Come Inside</b>	<p>Introduces activities, ideas and preparation for the sessions ahead.</p> <p>Come Inside does not include a group meeting. Participants and Facilitators work through this introductory material individually. The first group session is Session 1.</p>	<p>By the end of Come Inside you will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have a clear idea of what is included in the stream</li> <li>• begun to think about what worship is and can be</li> <li>• feel confident about how to access the materials and resources you will need for the Faith-Filled Worship stream</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Session 1</b></p>	<b>What is Worship?</b>	<p>Beginning to think about different kinds of worship, both familiar and unfamiliar; how we engage in worship - as individuals and together with others, and how worship informs and inspires our discipleship and our lives.</p>	<p>By the end of this session you will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reflected on your experience of worship and your discipleship</li> <li>• engaged with different experiences of worship</li> <li>• considered the communal and personal nature of worship</li> </ul>
	<b>Meet with your mentor</b>	<p>Your mentor will have received notes on session 1 from you or your facilitator</p>	
 <p><b>Session 2</b></p>	<b>Seasons of Worship</b>	<p>Looking further at communal worship and how we can glimpse our story within God's story in worship. Looking at the lectionary and the liturgical cycle exploring how the broad story of the children of Abraham &amp; Sarah and the life of Jesus are told. Looking at how the liturgical seasons and cycles often connect with seasons and cycles in nature and life.</p>	<p>By the end of this session you will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increased your awareness of the Christian liturgical year</li> <li>• explored the connection between faith life cycles and daily life cycles</li> <li>• looked at the lectionary as a guide and resource</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Session 3</b></p>	<b>Walking with Scripture</b>	<p>One of two sessions exploring the Bible, what it is and where it came from. Asking why the Bible is so important that it remains at the heart of Christian worship, faith and theology and why Christians believe that in the pages of scripture God's voice can be heard. Looking at the nature of the Bible's special authority in our life of faith.</p>	<p>By the end of this session you will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• explored different styles and genre in the Bible</li> <li>• thought about how different translations of the Bible might be used in different ways.</li> <li>• considered what is meant when we say that the Bible has authority</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Session 4</b></p>	<b>Working with Scripture</b>	<p>Continuing to look at ways to read and use scripture. What does it mean to read the Bible in different contexts and with different frameworks? Exploring how we listen for God's Word and considering the lenses and biases we place on scripture as well as thinking about how we can use scripture in worship to help others to hear God's Word.</p>	<p>By the end of this session you will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• explored how we read the bible</li> <li>• thought about how diverse voices speak out to us from the Bible</li> <li>• explored options for using the Bible in worship</li> </ul>
	<b>Meet with your mentor</b>	<p>Your mentor will have received notes on sessions 2, 3 and 4 from you or your facilitator</p>	

 <p><b>Session 5</b></p>	<p><b>A Gathered People</b></p>	<p>Looking at what it means to worship as ‘a gathered people’. Looking beyond Sunday worship and exploring the role of diverse communities as places of, and contexts for, worship. Beginning to explore how gathered worship can become inclusive and embrace diversity.</p>	<p>By the end of this session you will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• explored what it means to worship with others</li> <li>• thought about the diversity of gifts and needs within a community of worship</li> <li>• explored some of the diverse contexts in which worship takes place</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Session 6</b></p>	<p><b>Encounter with God</b></p>	<p>Exploring worship as an encounter with God, how this changes us, growing our perception of God, and enabling us to see God’s Kingdom throughout our daily life. Exploring how the sacraments remind us that our story is part of Jesus’ story and thus part of God’s story of salvation.</p>	<p>By the end of this session you will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• considered ways that you encounter God through worship and the transformation that brings</li> <li>• explored how worship can be shaped to enable all to encounter God</li> <li>• examined different understandings of the sacraments</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Meet with your mentor</b></p>	<p>Your mentor will have received notes on sessions 5 and 6 from you or your facilitator</p>	
 <p><b>Session 7</b></p>	<p><b>Communicating with God</b></p>	<p>Looking at prayer and considering different ways of communicating with God, be this communal or private. Praying through art/iconography and looking at the spirituality of some Christian mystics. Exploring discernment and call as important ways of hearing God’s voice.</p>	<p>By the end of this session you will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• thought about what prayer is</li> <li>• explored the different forms that prayer can take</li> <li>• considered the spirituality of some Christian mystics</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Session 8</b></p>	<p><b>Breaking Open the Word</b></p>	<p>Exploring how we can break open God’s living Word through preaching in worship. Considering the comfort and challenges of sharing God’s story - the various ways of preaching; our expectations when someone stands to preach, and our role in that worship.</p>	<p>By the end of this session you will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• explored what helps us to experience God’s living Word as individuals and communities</li> <li>• examined different ways of experiencing God’s living Word through worship</li> <li>• considered the role and purpose of preaching in worship</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Meet with your mentor</b></p>	<p>Your mentor will have received notes on sessions 7 and 8 from you or your facilitator</p>	
 <p><b>Session 9</b></p>	<p><b>Dance of the Spirit</b></p>	<p>Looking at the shape of worship as a whole and how liturgy provides a framework for this shaping. Exploring how to guide worshippers to access the stories in collective worship and help them to engage more fully in that worship whatever their individual needs and expectations. Beginning to plan a group project to implement new ideas from this stream.</p>	<p>By the end of this session you will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• experienced a different kind of collective worship from that which you are familiar</li> <li>• examined the shape and the movement of a URC worship service</li> <li>• considered how the crafting and shaping of worship speaks to different spiritual preferences and contexts</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Session 10</b></p>	<p><b>Pushing Frontiers</b></p>	<p>Exploring the spaces used for worship and thinking about the physical and emotional boundaries and barriers that can restrict or prevent people from participating and being fully included in worship. Thinking about sacred spaces, how we experience them and can better create them to enable meaningful experiences of worship.</p>	<p>By the end of this session you will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• developed your awareness of sacred space</li> <li>• explored what it means to be inclusive</li> <li>• considered what changes will need to be made so that ‘All are Welcome’ in our places of worship</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Meet with your mentor</b></p>	<p>Your mentor will have received notes on sessions 9 and 10 from you or your facilitator</p>	

 <p><b>Session 11</b></p>	<p><b>Dare to be Different</b></p>	<p>Exploring the importance of taking risks in worship. Asking ourselves whether we too easily stick to the same options for music, silence, readings, locations, Bible versions, smells, spaces, lighting, liturgies, actions etc. Exploring and encouraging creativity and variety in worship in order to meet diverse needs and circumstances.</p>	<p>By the end of this session you will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• considered the potential of innovation and creativity in worship</li> <li>• explored how worship can engage with all our senses</li> <li>• thought about how to support people to take risks and try different forms of worship</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Session 12</b></p>	<p><b>Resourced as Disciples</b></p>	<p>Reflecting on the Faith-filled Worship journey - how it equips you for your continuing discipleship journey and all that lies ahead. Thinking about the next steps you will take and how your participation in preparing and leading worship might develop going forward.</p>	<p>By the end of this session you will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reflected on the experience of doing the group project and thought about the lessons you will take forward from that experience</li> <li>• reviewed and reflected on what you have found interesting in the stream</li> <li>• planned your future steps for developing your discipleship through worship</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Final meeting with mentor</b></p>	<p>Your mentor will have received notes on sessions 11 and 12 from you or your facilitator</p>	

For further information visit [www.urc.org.uk/stepwise](http://www.urc.org.uk/stepwise) or send an email to: [stepwise@urc.org.uk](mailto:stepwise@urc.org.uk)