

ELEMENT OF WORSHIP:

Call to Worship

God calls us to worship him in spirit and in truth

DEFINITION

The Call to Worship is God's invitation for his people to come meet with him in worship.

DEVOTIONAL

Worship is the act of coming to God. But what if coming to him feels impossible? Maybe it's a secret sin that causes guilt to wash over you. Perhaps your own mind conspires against you and you hear whispers that tell you that you aren't worthy to approach God. Or it might just be that you can't see any particular reason to praise him. The Call to Worship marks the beginning of the story that pushes back on all of those thoughts. See, the Call to Worship is God's initiation of relationship; no matter where you are, who you are, or what you've done, God moves toward you and invites you into worship. The Call to Worship reminds us of the larger story of Scripture that it is always God who moves toward us first,

(Genesis 1:26-28; Exodus 20:2; Mark 2:13-17; Luke 19:1-10; Ephesians 2:1-7). In response, we step into his story of redemption to praise him for who he is and what he's done. It is this story that we rehearse in worship.

APPLICATION

Using the Call to Worship from Sunday, or one of the texts listed in the devotional, spend time hearing God's call to you. How does this text lead you to worship? How does it show God's initiation? What will your response be? This is a particularly helpful exercise when worship (or time alone with God) seems difficult. See below for a suggested prayer for such times.

Dear God, thanks for inviting me into your story today. It feels hard to worship you right now. Will you meet me even here? Help my heart to rise up within me and to remember that you've already come down. You are with me. In Jesus' name, amen.

*Leader: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!*

*All: Know that the LORD, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his;
We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

*Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
And his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!*

*All: For the LORD is good;
His steadfast love endures forever,
And his faithfulness to all generations.*

[from Psalm 100]