

The Art of Worship Overview

Time Commitment

In this class, you will be expected to invest 10 hours each week in your growth as a servant-leader and follower of Jesus. Each week is unique, but generally you will follow this pattern:

- 2 hours in class discussion on Thursday evenings (6-8pm)
- 1 hour reflecting on a Psalm and journaling a highlight, explanation, application, and response (see below)
- 2-3 hours reading books and answering questions from the reading
- 1 hour listening to a podcast and journaling 1-3 big takeaways
- 1-3 hours working on your personal development projects (see below)
- 1-3 hours developing your craft (instrument, voice, writing, art, etc.)

Class Schedule

The Art of Worship runs from September 3, 2026, to May 6, 2027, and will culminate in a summer project. Group discussions on Thursday nights (6-8pm) will follow this format:

6pm *Worship, Celebration, and Prayer*
6:15 *Personal Growth Discussion*
6:45 *Theology Discussion*
7:15 *Break*
7:25 *Leadership Discussion*
7:55 *Looking Ahead*

Personal Growth Discussions will reinforce what you gain in your study of God's Word and in your reading for this class. During this time, you will share how God is at work in your life, and you will encourage and challenge each other to stay faithful.

Theology Discussions will strengthen your knowledge of God, worship, and how to lead. Each discussion will answer four questions.

- (1) What does this reveal about God and about us?
- (2) How does Christ fulfill, mediate, or clarify these realities?
- (3) What does that mean for gathered worship?
- (4) How do we take that home into ordinary life and witness?

Leadership Discussions will cover a range of leadership topics including communication, how to lead with vision, and how to grow in your craft (instrument, voice, writing, art, etc.). You will apply these skills in four projects during the year. Towards the end of the year, we will have breakouts designed to equip the students in this class in their unique skill sets.

Leadership Development Projects

(1) Spiritual Growth Plan – *due Nov. 19*

This project will help you discern who you are, what you value, how God has wired you, and how you can use your gifts and abilities for His glory, as you seek to know Him and make Him known to others.

(2) Gospel Presentation – *due Dec. 17*

In this project, you will articulate the Gospel clearly to a specific audience, either real or imagined. For this task, you will need to apply the communication skills you will learn in class. The presentation itself should last only 5 minutes.

(3) Philosophy of Worship and Leadership – *due May 6*

This paper will help you develop a philosophy of worship. You will be able to share this in future leadership roles and to better equip the teams you lead in understanding how and why you lead the way you do.

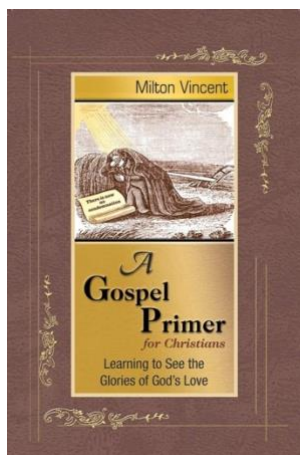
(4) Group Outreach Project – *Spring 2027*

In this project you will work with your fellow students to use your unique gifts to meet a tangible need in the world. We will start planning the project during the school year and then you will play a part in leading it during the spring.

Class Reading

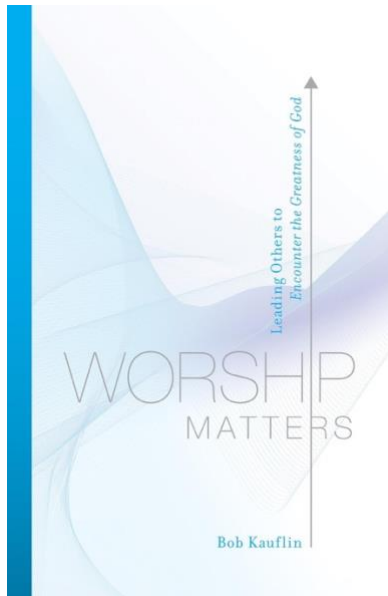
We will read and discuss the following books. I have shared a brief synopsis of each book, slightly amended from their listing on Amazon. These books will cost roughly \$100.

A Gospel Primer for Christians: Learning to See the Glories of God's Love | Milton Vincent



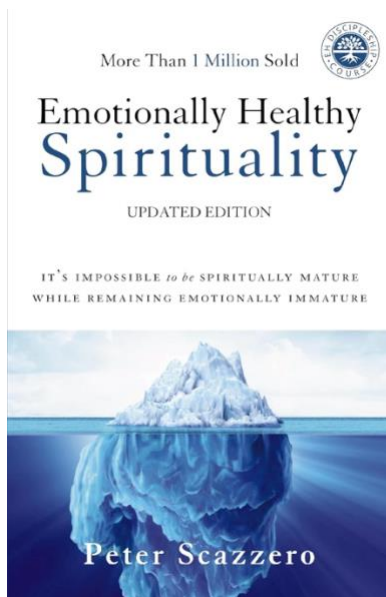
God did not give us His gospel just so we could embrace it and be converted. He offers it to us every day as a gift that keeps on giving us everything we need for life and godliness. Here is a valuable tool to preach the gospel to yourself daily to strengthen your faith and define what you believe and why.

Worship Matters: Leading Others to Encounter the Greatness of God | Bob Kauflin



Nothing is more essential than knowing how to worship the God who created us. This book focuses on the essentials of God-honoring worship, from its biblical foundations to practical applications in the real world. Bob Kauflin, a pastor and noted songwriter, instructs pastors, musicians, and church leaders to root their congregational worship in unchanging scriptural principles rather than cultural trends. Bob Kauflin covers a variety of topics such as the devastating effects of worshipping the wrong things, how to base our worship on God's self-revelation rather than on our assumptions, the fuel of worship, the community of worship, and the ways that eternity's worship should affect our worship today. Appropriate for Christians from varied backgrounds and for various denominations, this book will bring a vital perspective to what readers understand about praising God.

Emotionally Healthy Spirituality: Unleash a Revolution in Your Life in Christ (Updated Edition) | Peter Scazzero



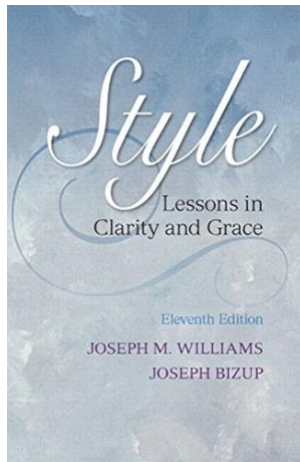
A road map for discipleship with Jesus that is powerfully transformative.

Peter Scazzero learned the hard way: you can't be spiritually mature while remaining emotionally immature. Even though he was the pastor of a growing church, he did what most people do—avoid conflict in the name of Christianity; ignore his anger, sadness, and fear; use God to run from God; and live without boundaries.

Eventually God awakened him to a biblical integration of emotional health and the spiritual practice of slowing down and quieting your life to experience a firsthand relationship with Jesus. It created nothing short of a spiritual revolution in Scazzero's life, in his church, and now in thousands of other churches.

Style: Lessons in Clarity and Grace (11th ed.) | Joseph M. Williams and Joseph Bizup

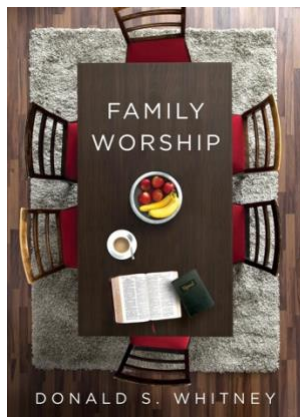
*** You can purchase this book for \$20 from your teacher once the class starts. ***



Engaging and direct, Style: Lessons in Clarity and Grace is the guidebook for anyone who wants to write well.

Williams' clear, accessible style models the kind of writing that audiences—both in college and after—will admire. The principles offered here will help writers understand what readers expect and how they can revise to meet those expectations more effectively. This book is all you need to understand the principles of effective writing.

Family Worship: In the Bible, In History, and In Your Home | Donald S. Whitney



Gathering together for worship is an indispensable part of your family's spiritual life. It is a means for God to reveal himself to you and your loved ones.

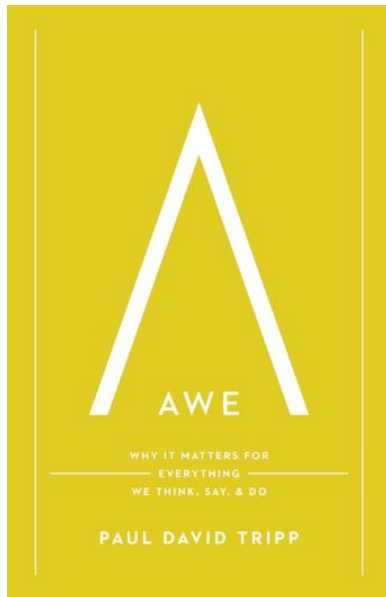
This practical guide by Donald S. Whitney will prove invaluable to families—with or without children in the home—as they practice God-glorifying, Christ-exalting worship through Bible reading, prayer, and singing.

Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy: Discovering the Grace of Lament | Mark Vroegop



This book seeks to restore the lost art of lament in order to help readers discover the power of honest wrestling with the questions that come with grief and suffering.

Awe: Why It Matters for Everything We Think, Say, and Do (with Study Questions) | Paul David Tripp



Humans are hardwired for awe. Whether it's the Grand Canyon, a beautiful work of art, or the birth of a baby, we love to be amazed. But there's something—or someone, rather—who surpasses all others: God himself.

Helping us kindle an ever-growing passion for God's glory, this book reminds us of the importance of awe for shaping everything we choose, decide, think, desire, say, and do. Reflecting on how awe for God impacts our approach to spiritual warfare, ministry, material things, and more, Tripp will energize readers' love for God by opening their eyes afresh to the glory of his love, grace, and power.

Studying the Psalms

During this class, we will study 32 specific Psalms. You will engage each Psalm in a private h.e.a.r. journal. **H** – *highlight 1-3 verses that stand out to you.* **E** – *explain what these verses teach about God and man.* **A** – *apply this teaching to your life.* **R** – *respond in specific steps.*

Podcast

Each week, you will learn about art and leadership from a diverse group of artists and seasoned church leaders. Come to class ready to share a takeaway from each episode.

Developing Your Craft

You will spend time intentionally growing your craft and using it serve your local church. This skills development exercise will be built into your Spiritual Growth Plan (see above).

Choosing a Spiritual Coach

You will be responsible to find a spiritual coach in your local church. This person will meet with you four times during the year, offering spiritual support and wisdom, and helping you determine next steps. In addition to meeting with you, this person will be required to meet with the leaders of E4:12 three times during the year: once during the summer to set goals and expectations and twice during the year to share about your spiritual growth and needs.

Accountability Promise

I understand that my teachers and coaches are providing this training for free and at much cost to themselves because they value my growth and the expansion of Christ's Kingdom.

Therefore...

- I will restructure my life rhythms to prioritize this training. I will discuss these changes with my spouse, pastors, and/or employer as necessary.
- I will invest the required time each week, finish all the assignments, and communicate when I can't attend class due to unforeseen life circumstances or emergencies.
- I will not use AI in any aspects of this course unless I receive direct permission from my instructor.
- I will meet with my spiritual coach for at least one hour towards the end of each quarter to discuss my spiritual growth plan.
- I will apply what I learn in humble and faithful service in my local church or in a parachurch ministry of like faith.
- I will discuss these commitments with my spouse and/or pastors so that they can best support me in this journey and so that my growth is based in my family and church life.