



# Exploring Christianity:

## Does Church Help Me?

**iFOLLOW**

Meeting with Jesus

The iFollow Discipleship Series

## About the iFollow Discipleship Series Pastor's Edition

### Categories

The iFollow Discipleship Series is designed to be used in congregations to assist people in their pursuit of God. This assumes that individuals are in unique places in their journey and there is no perfect set of lessons that everyone must complete to become a disciple—in fact discipleship is an eternal journey. Therefore the iFollow curriculum is a menu of milestones that an individual, small group, or even an entire church can choose from. The lessons can be placed in three general categories: **Meeting with Jesus** (does not assume a commitment to Jesus Christ); **Walking with Jesus** (assumes an acceptance of Jesus Christ); and **Working with Jesus** (assumes a desire to serve Jesus Christ).

### Components

Each lesson has a presenter's manuscript which can be read word for word, but will be stronger if the presenter puts it in his/her own words and uses personal illustrations. The graphic slides can be played directly from the Pastor's DVD or customized and played from a computer. There are also several group activities and discussion questions to choose from as well as printable student handouts.

### Usage

The lessons are designed to be used in small groups, pastor's Bible classes, prayer meetings, seminars, retreats, training sessions, discussion groups, and some lessons may be appropriate sermon outlines.

### Credits

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## Does Church Help Me

*This is material that can be used to create a presentation designed for people who are “left of the cross” in their spiritual journey.*

### Learning Objectives

1. To explore how God uses His church for the benefit of the world
2. To look at how the church reflects God’s nature
3. To understand the mission of the church
4. To think about the ways in which we experience God

### Content Outline

1. Where is He? Different experiences of God
2. Why does God need a church?
3. Where is God’s character in the modern church?
4. Is God’s presence in the church in a special way?
5. Family tensions—steel against steel

### Background Material for the Presenter

There is a context that must be in place before we can examine how we experience God in church. We must first look at how we as human beings experience God in our own individual, limited ways.

Prayer is the most basic and the most powerful way that we experience God. Prayer is our attempt to reach up to God. Grace is God’s hand reaching down to us. And somewhere in there, a connection is made and we experience God. Martin Buber was a Jewish philosopher and author. He wrote a book called *I and Thou* in which he examined the relationship between people and things, and then by extension, he looked at the relationship between humanity and the Divine. The Divine, he explained, was always out of our reach. We cannot explain the Divine. We cannot fully know the Divine. We simply reach up, struggling, opening ourselves up, not understanding, yet



yearning to connect. This, he said, was prayer. I have never found a more satisfying explanation of prayer anywhere.

To explain the experience of prayer is difficult. Each person feels the experience personally. It can be liberating. It can be frustrating. It can be lengthy or short. It can be angry, thankful, impertinent or peaceful. It can be pleading. It can be praising. It can be blaming. The process of opening oneself up to God is a very personal experience, and God, I believe, treasures our honesty. David was called a man after God's own heart. He was not perfect, but his prayers found in the Psalms are the most honest you can find. In return, God reaches back to us. Sometimes we feel the connection, and other times we must accept it on faith.

Nature is another way we experience God. Ellen White writes, "To the little child, not yet capable of learning from the printed page or of being introduced to the routine of the schoolroom, nature presents an unfailing source of instruction and delight. The heart not yet hardened by contact with evil is quick to recognize the Presence that pervades all created things. The ear as yet undulled by the world's clamor is attentive to the Voice that speaks through nature's utterances." (White, *Child Guidance*, p. 45) Nature is God's creation, and through His creation, we can see the Creator. Looking up at majestic mountains, staring at the lip of a great glacier, listening to the pounding of ocean waves, watching the path of an ant or feeling the kiss of a gentle breeze, nature shows us the amazing intricacy and detail that went into even the smallest snowflake or insect. When we look at nature, we can see the good in the world, the last remnants of the perfect world God once created.

Music is another medium through which we can experience God. Music is one of the languages of Heaven. It was with music that the angels announced the birth of Jesus. (Luke 2:14) And Ellen White says of Heaven, "There will be music there, and song, such music and song as, save in the visions of God, no mortal ear has heard or mind conceived." (White, *Maranatha*, p. 361) Music can lift us up to the sublime, and God can work through a humble composer to create music that will touch people in a miraculous way.

Handel's *Messiah* is an example of such music. Handel was a human being like any of us. He was tired, old and frustrated. He was commissioned to compose the piece and he did his job. However, when he started to work on it, something amazing happened. It is said that he confessed to a friend that he had a religious vision of Heaven where he saw God himself while he wrote the piece. The *Messiah* is so moving that King George II, upon hearing the first performance in London, rose to his feet during the Hallelujah chorus and did not sit down until it was complete. The entire assembly rose to their feet as well, following the king's example, and the tradition has remained to this day. (British Broadcasting Company, 2002) Anyone who has heard the Hallelujah Chorus sung feels the power of that music to bring your heart towards God.

Another way we can experience God is through other people. For example, a loving

iFollow  
Discipleship  
Series:  
Meeting with  
Jesus

Action Plan  
& Presenter  
Notes

Exploring  
Christianity:  
Does Church  
Help Me?

2

mother or father shows us what a loving God is like. When you experience parenthood for the first time, you feel a depth of love you had only heard about before. When you hold your newborn baby in your arms, and first see that tiny face, you realize that you would walk through fire for that child. You would lay down your life to protect that little one. Through our experiences with our own parents and the experience of parenthood, we learn about God's love for us.

We can experience God through people we come in contact with in other ways as well. Sometimes, God's love and kindness shines through from the most unexpected people. When strangers risk their lives to save someone in a burning building or who has fallen into a river, we are amazed at the nobleness of spirit. When a poor woman empties her purse and gives everything she has to help starving children in Africa, we are dumbfounded at her selflessness. But sometimes it isn't the magnitude of the action that shows us God, it is something as small as a smile on a child's face or a kind look from an old man. We are God's creation, and when we are open to Him, He can move through us to show other people His love for them. God doesn't need our hands or our faces to show kindness to his children. He could easily send angels, or come Himself. It is a privilege to be used by God to give such a personal message.

We experience God in a multitude of different ways. Perhaps the most impactful, is the way we see God through other people. People are what make up a church. And it is the church experience that we will be examining in this section.

## Does God Need a Church?

It is a good question. We've thought about how we experience God and there are many ways for God to make Himself known to us. Why does God need a church? Perhaps a good way to address this question is to ask what does church do for God?

The first thing we think about when we think about church is the worship service. When someone asks, "Do you go to church?" they are thinking about a building with a worship service happening inside. The point of the service is worship; believers gathering together to worship their God. Worship is presented to God through music, prayer, thanksgiving and a religious talk that allows the believers to meditate on God's Word. So in this way, the church provides God with worship.

Does God need worship? He has angels in Heaven worshipping Him all day long. Does He need our worship? Does He require adoration and constant reminders of His own goodness? It seems rather self-centered, when you think about it. Of course, God is God and can do anything He likes, but the argument that God needs our worship seems flimsy to me. Worship does something for us. It focuses us on a good God, reminds us that



we are not alone, shows us the bigger picture of God's system and reassures us that this sinful planet is not all that there is. "The Kingdom of God" that Jesus kept talking about in the gospels is the greater system that God created, the perfect, balanced, nourishing system that exists all around us and that will be reestablished on this earth when Jesus comes again. We are blinded to the Kingdom of God by sin. The act of worship reconnects us with God and His perfect ways.

The question remains, however, why does God need a church? Is it solely for our benefit that the church exists? Was the church made for man, not man for the church? Or does the church have a bigger role than that of comforting and educating its members?

Before Jesus ascended into Heaven, He gave the Great Commission: "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." (Mark 16:15) God looks down on the world and He sees so many lost, fearful, searching individuals, people He lovingly formed in the womb, giving them personalities and strengths, futures and destinies. It was His will that each one be born, and it breaks His heart to think of any one of them being lost. So He commissioned His followers (the church), go find them and bring them home.

Jesus told the story of the prodigal son. (Luke 15) It has become a famous story throughout history, a proverbial catch phrase, and even unbelievers know the general plot twists. We all know about the younger brother who went wild, leaving home with his inheritance and going to squander it in the city. We also know about the "good son" who stayed home with his father, working the farm and doing what he thought was the will of his father. When the younger son comes to his senses and comes home seeking forgiveness, the "good" son is angry. He refuses to celebrate, and we mentally chastise him for being so very selfish. Of course, we can understand his outrage, but come now, there is such a thing as being gracious! And that is where we normally leave it.

However, I suggest that the "good" son had not actually done the will of his father. The father was heartbroken at the loss of his youngest boy. He loved that boy with all his heart and when he had to watch him walking away, ignorant and cocky, it weighed heavily upon the old man. He looked down the road every day, waiting for the boy to come home again. The "good" son knew this. He knew how difficult this was for his old father, and he also knew that the old man could not go out searching for the boy. Yet still, the "good" son stayed at home, stayed where it was safe, comfortable and proper. But if that "good" son had really loved his father, if he had been in touch with his father's feelings and heart-break, if he had truly known his father, he would have known that what would have made his father happiest was not to simply stay home and be "good," but to go find his wayward younger brother and at least attempt to bring him back to his father. A family is not happy or whole unless all the members are accounted for. It is the same with God's family.

We could still ask, does God need the church to go find the lost members of God's family? When the people were praising God during Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the Pharisees told him to tell the people to quiet down. Jesus reply was, "I tell you ... if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out." (Luke 19:40) If we don't go to the world and tell them

iFollow  
Discipleship  
Series:  
Meeting with  
Jesus

Action Plan  
& Presenter  
Notes

Exploring  
Christianity:  
Does Church  
Help Me?

4

the good news, God's hands are not tied. He could use rocks, if need be, to do the work! He could send angels to preach. He could write the message across the skies! So why does He need us? Why does He need the church?

The church, in Bible prophecy, is referred to as a woman, "the bride of Christ." He is her husband, waiting to take her to the home He has prepared. From the modern, overly sexualized mindset, this is an awkward metaphor. But in its original context it does explain why the church is necessary to an omniscient, omnipresent, all powerful God.

When a man falls in love, all he can think about is his beloved! (See Song of Solomon.) He adores her. He wants to make her happy. He thinks about what he can do for her to make her smile. And when he marries her, he is so proud! She loves him, too, and the world knows it! They are united. They are one. They are facing life together. Now, does he need her? Does he need her to cook for him? He can cook for himself quite easily, and if he is challenged in that area there is always someone willing to cook for him, whether at a family member's home or in a restaurant. Does he need her to financially support him? No, he's been supporting himself all along, and if she wants to stay home with the new baby, he can support her, too. He doesn't need her money. Does he need her to organize the finances, go grocery shopping, make the bed or do any other jobs around the house? Not particularly. All those could be taken care of without her. In fact, they were before he met her. So does he need her?

Yes, he does need her. He needs her because he loves her. He is physically capable of functioning without her, but he doesn't want to! He needs her to talk to him, to love him, to hold his hand and to wait up for him. He needs her to join him in the goals they have for the future. He needs her companionship. He needs **her**. And if God is like that husband who is fully capable of doing all that He needs to without the church, then He is also like that husband in that He doesn't **want** to function without the church. He wants our companionship. He wants us to join him in His priorities and plans for the future. He wants **us**.

What does the church do for God? The church loves Him! And like a wife who loves her husband, it isn't enough to just enjoy the nice house and comfortable life her husband provides. In fact, the unhealthy "kept woman" mentality that many societies have gotten caught up in over the centuries may be one reason why we don't understand this metaphor of God and the church. A loving relationship requires that both join in on the goals and plans for the family. She doesn't just shop and ignore him, she stays up late with him, working out a budget that will help them to achieve what they have been striving for! He runs the errands she doesn't have time for. Both contribute in every way they know how, financially or otherwise. God doesn't demand that we love Him. But He craves a relationship with us. And that is where the mission of the church comes into play. His children are lonely, sick and lost, and He is heartbroken until they are brought home. If we love Him, why aren't we searching for them with Him?

iFollow  
Discipleship  
Series:  
Meeting with  
Jesus

Action Plan  
& Presenter  
Notes

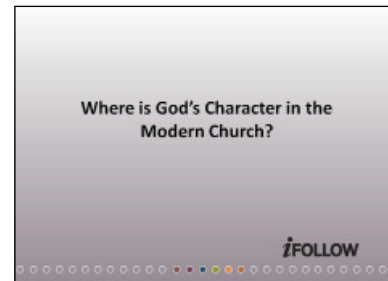
Exploring  
Christianity:  
Does Church  
Help Me?

5



## Where is God's Character in the Modern Church?

The church is meant to be a light to the world. We are meant to be different. We are supposed to be an example of what living for God is all about. If this is the case, and God means to shine through the church, then how do we see God's character in our modern church?



Jesus told his disciples that they were “the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” (Matt 5:14-16) We are God's light in the world and we are expected to purposefully let the light of God's character shine. Like a city, our light cannot be hidden, but like a lamp, it is an intentional act. We don't hide what God has given to us, and we are told exactly how to let our lights shine: through good deeds.

Mother Teresa was a nun with an extraordinary capacity to love. When God revealed to her the mission He wanted her to accomplish, she said that He asked her to “Come be My light.” Sister Mary Teresa did just that. She took off her nun's habit, put on a white sari with blue trim, and went out into the slums of Calcutta, India. She nursed the poor and sick. She attended to the dying. She fed the hungry. She left the comfort and safety of her convent each day and devoted her life to the dirty, the destitute, the sick and the unwanted. Other religious sisters joined her in her work and ever expanding charities, and soon even non-believers joined in Mother Teresa's cause. The world took notice! That kind of love can't be ignored. She was given the Padmashri Award in 1962 and the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. She is remembered for her goodness because she let God shine through her. (motherteresa.org)

What about us? We have a mission to find God's children and show them His light, or His character. That is done through good deeds, but it is also done through education. Another aspect of God's character is Truth. The truth is rock solid, and it stands up to both criticism and investigation. God doesn't ask us to accept a wishy-washy set of doctrines, set aside our incredulity and stop thinking. “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.” (Eccl. 9:10) And that goes for investigating our beliefs as well. We are told to “call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding...look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure.” (Prov. 2:3-4) It isn't fair to simply give the doctrines to the new believer and leave them alone with the weight of them. It is our responsibility to join them in the study, the search and the investigation. It is up to us, as a church, to educate God's children and show them how His truth is fully supported in His word. Only when we can demonstrate how we personally have been fully convinced of the truth can we be convincing in the telling of it.



The last aspect of God's character that we will look at is His righteousness. It is a large claim to say that the church exemplifies Christ's righteousness, because the church is made up of sinful people who have all fallen short of the glory of God. (Rom. 3:23) However, the church strives to live by principles that bring us closer to God's righteous way of living, through His grace. The church upholds the Ten Commandments and stands by His law. The world expects something different from the church. Christians are held up to a different standard than non-believers. Christians are not expected to lie, be mean, cheat, steal, or commit adultery. If a worldly person does these things, the world shrugs its collective shoulders. When a Christian does these things, fingers are immediately pointed. Hey, he's not supposed to do that!

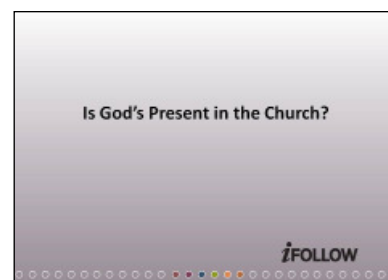
When a bank executive, a business man or politician has some moral fall, such as an affair, the nation responds with a kind of delighted disgust, eagerly reading every morsel of juicy detail. But when the faulty person is also a Christian, especially one who had some kind of power or influence—a church leader or televangelist, for instance—there is often a different quality to the horrified interest. Christians seem to be often held up to a different, higher standard than the rest of the world.

God calls for perfection, too. An example is Jesus' command in Matthew 5:48, "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." So often, Christians and others think this means keeping a list of rules without mistakes. Everyone knows no one can do that, so when Christians "fall," the world laughs as much as it shakes its collective head.

However, if we want to know how God defines perfection, we simply need to look at the parallel passage in Luke 6, especially verses 35-36: "But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. **Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.**" To God, perfection equals perfect love, perfect generosity, perfect mercy. If people find that in a church, they will come.

## Is God Present in the Church?

We've been talking about the church as a group of believers, but there is also the definition of a church as the building in which those believers meet. When entering a church people immediately lower their voices and talk more quietly. When lonely or terribly disheartened, even non-believers are likely to enter into a quiet church for comfort. Is it superstition in our society, or is there something special about a church?



When Hurricane Katrina hit the southern United States, it left devastation in its path. There are pictures of boats swept miles inland. Debris is everywhere, massive trees are toppled and for miles, nothing is left standing. Yet there are photos, in the midst of the

total destruction, of one small church left standing. (Illinois Photo) It's a miracle, and one has to wonder, is there something special about a church? How could it possibly have survived that kind of catastrophe when everything around it was razed?

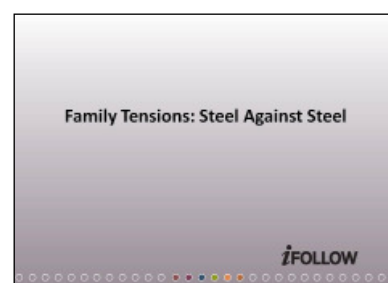
When Moses built the tabernacle of God according to the instructions God had given him, something miraculous happened. "Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle." (Exodus 40:34) God's presence was there, physically and visibly. However, this visible presence seems to be something of the Old Testament. Even in the New Testament, God's presence was not visible in the temple. Yet, we notice that Jesus was incensed at the disrespectful treatment of the temple, and he threw the moneychangers and sellers out of the temple, declaring, "It is written ... 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it a 'den of robbers.'" (Matt 21:13) The temple was still holy, and Jesus defended the physical temple against disrespect and degradation. Is there still something special about a church?

What makes a church special? First, it would be God's choice. It was God's choice to have a tabernacle built, and it was His choice to dwell in it and make it a place of meeting with His people. God chooses to make a church special. But Jesus clarified the special nature of the temple by adding, "For where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them." (Matt 18:20) It seems to be the coming together, the uniting of believers that God blesses. God allowed the magnificent temple in Jerusalem to be completely demolished more than once, but He always found a way to preserve His people.

If God does bless a church with his presence, then coming together to worship in a place where God has promised to be is a way to experience God more fully. But it is the coming together with other believers that God encourages, not simply coming to a building alone. God listens to the prayer of one person. He comes close to the lonely and the brokenhearted, but God never leaves us alone and solitary. "God sets the lonely in families," and I suggest that includes church families. (Psalm 68:6) There seems to be a special blessing for those who come together to worship God.

## Family Tensions: Steel against Steel

God can be seen in the church through the family relationships. We all know that God is not all about answering prayers with a "yes" and raining down blessings on demand. God's desire for us is to help us grow in character and in relationships. Our characters and our relationships are the only things that will go with us to Heaven, and those are parts of our lives that need constant development. However, growing is not always easy. It can be painful and frustrating. But God does not expect us to grow alone—that's what he gave us families for! A church family is much like a biological family. The relationships can be



just as complicated. But it is through these relationships that God helps us to develop as Christians and He shows Himself the most clearly.

Conflict is often thought of as a negative experience. In fact, most people avoid conflict if at all possible, however it is something that cannot be avoided when dealing with people, especially a group of mismatched people who do not come together based on personality, but on a collective acceptance of a group of doctrines. Christians are no exception to this. One of the things that people feel most strongly and personally about is religion. And while church members might agree on doctrine, they don't necessarily agree on interpretations and individual "takes" on Scripture. But conflict does not necessarily have to be a negative thing. (Family Relationships Online)

Conflict, when dealt with in a positive way, builds stronger relationships. Firstly, each person is able to speak their mind and be heard. They don't have to bottle up their feelings. Secondly, if they are listening to each other, they are able to see a different perspective from their own. Thirdly, a compromise can be reached where both parties feel they are gaining something. And fourthly, a new level of trust is developed when each person realizes that they can disagree and still be respected and loved.

This kind of communications does not require both parties to agree. In fact, it reminds me of David in his Psalms. David ranted. He raged. He begged God to demolish his enemies, and in one particularly fierce verse, says how "blessed" the person is to dash their babies against the rocks. (Psalm 137:9) David felt perfectly safe expressing his feelings to the Almighty God. He didn't feel the necessity of saying the "proper" thing. He didn't squelch his true emotions. He said it like he felt it and God loved him for his honesty. David's blood lust for his enemies was not God's. His anger and lack of mercy were not God's. But regardless of David's unresolved feelings, God called him a man after His own heart. Why? Because David turned to God with utter trust that God would understand him, provide him answers and guide him, regardless of his imperfect state. David knew that he could approach his God with complete honesty and still be respected and loved.

It is through conflict successfully dealt with that a Christian is able to grow and develop. The Bible refers to this experience: "Iron sharpens iron. So one man sharpens another." (Prov. 27:17) This steel on steel approach is not easy. Both members are solid and sparks will sometimes fly. But the end of the conflict leaves both members sharper than they were before. It is a principle adopted by Alcoholics Anonymous. (Alcoholics Anonymous Resources) This is a time when members come together and are completely honest with each other about their experience in overcoming the addiction to alcohol with openness and love. Each member is honor bound to be honest with the other members of the group for their own benefit and growth. It is an emotional experience, but it is a part of the healing process as alcoholics attempt to put their relationships and lives back together again. It is the honesty that brings healing, both with oneself regarding one's own actions and with others regarding their actions. It is a system of accountability.

However, not all relationships are filled with conflict in a church family. Some are nurtur-

ing the way a father or older brother would be nurturing, demonstrating for us the kind of relationship that our heavenly Father desires with us. Some are gentle and caring the way a mother is with her children, and we can see the kind of love Jesus spoke of when he said he wished he could draw His children together like a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. (Luke 13:34) Some provide comradere like that of siblings. Some relationships provide the kind of fulfillment when a youngster looks up to you as an example. All these different relationships demonstrate a different aspect of God's many-faceted character.

God created human beings to be social creatures. When He created Adam, Adam was not complete until God gave him Eve. Even Jesus gathered disciples to Himself, and when He was laboring in the garden, begging God to let this cup pass from Him, His only request of His disciples was that they "stay here and keep watch with Me." (Matt 26:38) He wanted their company, their moral support, their prayers. These are the same things that we crave, as human beings, and God created us to need each other.

Relationships don't always mimic the type of relationship God wants with us. Sometimes they force us to grow in our characters, and sometimes they help us to see things from a different perspective. We strengthen each other. We comfort each other. We annoy each other and we make amends with each other. As we join together, opening our hearts to our God, we realize that we don't have to all be the same, hold the same opinions or have attracting personality types. We are united under God.

God's priorities and expectations are summed up in His Law: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself." (Mark 13:30, 31) The church allows us to combine our love for God with our love for our neighbor. There is no spiritual experience more complete.

## Handouts in this Package

1. Two Magnificent Worship Centers
2. Four Basic Personality Types



iFollow  
Discipleship  
Series:  
Meeting with  
Jesus

Action Plan  
& Presenter  
Notes

Exploring  
Christianity:  
Does Church  
Help Me?

10

## Additional Resources

- Arrais, Jonas (2007). *A Positive Church in a Negative World*. Silver Spring, MD: Ministerial Association Resource Center, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.
- Bolsinger, Tod E. (2004). *It Takes a Church to Raise a Christian: How the Community of God Transforms Lives*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press.
- Buber, Martin (1971). *I and Thou*. Free Press.
- Clapp, Rodney (1996). *A Peculiar People: The Church as Culture in a Post-Christian Society*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity.
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- White, Ellen G. (1976). *Maranatha*. Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Publishing Association.
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## Articles

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## Websites

Mother Teresa of Calcutta Center Official Site, San Ysidro, California. [www.mothers-teresa.org/layout.html](http://www.mothers-teresa.org/layout.html)

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## Discussion Questions

1. Is it possible to see God in natural disasters and other painful events? How do we explain these “Acts of God”?
2. Does the context of a modern marriage relationship change the analogy of the church as the bride of Christ?
3. Does God really expect us to be perfect as He charges us in Matthew 5:48? (For a definition of what God means by “perfect,” check the parallel passage in Luke 6.)
4. What is the difference between reverencing the presence of God and worshipping the physical building?
5. What characteristics annoy you most in other people, and how can those characteristics work to show you more of God?
6. What relationships have most formed your view of God?

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Questions

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13



## Group Activities

**Purpose:** To show how everything in this world can teach us something about God. Worship does not only happen in church, but in our hearts when we actively look for God in everything we do.

**Preparation:** Collect several unrelated items such as a map of a major city, a science textbook, a CD of music, a pressed leaf, a book of poetry, and a cell phone. Any items will do. Make sure that they are modern, everyday items that people come across often. You could use things like egg beaters, TV remotes, take-out menus, or laptops. The point is to recognize God in the most unexpected places.

**Assignment:** Hold up the items one by one and ask what we can learn about God from it or how we can see God in it. (Two different viewpoints.) We are not looking for moral lessons here, but concrete descriptions of God and His character. Discuss any emotions or reactions that arise. Is it strange or perfectly natural to see God in these things?

**Time:** Allow a few minutes for each item, about 20 minutes for the entire exercise. You can allow extra time for discussion if the participants seem interested.

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# Handout 1

## Two Magnificent Worship Centers

Arguably the most magnificent church standing today is the Sistine Chapel. Compare it with the descriptions of the beautiful temple Solomon built in I Kings 5-7. Compare these two magnificent buildings to our modern churches.

### Sistine Chapel

Dimensions: 134 feet by 44 feet. The vaulted ceiling is 68 feet high. There are six windows down each side and two at each end. The dimensions match those recorded for Solomon's Temple.

The pavement uses a decorative style using marble and colored stone. The ceiling was painted by Michelangelo in a series of nine paintings showing God's creation of the world, God's relationship to mankind and man's fall from grace. The work was done between 1508 and 1511.

Raphael was commissioned to design ten tapestries to hang around the lower tier of the walls. The original tapestries were stolen, but replacements have been made. The work on the original tapestries was done in Brussels and began in 1515. It took the weavers four years to complete the work.

The wall paintings were created by the most respected artists of the fifteenth century. The first mass was celebrated in the Sistine Chapel in 1483, and the church has been functioning as a place of worship ever since, uninterrupted.

### Solomon's Temple

Floors and wainscots of the cedar of Lebanon. Walls and floors overlaid with gold. Contained two cherubim created from olive wood, each standing ten cubits high and measuring ten cubits from wing-tip to wing-tip. They stood side by side, the wings touching each wall, and then touching each other in the center of the room.

There was a two-leaved door, overlaid with gold, between the temple and the holy place. There was also a veil of blue, purple, crimson and fine linen.

The holy place was lined with cedar, carved with cherubim, flowers and palm trees, all overlaid with gold. There was a gold chain that further separated off the holy of holies.

The altar, table of showbread, candlesticks and tools to care for the candlesticks were all made of gold. Even the door hinges were made of gold.

**How might these extraordinary buildings help or have helped people to experience God?**

## Handout 2

### Four Basic Personality Types

**Red:** These are usually your 'heavy hitters'. They come in to a 'new market' and set the place on fire. They are very results orientated and very much in control and directive. They will come in and 'teach' their people to do it 'their way'. After all there isn't any other way!

**Blue:** These are the light hearted, fun loving, easy going people. Any parties happening around here? The Blues will be there. Blues can be very creative, inspirational, optimistic, and generally good communicators. They can also be impulsive and are definitely not detail orientated. (Too many other 'important' things to attend to!) It is these very personality type characteristics that can annoy the Red's and Greens.

**Green:** These are your detail people. Analytical and meticulous, they will follow each and every step. You ask them a question on product ingredients or compensation plans they'll be able to explain all of it. Sometimes they are so busy analyzing everything they forget to take action.

**Yellow:** These are your cuddly people. They just love everyone. Sometimes they are called "mother hen's." They are compassionate, caring and dependable. They are out to 'save the world' and love working in a team. Because of these wonderful traits they are often walked on because they are over accommodating and may sacrifice results for the sake of harmony. They don't like confrontation even when it is needed. You definitely want them in your business as they will 'nurture' their people for the long haul.

**This is meant to relate to business, but can also relate to another group of people who work together for a bigger cause—the church.** Note: There are several other personality-type scenarios which use color and the colors are different in each. This is only a fun guide, not a scientific instrument.

Source: [www.my-homebased-business.com/personality-types.html](http://www.my-homebased-business.com/personality-types.html)

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