

Sabbath – Worship – Script

Good morning!

My name is Noah. I am the worship pastor here at Fellowship Dallas. I've been on staff here for about 3 and a half years and I was a worship pastor at a great church over in Garland for about 6 years before I came here which means I've been a worship pastor for close to ten years. That really blows my mind.

This is my dream job. It's the job I told my elementary school teacher I'd go to "cemetery" for. Annd. I didn't go to cemetery, nor have I gone to seminary which is what I should have said. Nevertheless, the powers at be saw fit to let me talk at you today and I'm pumped to be here.

Something I think about a good deal is how strange our relationship is. You ever think about that? I would wager there is no one in your life who demands for you to sing a song as often as I get to.

Welcome Kids

Backtrack / 2 definitions of worship intro

The past three weeks of this series on Sabbath have been around these themes: STOP, REST, DELIGHT

This morning we are wrapping up the series and we're talking about Worship. Thus...my presence here now. They brought in the closer. I get to talk about worship. And it's makes sense that we'd have questions around this topic.

We wonder what exactly worship is and how we do it, and what it's supposed to look like on the sabbath. As we begin to answer these questions. It would behoove us (all my kids say behoove) to get some clarity in the form of some definitions around Worship and Sabbath.

So first is this confusing word Worship. One of the things that can make this confusing for us is that there is actually no direct correlation between any one word in Greek or Hebrew to our English word worship.

This is a book called Holy Roar by Chris Tomlin that walks through 7 different Hebrew words that we translate as "praise" it's an amazing resource. We did a night of worship based on it a few years back. Great read.

Today I'm gonna give you two Definitions for worship. The first is this:

Worship: Ascribing worth

Giving value. Naming the value of something.

Psalms 50:15

- ***"Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me."***

That word Glory is the Hebrew word: Kabod. No not commode. Kabod. K-A-B-O-D (My kids say Kabod) This word is usually translated as Glory or Honor.

Kabod literally means weight. In biblical times weight was value. Weight is worth. So God's weight, heaviness, value is God's Glory. So when we speak of God's glory we speak to his immense value.

So worship is Ascribing worth. Worship is also an Awed Response.

Worship: Awed Response

Most of the Greek words in scripture for praise, worship, to glorify involve this idea of bowing down. It's no wonder that we are drawn to this physical expression of worship under the great magnitude and weight that is his Glory.

Romans 11:33-36

- ***33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! 34 "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" 35 "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?"***

John 4:23

- ***23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.***

Worship can happen in our head. We go into deep depths of knowledge. And the more we know of God the more we have to ascribe. But there comes a point where what's in our head moves into our heart. And for better or worse it will eventually show up in our the work of our hands.

This is why I'm passionate about my role. This is why I'm more than a Glorified Spotify Playlist. I aspire to lead you to a place beyond your head. Into your heart, Into your hands and upward toward God.

How we respond to what we know about God is our worship and There is no end to the Glory of God, so there should be no end to our response. When you encounter greatness, true greatness you can't help but respond.

You ever had ice cream so good you can't breathe? Kid's, yall like ice cream? What's your favorite flavor? I had some salted caramel ice cream this weekend and I ate it and I let it sit there a minute and I said MMM. We a had a few different flavors cuz that's how we roll. I took another bite and looked at Sarah. I said, that salted caramel though. I had experienced something good and I couldn't help but respond to the goodness of the Ice cream.

Believe it or not. God is better than ice cream. Do you know how good ice cream is? He's better. Why shouldn't we respond in awe??

God is Power, Dominion, All Glory and God Goodness, Light, Perfection. Who he is requires an Awed Response from us.

Define Sabbath

So then how do we bring Ascribing worth and an Awed response to sabbath? We realize it's a gift.

Sabbath is a gift**

****Mark 2:27**

- 27 And he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.

Kids, how many of yall love Christmas? Why do you like it? Presents. That's right, when it really boils down to it the truth will out. I've always loved Christmas morning. There's something about it. But It's changed a little now. You know why? Now I get to give presents. On Christmas morning I get to see daughter and my wife's face light up.

This year she got a whole play kitchen set up and a pretend washer /dryer. We set up her whole playroom into a mini "house" of her very own for her and her 9000 baby dolls. Check out her response.

VIDEO of Viv running into playroom.

I love giving my daughter gifts. Did you see how quickly she jumped in and started playing? That's what we hoped. She takes a second and responds to the gift. Then she immediately takes the next step and responds with the gift. I delight in giving her things she wants and likes and delights in. I know her well enough to know that what I'm giving her is something she'll love.

There are times though when I give her something anticipating that she is gonna be stoked and her response is...nah. I'm good. No thank you.

This happens a lot with food. I think I can remember a time when I was trying to get her to eat banana pudding and she was 0% interested. She loves bananas. Loves pudding. Couldn't care less to try what Maybe the greatest substance known to man.

God has given us a gift in the sabbath. And we're just sitting at the table going, nah. He's given us one of the best Christmas gifts of all time, a real break, true rest, sheer delight in Christ. A glimpse into eternity, today...right now. And we're going, do I have to? He's like no no, I made this for you. And we say, Do I have to play with it?

We reject these gifts. I reject good gifts from God all the time. The main one I'm guilty of is reality, the now, the present. Time with my daughter. I love her, but if I'm honest with myself I

miss out sometimes on the joy she brings because I'm distracted or I'm moving on to something else.

And I can be so drawn into this thing (phone) or even good things like my work that sometimes I can't find my way out. Sabbath helps me accept the gifts I have.

Church, Accept the gift. Start however you can. Ten minutes, an hour and work up to it. You accepting the gift is pleasing to the Lord the same way I was pleased when Vivian started playing with that kitchen set. And even more so.

We've defined what. And now the question is how?

Sunday morning Gatherings

Hebrews 10:24-25:

- ***24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.***

KJV – Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves

Which feels very superhero-esc. I like that.

When I say sabbath. One of the activities that may spring into your mind is what we're doing right now. Going to church. Or better, Gathering as the church. Full disclosure, I love Sundays. I delight in our gathering. But, today is a work day for me and Sundays are not the day my family has chosen to practice sabbath.

But for many of you, you're sabbathing right now. I can see it on your face. Gathering as the Church is part of the gift for you. It may even include some laborious things like serving in an area you feel called to.

For others of you, You're looking for the delight of this day. You feel like you should be engaging in church and you're working out the tension you feel in trying to tune in. I get it. It's ok. Keep seeking. Keep going. We're proud of you. We love you. We need you.

Regardless of which of those camps you find yourself in, it's important for us to realize that our worship gatherings are a part of the gift of sabbath we've been given.

Elements of a "Worship Gathering"

Worship Gathering is very intentional language by the way. It's not just a service or a worship experience or a worship concert. It's a gathering of the body of Christ for purpose of worshipping Him and encouraging one another.

We're going to walk through 5 different elements our worship gatherings contain most of the time.

Before we jump into them let me say this: None of this works without intentionality. Regardless of how you define it. Worship doesn't happen on accident.

Together

Let's hit the first one. We together. If you're wondering, I did invent this new verb form of the word. If anyone from Webster is here, please feel free to include that in the next edition. We together. We gather. As iron sharpens iron, we sharpen one another. It's good for us.

That Hebrews passage implies that in our gatherings we stir ONE ANOTHER up to love and good works. Not get stirred up by the music or the message. But Stir One Another. You are both the stirrer and the "stirree".

A way we like to say this at fellowship is that we call one another to live out our God-given purpose in Christ everyday.

Sacraments

Next is Sacraments. Any fancy Nancy fans in the house today? Alright. We watch a lot of fancy nancy at our house. She might say Sacraments is a fancy word for something you do at church with a deeper and what can be a seemingly hidden meaning. Two examples for us are baptism and communion. Those are things that have much more power and meaning and symbolism for the church than can first appear.

Listening

Each week we listen to a sermon yes, but it's much more than that. We listen to God. We listen to his word. We listen to the words of the songs we sing. We listen to each other singing them. We have to hear in order to join into the collective praise we lift up to God.

Singing

And then there's singing. Believe it or not, I could talk for a good long time about this piece. This is a piece that I desperately love so much. Don't get me mixed up. I like singing in itself. But I LOVE singing with you. I love it so much that I've made a career around it.

I'd argue that there's just as much "magic" (air quotes intentional) in our singing as in the sacraments. There's something truly supernatural about music and the way it moves us and the way it pleases the Lord.

Even Jesus sings. Scripture tells us he sang a hymn with his disciples at the end of the Lord's supper before he goes to the Mount of Olives. While we're here, let's talk about hymns for a minute.

There are 7 verses that use the word "Hymn." None of those verses command us to sing them to the Lord. But many are examples of how we should worship.

It's important for us to know that any time the bible uses the word "hymns" it was not talking about the modern hymns written in the years A.D. Amazing Grace hadn't been written yet.

These are old melodies, long forgotten. But they were definitely meaningful and familiar to the people of the time.

Several times, "hymns" is included in a list alongside other types of songs being used. One of those types is new songs. There are NINE verses in scripture that use the phrase "new song." 5 of those are commands for us to sing a new song.

It is my belief (and thus the way songs are chosen here) that both hymns and new songs are useful and necessary. I like to think of songs that are familiar to us as 'heart songs.' If you feel like you don't know all the songs we sing on Sunday. Keep coming. We'll keep learning them together. Another good resource for all of us is the Fellowship Dallas page on Spotify. There are 3 really cool playlists on there I want to highlight for us. The first one is called "All our songs."

Screen shot of "All our songs" spotify playlist

This playlist has every song that's been in Fellowship Dallas's rotation that I know about. So going back at least 5 years or so. The next one is called In Rotation.

Screen shot of "In Rotation" spotify playlist

For the most part, This list of 32 songs are the ones we're currently singing at our church. The last one is called "Sunday Worship This Week!".

Screen shot of "Sunday Worship This Week!" spotify playlist

This playlist is updated every Friday with the songs for the coming Sunday.

So you can learn the songs before you even show up. Or if you hear one you weren't familiar with you have till Friday to go look back at the playlist and see what it was.

Giving

Each week we gather we talk about the giving at some point. I know when I say that word your thinking about the offering. We're thinking about tithes and budgets and spreadsheets and dollar signs. All these things matter. We can give with joy.

But giving some money isn't as good as us recognizing that all we have belongs to the Lord. It's all his anyway.

We've gone through these 5 elements, But I want to reframe the word Giving for us in light of our Worship gatherings.

In every piece of this we are called to give.

Every one of these elements asks us to give. Every one of these elements requires us to give.

Through them we give worship, we give praise, even as we listen we give worship through giving our attention and focus. In every piece of this we are called to give. And

In every piece of this we can expect transformation.

As we sing we learn, we align our hearts, we remind one another and even our own spirit the truths of who he is. In worship, we are changed. This is not the main reason we do it. Seeking our ends and gains first is getting it backwards.

We come here to worship God. To abandon ourselves and proclaim his worth and his holiness and when that happens. God works in us. He speaks to us.

Not Sunday Morning

Having talked about Sunday Morning. Let's talk about the rest. The Not Sunday Morning.

Did you know that we can do everyone of the 5 elements we've listed while not at church on a Sunday? You may delight in incorporating any of the 5 into your sabbath no matter what day it is on.

Also, doing them while **not here** is really good practice for when we are here. And vice versa. Doing them **here** sets the stage for it becoming a part of our lives in the other six days of the week.

Romans 12:1

- ***I appeal to you therefore, brothers,^[a] by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.^[b]***

This passage shows us that it's not a 20 minute song set or even an hour of our attention that he wants. It's not really a tithe or a quiet time or song or any other box we can check. He wants us. He wants it all. He deserves it all. When we truly worship we:

Anticipate and Act Out Kingdom

You could call this another definition of worship or you could make this another element we do. But this is really a way of life. A way of being. Don't miss this. This is my big point. This is my application.

Anticipate, Long For, expect the kingdom to come. Act Out, Practice, Live Out Kingdom. (Kids say it) Anticipate. and Act out. kingdom.

Band Enter

When we live life anticipating the kingdom to come and being the members of the kingdom in the present we live in true worship. We live and walk in faith and trust that God is who he says he is and he will do what he says he will do.

This is How we are. What we do now in the wake of His promise is our worship. Anticipating and Acting out kingdom is a forward thinking action. And it is one of the biggest pieces to truly unlocking sabbath.

In Genesis we see God resting from this place of very good. And he calls us to rest as we work our way back to this original intended plan. When things are very good, we can rest. When we trust that things will be very good, we can stop, rest, delight, worship. This is what we are practicing, aspiring toward. Not just sitting around in the mediocre but living in the very good now and longing for the very good to come.

Let's sing this song of declaration together and make some room for The Holy Spirit to let this confession, this commitment to weigh on our hearts.

- Song – Make Room

Closing

Dan allender quote:

- ***“Perhaps one of the most radical gifts we can bring the developing Third World and the decaying Western society is the Sabbath. Not a day off, but a day of celebration and delight. The Sabbath is a day when the kingdom to come has come and is celebrated now rather than anticipated tomorrow.”- Dan Allender***