

# Worshipping the Triune God

## A Missional Activity

### 1. INTRODUCTION

1. **My first experience of worship at Doves.**
2. Eph. 3:18 - Best definition of worship in Scripture.
  1. Three elements (connecting with James Smith):
    1. We gaze on God's glory: a vision of God's version of the "good life".
    2. We are transformed: something changes in us - we begin to desire this life.
    3. Into God's likeness: Our habits change to embody God's life.
  2. All of this is the work of the Spirit.
3. This work is desperately needed - and it is the unique gift the Church can offer.
  1. People live with a sense of alienation/dividedness (William James).
    1. Globalisation - the loss of place & belonging.
    2. Acceleration - the loss of time & rest-oration (Sabbath).
    3. Individualisation - the loss of relationship & identity.
  2. Worship is designed to address this alienation & lead us to integration:
    1. Sacred Space - A different kind of space that connects us with God's world.
    2. Sacred Time - From *chronos* to *kairos*, rhythmic, cyclical time with eternal perspectives.
    3. Sacred People - a new kind of community that embodies a new vision of life together: God's Reign.
4. BUZZ GROUPS:
  1. How have you experienced this transforming impact of worship?
  2. How can you work with space, time & people in your context to invite people into a greater experience of wholeness?

### 2. POINT ONE - FACILITATING WORSHIP OF THE TRIUNE GOD

1. For this transformation to happen we need dissonance, resonance & capacity.
  1. This is where a focus on the Triune God helps us: (Isaiah 6).
    1. **Transcendence**: Change originates out of a sense of dissonance.
      1. A vision of something bigger that inspires awe & wonder (FATHER).
      2. A contrast between what we are & what we could be (**Woe is me**).
    2. **Incarnation**: Change happens when there is a sense of resonance.
      1. When we feel safe enough to explore new options.
      2. When we can imagine getting to what we could be from where we are (coal touching lips).
    3. Incarnation: God in our skin. **CHRIST in every culture (Sweet)**.
  3. **Immanence**: Change happens when we experience the capacity to do it.
    1. We often long to change but don't know how.
    2. Spiritual experience - a sense of encounter with God's SPIRIT is key.
    3. We momentarily experience our new selves & then live from that (Who will go? Send me).
2. **Story: Woman with abused daughter at Holy Week services.**
2. BUZZ GROUPS:
  1. How do you experience dissonance, resonance & capacity in your worship?
  2. How do you facilitate dissonance, resonance & capacity in your worship?

### 3. POINT TWO - FACILITATING MISSIONAL WORSHIP

1. Don't confuse three aspects of worship.
  1. Three Elements of all Worship:
    1. Purpose - This is the core. What we've been talking about.
    2. Practices - Passed down through the centuries.
    3. Packaging - Defined by context, culture, people.

2. Keep the purpose in place, use the practices, and package for the people.
2. In the Packaging keep three considerations in mind:
  1. Worship Witnesses - An experience of dissonance can be a powerful thing (1 or. 14:23,24).
    1. So don't "dumb down" worship. Resist the temptation to avoid dissonance.
    2. The age of apologising for being Church is coming to an end.
  2. Familiar Forms - Draw people into the experience incarnationally.
    1. Use what they know (Wesley's hymn tunes from pubs and theatres).
    2. Create participation by working within the culture, context & paradigms.
  3. Signs of Spirituality - Seek to connect with the sense of God already within.
    1. Paul in Athens (Acts 17:22,23).
    2. Many people have some kind of "religious residue" that brings comfort.
3. BUZZ GROUPS:
  1. How do you work with the 3 elements in your worship?
  2. How can you use the 3 considerations more effectively?

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

1. Worship is not separate from mission. It is integral to it.
  1. Worship that is not missional is not really worship - it's entertainment.
  2. Mission that is not worshipful is not really mission - it's social work.
2. But, if we can begin to practice worship missionally, the whole game changes.
  1. In truth - any church that is not a Fresh Expressions church is not really church!