

RENEWING OUR COMMITMENT

Matthew 9:9-17 // The Parable of New and Old Wineskins

This worship service centers on the parable of new and old wineskins, which emphasizes the radical nature of Jesus' teachings. One thing Jesus did was eat with people that were not popular, such as tax collectors and sinners. As you reflect on this passage, here are some materials to help you create your own worship service.

MAIN THEME: *How has Jesus called you to follow in this season of life?*

CHOOSING MUSIC // FOR SINGING

- ✪ **Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)** [Suggested Key: D or E]
Text and Music: John Newton, Chris Tomlin, Louie Giglio
© 2006 sixsteps Music, Vamos Publishing, worshiptogether.com songs
(admin. Capitol CMG Publishing)
- ✪ **Beautiful Things** [Suggested Key: D]
Text and Music: Lisa Gungor, and Michael Gungor
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(admin. Capitol CMG Publishing)
- ✪ **How Deep the Father's Love for Us** [Suggested Key: D or E]
Text and Music: Stuart Townend
© 1995 Thankyou Music
(admin. Capitol CMG Publishing)
- ✪ **Mighty to Save** [Suggested Key: G]
Text and Music: Reuben Morgan, and Ben Fielding
© 2006 Hillsong Music Publishing
(admin. Capitol CMG Publishing)
- ✪ **Sing a New Church** [Suggested Key: D]
Text: Dolores Dufner | Music: John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music
© 1991 Sisters of St. Benedict and Oregon Catholic Press Publications
(admin. OCP Publications)

CREATING DRAMA // FOR HEARING

This particular parable can be a bit puzzling. We like the translation from the Common English Bible.

In our sample worship service, you'll see that we chose to use an excerpt from The Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd-Jones to add a new perspective to communion.

FINDING ART // FOR SEEING

Find a piece of artwork that shows the unity and acceptance that is found in Jesus. We really like Hyatt Moore's painting "The Last Supper with Twelve Tribes" because it shows Jesus with people from different cultures. To use it, get permission from the artist. Then, consider projecting or printing it in a worship bulletin as part of this worship service. Be sure to mention the title of the painting and the artist's name.

LIVING WORSHIP // FOR DOING

At the end of worship, you might consider one of these suggestions to help worshipers connect this worship event with their life in the world:

- After communion, take an offering for a charitable organization that provides food and water to those in need.
- If you use the small group prayer, encourage worshipers to pray for and connect with one person from their prayer group this week as a measure of follow-up.
- Invite worshipers to follow the call of Jesus into the world this week through social media using a hashtag such as #following.

MAKING SPACE // FOR WORSHIPING

The centerpiece of this parable is the dinner table with Jesus. You might consider having communion in this worship service. If you do, you can set up a communion table. If your space allows it, you might consider setting up chairs in a round circle with the communion table at the center.

WRITING POETRY// FOR PRAYING

Consider having conversation and prayer in small groups of 3-4 people. Invite each person to respond to the question "How is Jesus calling you to follow in new ways this season?" After each person has responded, pray for each member in the group based on their response.

SAMPLE WORSHIP SERVICE

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WELCOME

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

SONGS AND STORIES

Begin by singing the chorus of the hymn, *Tell Me the Stories of Jesus*. A few days before worship, invite 2-3 worshipers to prepare brief testimonies completing this statement: "The story of Jesus is a story of ..." Sing the refrain of the hymn between each person's story.

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

[Light a candle to represent the light of Christ]

Leader: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All: **Who made heaven and earth.**

Leader: Let us pray. Almighty God, your Holy Spirit equips the church with a rich variety of gifts. Grant that we may use them to bear witness to Christ in lives that are built on faith and love. Renew us, and make us ready to live the gospel and eager to do your will, so that we may share with all your church in the joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: **Amen.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Sing a New Church
Beautiful Things
Holy, Holy, Holy

PRAYER OF PRAISE

SONG OF SALVATION

Mighty to Save

SCRIPTURE READING

New and Old Wineskins // Matthew 9:9-17

MESSAGE

SONG OF RESPONSE

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

THE LORD'S TABLE

[For this communion celebration, we used part of The Great Rescue from The Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd Jones. Consider having two individuals read the words of institution below before communion. Remember, this is one way of celebrating the Table of the Lord. Your church may have a specific way of coming to the Table, and we encourage you to do what is appropriate in your tradition.]

Leader 1: Jesus found many followers, and he continued his plan to rescue the world. One night, Jesus and his friends were having the Passover meal together in an upstairs room. On this Passover, God was getting ready for an even greater rescue. On this Passover, Jesus washed all of his friends' feet.

Leader 2: After Jesus washed his friends' feet, he picked up some bread and broke it. He gave it to his friends and said, "Take and eat this. This is my body given for you. Do this and remember me."

[Leader 1 picks up bread and breaks it]

Leader 2: Jesus also picked up a cup of wine and thanked God for it. He poured it out and shared it, and he said, "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

[Leader 1 uses a pitcher to pour liquid in a cup]

Leader 2: "My body is like this bread. It will break," Jesus told them. "This cup of wine is like

my blood. It will pour out. But this is how God will rescue the whole world. My life will break and God's broken world will mend. My heart will tear apart - and your hearts will heal. Just as the passover lamb died, so now I will die instead of you. My blood will wash away all of your sins. And you'll be clean on the inside - in your hearts. So whenever you eat and drink, remember," Jesus said, "I've rescued you!"

Sally Lloyd-Jones, Te Jesus Storybook Bible (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing, 2007). 1

Leader 1: Let us pray. We praise you, most holy God, for sending your only Son to live among us, sharing our joy and sorrow. He told your story, healed the sick, and was a friend of sinners. Obeying you, he took up his cross and died that we might live. We praise you that he overcame death and is risen to rule the world. He is still the friend of sinners. We trust him to overcome every power that can hurt or divide us, and believe that when he comes in glory, we will celebrate victory with him.

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we break bread and share one cup giving thanks for your saving love in Jesus Christ. As you raised our Lord from death and call us with him from death to life, we give ourselves to you to live for him in joy and grateful praise. Amen.

Leader 2: You are invited to come forward and claim the renewal that is yours at the Table of the Lord.

SONGS AT THE TABLE

[As worshipers come to the table, sing songs together. You might recap songs used earlier in the service, or use others that worshipers will know well. Consider using songs that point to the renewal that Christ promises.]

CLOSING PRAYER TIME

Gather in small groups of 3-4 people for conversation and prayer. Ask each person to respond to the question, "How is Jesus calling you to follow in new ways this season?" After each person responds, pray for each member in the group

based on their response.

[Sing Mighty to Save to end the prayer time]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

Leader: May the peace of god, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

All: Amen.

Leader: Friends, go in peace to love and serve.

All: With God's help, we wil.