GROUPREFLECTION



The following is a Group Reflection for worship community, small group, formation group or creative team.

This may be used individually as a private reflection tool, or you may want to get together and chat about it over coffee.

Either way, enjoy the journey!

DanWilt.com Group Reflection Tool:
Worship And Escape

By Dan Wilt, M.Min.

Read the following quote, very slowly and out loud, then have others read the rest of the piece - each taking a paragraph at a time. When finished, take some time to answer the question.

"Worship is not about escaping the world as we know it. The world in its truest reality is a world in which God is active and moving.

Rather, worship opens a window to see through what we think we know, into that which is actually *true. Worship centers us in God's Reality – it is the polar opposite of escape."*

It is fascinating to see how often we in the contemporary Church connect our ideas of musical worship with "escaping from our cares."

This is simply a misreading of a biblical wisdom, and a mis-stating of what is actually happening when we gather to worship together.

When the community gathers to sing (and enact other forms of worship), one of things we are privileged to do is to release our burdens to God.

However, releasing our burdens is very different from "running away" from those burdens. Instead, we find God active and present in the *midst* of heavy cares with us. We are comforted by God's Spirit in the center of our pain, rather than always being delivered far away from it.

Worship expressions, both live and recorded, can reconnect us with living Reality in a very profound, artful way. Hands are lifted, tears are cried, hope is often rekindled, and smiles grace the trembling lips of the broken-hearted when we remember what is true from God's perspective. A song can call the most saddened soul to *remember that God is near.*

Consider how your gathered worship expressions ground your community in a greater sense of God's Reality, rather than simply helping them to escape their own pain through music.

In what ways do the words and music of the songs you sing in your community ground you in God's greater Reality – happening all around us?

Have you ever sung a worship song, and found your perspective had shifted from despair to hope somewhere during the time your were singing?