

Title: Why We Worship Today

Purpose: A look into why we need church and why it is important as Christians to worship within a community.

Scripture Reference: Romans 12:1-8, Ex 20:8-11, Matt 28:19-20, Mark 2:27, John 14:15-19

Reformed Perspective: Book of Order W-1.1005

Visual Aids: A toy race car, a picture of a racing crew, and/or a racing helmet. Anything you can get related to race car driving in order to make the picture more vivid for the children.

*Gather the children forward in front and ask an opening question like: "Could anyone tell me what this is?" (Race Car); or "What kind of helmet is this?" Anything that will draw their attention to race cars and racing. Then begin.*

Pastor: Have any of you watched race car driving or seen it on t.v.? (Hopefully, the answer is yes! If not then run.)

They have these big race car tracks that is just a big long piece of road, huh? Sometimes they are a big circle and other times they are all curvy. (If a kid gets off on off-road racing, don't panic just get them back onto the subject of dealing with racing on tracks.) I like the big round race tracks because you can see all the cars.

Besides a round piece of road what else do they have at race car tracks? (Wait till a kid answers "pit stops" or help them out.) Yea, they have pit stops. What happens at the pit stops? (They fix the cars)

Those pit stops are pretty important aren't they? Imagine if you were a race car driver and you didn't have a pit stop. What would eventually happen? You would either run out of gas or you would break down, Right?

Did you know it usually takes about ten people to make up a racing team. You have a owner of the car, a driver, a crew chief, and a pit crew. When the driver comes in for a pit stop, the pit crew surrounds the car and each performs a different function. There is one who jacks up the car, one on each tire changing the tires, one fueling the tank and one who takes care of anything the driver needs. What would happen if you didn't have all of them there working together as a team? They would lose time and probably lose the race. Could the driver win without the rest of his team? Doubtful.

The church is kind of like a racing team in a race. The outside world is like the race track. You start off fine but eventually life wears you down and you need to come in for a pit stop. The church is your pit stop and all of us are your pit crew. In order to win, we need you just like you need us. God is the fuel that keeps us going.

We all have different jobs on the team. However, without all of us working together, we would never finish the race. In the same way we need to come to church and worship

together so we can face the world. By coming to church, God “fuels” us up and we help each other so that we can go back out into the race.

*End with a prayer thanking God for bringing us together to church in order to fill us up, and to help one so that we can get back into the race of life.*

Notes:

W-1.1005 in the Directory of Worship tells us that God has created us for community and covenant. The Holy Spirit “calls, gathers, orders, and empowers” us as a new community into covenant with God. Therefore, worship is a natural part of our creation. As Reformed Christians, this is the backbone of our belief concerning worship and why worship must always be held within the context of community.

My analogy is an old analogy with a new twist. In Romans 12:1-8, Paul describes the church as a body with different parts serving the common whole. A racing team is just a modern adaptation of this theme.

This children’s sermon doesn’t provide as much opportunity for the kids to physically interact with the story, but I think it would be engaging enough for their attention. In our world, there are so many things which are telling us not to worship God. This becomes especially relevant on Sunday mornings when a soft bed seems so much nicer than a cold wooden pew, but we must remember that we are part of a team. Therefore, we don’t just come for ourselves but we also come to help one another. We need each other if God is going to make us truly effective within our lives. When we have this understanding of teamwork, we enable each other to carry the gospel out into the world. The Reformed service is centered around these principles of gathering together, encouraging and fueling us through the Word, responding to the Word, sealing within the Sacraments, and sending us forth back into the race.