

Next Steps

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

No one stumbles into discipleship or accidentally begins to follow Jesus better. NEXT STEPS outlines the priorities and strategies of The Hills Church to help make and grow followers of Jesus. What's your next step?

1 Faithful followers worship faithfully. Studies show that people who consider themselves faithful members of churches actually attend those churches much less often than they did a generation ago. Why do you think that is? How have recent trends impacted how your family worships regularly?

2 Read Psalm 122: 1, 4. The Bible treats regular corporate worship not as an option but as an ought. Since our worship does not make up for anything lacking in God, why do you think God commanded His children to gather regularly to worship together?

3 WE GO... because Jesus went. No one had more right to insist that private worship was all one needed than Jesus, but he didn't. **Read Luke 4:16.** Why do you think corporate worship was a priority to Jesus? What does this say to a culture that likes to "judge" worship on the basis of "what I get out of it"?

4 WE GO... because Jesus comes. We don't just meet to worship God; we worship to meet with God. God promises to come near to those who come near to Him. **Read 1 Corinthians 14:25.** What do you think would cause a visitor to sense the presence of God when a church is assembled?

5 WE GROW... because worship restores us. Life can be hard. Trying to be light in a dark world is draining, and everyone needs to get their spiritual batteries recharged. Worship restores our spiritual batteries (that's why Paul and Silas sang in prison). Share a time when your spiritual batteries were restored through worship.

6 WE GROW... because worship re-stories us. We are surrounded by a lot of seductive narratives. Discipleship is the conscious decision to choose to live by the story where Jesus is the hero. In worship we are reminded of the narrative that shapes our lives as Jesus-followers. **Read Philippians 2:6-11.** This was an early worship song. How does worship help you "remember our story"?

7 So grow through regular worship and go live a better story. We gather to lift up Jesus, and we scatter to live like Jesus. How do these two priorities relate to each other? What is your **NEXT STEP** to make **Worship Regularly** a priority in your life?

