

How to Prepare for Sunday Worship

Perhaps the biggest weekly mistake we make as believers is thinking that attending the Sunday morning worship service is a passive exercise requiring no preparation. The following are five suggestions to help you prepare for Sunday morning to the glory of God and for the rejoicing of your soul.

Pray Throughout the Week

Include the corporate worship of God as you pray throughout the week. Pray for the worship leaders as they prepare to preach and lead. Pray for the musicians as they practice and rehearse. Pray for your fellow congregants that the Lord might work in their hearts and draw them to Himself with a sense of faith and expectation. Finally, pray for your own heart, that it would be fertile soil to receive God's Word, confess your sin, receive His grace, and sing His praise.

Study Up

The full service bulletin is posted on our church website each Friday to help the congregation better prepare for worship on Sunday. Congregants may familiarize themselves with the readings, hymns, and other elements of the service in order to better inform their times of prayer and preparation. We recommend every individual member or family have a copy of the Trinity Hymnal for home reference and use. If finances are a genuine hindrance, please contact the church office and we will be happy to provide you with a copy.

Focus In

Beware of distractions, especially on Saturday night, that will unduly upset or derail you as you seek to prepare to focus your attention on the worship of God. Consider scheduling certain outings or activities for other evenings, allowing Saturday nights to be a time with family, friends, or in quiet reflection on the grace of God through His Word. You'll be amazed at how differently Sunday morning unfolds when your heart has been stilled in His presence the night before.

Go to Bed

Yes, Saturday is an "off" day for most of us and Sunday one of the few days we get to sleep in, but plan your schedule so that you can get enough sleep to be well rested for your most important activity of the week- the public worship of God. While Satan has many tactics to discourage and divert God's people from worshipping Him and receiving his grace, few are as common (or as effective!) as simply not getting enough sleep the night before.

Come with a Purpose

When departing for church on a Sunday morning, we all hope to encounter the living God, to be refreshed by His Word, and to be encouraged for a new week. All those things are excellent, and we should indeed come to God with an expectation of the lavish bestowal of His grace. We should also come, however, with a burning desire to *give*: to give God the glory He deserves. To give our hearts to Him in reverent obedience, as Calvin said, "promptly and sincerely." To give others our time and attention as we look for ways to help, encourage, and serve. Our Lord said in Matthew 20 that He did not come to "be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Such an attitude is most fitting for the people redeemed by His grace!

May these simple reflections help you prepare for worship on Sunday and thereby for the worship of God throughout the week.