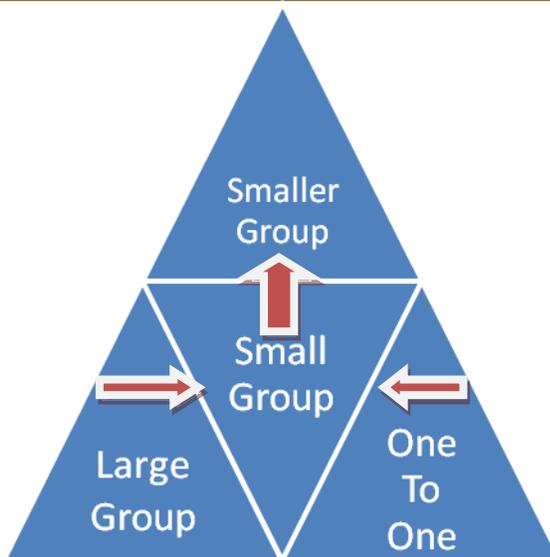




How To Get The Most Out Of Sunday Morning Worship

By Pastor Jeff



Last month we reviewed the simple four-phase ministry pattern that the Lord Jesus Himself used. The first phase of Jesus' ministry was His large group meetings. To grow our faith and build our biblical skills for successful Christian living we must first ask, ***"How can I get the most out of our large group Sunday Worship Service?"***

Jesus' Large Group Meeting

A casual reading of the gospels shows that the Lord Jesus was a master communicator, ministering to large groups. Thousands flocked to Jesus to hear His teaching. Just imagine the excitement of the people in Jesus' day when He entered a village:

- ***"Jesus is here!"***
- ***"What will He teach us today?"***
- ***"What great work will He do?"***
- ***"Maybe I can meet Him!"***
- ***"I just want to thank and worship Him!"***

The multitudes gathered around Jesus not because He had the newest building or the slickest program but because He simply brought them the reality of God.

Our Sunday, Large Group Meeting

We are followers of the risen and living Christ. When we gather on Sunday morning He is present (See Rev. chapters 2-3) Jesus comes "into our village" every Sunday. **Three keys that will help all of us to get the most out of each of our Sunday morning gatherings**

Anticipation – When our son Mike was little, on Saturday night bed time prayers his anticipation about church in the morning was expressed by saying, "Tomorrow is Sunday and we go to CHURCH!!!!!" Mike was excited about attending. Your anticipation will stem from the quality of our service. We are working to make the execution of our service a dynamic life changing encounter with Jesus and His word every Sunday. If we do a poor job then you will not have anticipation about the service. But your anticipation also speaks of the believer's spiritual level. If you regularly lack anticipation about Sunday worship that is an indicator to examine your spiritual life to find what is short circuiting you spiritually.

Preparation – Anticipation about Sunday worship will lead to preparation. Physical preparation means we remove any barriers to our worship experience. It means arranging schedules, getting clothes ready on Saturday night, etc. Spiritual preparation means a time of prayer on Saturday night and or Sunday morning when you quiet your heart from the past busy week and ask God's Holy Spirit to work in you and through the service. The power of God overcomes Satan and unbelief in direct proportion to our prayers.

Participation – Worship is a verb. We don't gather as spectators on Sunday. We should not mindlessly sing songs, but consider the words and truths that are expressed in the music. When we do so, the truth of the music will grip our souls and our worship will be sincere and emotional. As we listen to God's word, we must engage our minds, taking in, interacting, understanding, clarifying, accepting and applying God's truth. When we do that our faith will soar and we will worship in Spirit and in truth as Jesus taught in John 4.

Conclusion – These three simple but powerful keys, **anticipation, preparation and participation** will help each of us to get the most out of our Sunday morning large group gathering. Jesus is coming "to our village" this Sunday. Let's be excited to meet with Him! If you do your life will be changed forever!