



**Leader Guide — Weekly Gathering**  
**Experiencing God Through Praise and Thanksgiving**  
**April 29, 2007 • by Steve Fawver**

**Opening (5 minutes)**

Take time as leaders to welcome people and set a tone of joy and openness in community.

**Check-in Time (15 minutes)**

What have you done lately to stop, unwind, or rest?

**Centering Worship (10 minutes)**

Do an alphabet of thanks. Simply start with A and have people share things they are thankful for that start with that letter. Go as far as you want through the alphabet, leaving as much time as you think seems right with each letter. Just remember there are 26 letters— do the math!

**Sharing (15 minutes)**

Questions you might use during this time:

- Where have you experienced God this week?
- What stood out to you as you used the exercises this week?
- What exercise or section of Scripture caught your attention and why?
- Ask group members to look back over their journals and share some things that catch their attention.
- Ask group members to look back at the last worship gathering on Sunday. Where did they experience God?
- What did you notice (sense, feel, think, learn) this week as we gathered for worship?
- How did God show up in your life this week?
- How have you been intentional in creating space to listen to Christ this week?
- How have you noticed Christ calling you to “live out love” this week?

**Group Listening Practice (40 minutes)**

Read Psalm 96. Take a few moments to have people sit with the images in this psalm.

Now simply make the supplies available for collages. Paper, glue sticks, magazines, scissors (or people can tear), pens, etc. If you need paper, glue sticks, or scissors, come by the office and we can get these for you from the resource room.

Encourage people to simply make a collage of praise to God. They may want to write, draw, find images in magazines, or use the letters from magazines to make words of praise and thanks.

Leave time for people to work on these. Make sure and leave about 10 minutes for people to share.

Now invite individuals to share these with the rest of the group. What things do they want to praise/thank God for in their life?

Close by re-reading Psalm 96 and speak a prayer (or invite someone else) as you close.

**Closing (5 minutes)**

Remind people what is happening the next few weeks as you gather.