



**A MINISTRY OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF INDIANA AND KENTUCKY
IN COOPERATION WITH ABC-GI ALONG WITH SPONSORING
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES & ASSOCIATIONS**

C203 Introduction to Christian Worship

April 24, May 8, June 5 & June 19, 2021

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Description and Purpose

This class will provide students with an introduction to Christian worship. Class participants will explore the nature of Christian worship by examining the heritage of a variety of worship traditions and some of the contemporary issues around worship in the church today. The class will provide an opportunity for students to reflect upon and experiment with worship design and leadership in their own ministry context.

Required Text

Cherry, Constance M. *Worship Like Jesus: A Guide for Every Follower*, Abingdon Press, 2019. ISBN-13: 918-1-5018-8147-3.

Student Expectations

1. Attend all live class sessions whenever possible.
2. If you will be absent, contact the instructor in advance via call, text or email.
3. Be prepared for each live class session.
4. Participate in the live class sessions.
5. Support and encourage classmates.
6. Communicate with the instructor, especially if you have any questions or concerns.
7. Please have the following available during each pre-recorded and live class session:
 - Textbooks
 - Good English translation of the Bible; additionally, a Spanish translation of the Bible may be brought, if desired.
 - Notebook (for handouts, assignments and taking notes)
 - 2 pens/pencils (electronic device to take notes, if preferred)
 - Syllabus, handouts & assignments

Requirements to Earn Credit

1. Meet expectations for students listed above.
2. Complete all assignments—including watching pre-recorded material before live class sessions.
3. Participate in class discussions and exercises.
4. Read additional articles or blogs as may be assigned.
5. Attend at least 9 of the 12 hours of the live class sessions.
6. If absent more than 30 minutes of any live class session, earn an excused absence by doing the following:
 - a. contact the instructor about your absence (preferably before the absence, but at least within 72 hours of the absence);
 - b. watch the recording of the live class session you missed;
 - c. complete a special assignment given by your instructor in addition to regular assignments; this is usually an enriching experience that will pertain to the class time the student missed in some way.

Class Outline and Schedule of Assignments

- Assignments listed under each live class session date need to be completed before the live class session meets.
- Students are strongly encouraged to schedule blocks of time over a two-week period into their personal calendar for completing preparation for each live class session.
- Out of respect for your instructor and classmates, please be prepared.

Live Class Session 1—April 24, 2021

- Objectives for Live Session 1:
 1. Get acquainted with each other.
 2. Discuss the concept of “worship discipleship.”
 3. Consider the overview of the course.
- Assignments to be completed before April 24th:
 - Reading: *Worship Like Jesus*, introductory pages and Chapter 1: “Our Role Model for Worship.”
 - Read “The Call to Worship” in the introductory portion of the book.
 - Question: What is the two-word term that Cherry uses to summarize the subject of this book?
 - Notice the four-part pattern that Cherry lays out of “describe..., discover..., deliberate..., determine...” (Let us call it “the 4Ds). This pattern will be a key method for our exploration.

(Assignments to be completed before 1st Live Class Session continued on the next page)

CONTINUED: Preparation for Live Class Session 1—April 24, 2021

- Read and reflect on Cherry’s definition of “worship,” also in the front of the book.
 - What words or phrases capture your attention?
 - Think about, or make some notes on, how you might express in your own words a *brief* answer to the question: “What is worship?”
- Read / skim Chapter 1: “Our Role Model for Worship.”
 - Notice the first application of the “4Ds” that helps us to begin to practice some critical thinking about how and why we worship.

Live Class Session 2—May 8, 2021

- Objectives for Live Session 2:
 1. Explore definitions of “worship.”
 2. Identify components of “corporate” or “communal” worship.
 3. Describe the worship practices of students’ congregations.
- Assignments to be completed before May 8th:
 - **Reading: *Worship Like Jesus, chapters 2, 3, & 4.***
 - Focus Exercises for Chapter 2: “The Priority of Worship”
 - p. 15-16:
 - Consider the definitions of worship.
 - p. 17-18:
 - Read some of the Scripture passages that refer to worship.
 - p. 18:
 - Note that Jesus also worshiped in private;
 - see the attendant references.
 - p. 19-20; 21-24:
 - This section is key to our study. Read carefully.
 - Be prepared to share what, if any, thoughts are new to you.
 - How do these concepts point toward more complete worship?
 - p. 24:
 - Choose *three* questions from the list.
 - ◆ Be prepared to answer *two* of them verbally during our Zoom session.
 - ◆ Answer *one* question (the third of the three you have chosen) in writing.
 - ◇ one half to no more than one full page in length.
 - ◇ Send by email to the instructor.
 - Focus Exercises for Chapter 3: “The Object of Worship”
 - p. 33-34:
 - How does your congregation’s worship compare to the principles outlined here?
 - p. 34:
 - Read thoughtfully the quote from Webber.
 - Reflect on it.
 - How does it bring insight related to your worship?

(Assignments to be completed before 2nd Live Class Session continued on the next page)

CONTINUED: Preparation for Live Class Session 2—May 8, 2021 (Assignments)

- Focus Exercises for Chapter 3: “The Object of Worship” CONTINUED
 - p. 36:
 - In particular, think about *two* of the question sets that interest you.
 - Choose *one* additional question set that interests you.
 - ◆ Write a brief reflection.
 - ◇ Email it to the instructor.
 - ◇ Be prepared to discuss your thoughts in class.
 - p. 37:
 - Notice and think about the differences between the persecuted church and the privileged church.
- Focus Exercises for Chapter 4: “The Central Figure of Worship”
 - p. 41-43:
 - Reflect on this truth: “Jesus is the *worshiped worshiper*.”
 - p. 44-46:
 - Notice the place of the Holy Spirit in worship.
 - Notice that Christian worship is *Trinitarian*.
 - Reflect on the Chappelle quote.
 - p. 46:
 - Read one or more of the “mediator” Scriptures.
 - p. 47-48:
 - Read at least one of the “leader” Scriptures.
 - p. 52:
 - Respond to question sets #1 and #2 in writing.
 - ◆ 1-2 pages in length.
 - ◆ Email your written work to the instructor.
 - ◆ We will discuss our thoughts in class.
- **Pre-recorded class lectures** (*using worksheet provided, take notes on material, questions you have & things you want to discuss.*)
 - Video #1
 - Video #2
 - Video #3
 - Video #4

Live Class Session 3—June 5, 2021

- Objectives for the Live Session 3:
 1. Describe the narrative of God’s big story.
 2. Define “dialogical worship.”
 3. Explore “revelation and response.”

(Assignments to be completed before 3rd Live Class Session continued on the next page)

CONTINUED: Preparation for Live Class Session 3—June 5, 2021 (Assignments)

➤ Assignments to be completed before Jun 5th:

- **Reading: *Worship Like Jesus, chapters 5 & 6***
 - Focus Exercises for Chapter 5: “The Divine Narrative of Worship”
 - p. 57-58:
 - What is the meaning of “narrative?” (Use a dictionary if needed.)
 - What is the meaning of “metanarrative?” (Use a dictionary if needed.)
 - What is “God’s big story?”
 - p. 59-64:
 - What do the Sabbath, Festivals, and Liturgy have to do with God’s big story?
 - p. 64-65:
 - What does Cherry say is one of the best ways to do God’s story?
 - What happens when we attend to the whole story of God in worship?
 - p. 66-67:
 - What question does Cherry raise as “the most pressing spiritual issue of our time?”
 - Notice the immediacy for today of this question that was first raised at least 15 years ago.
 - Focus Exercises for Chapter 6: “The Conversation of Worship”
 - p. 72:
 - 1st full paragraph
 - what does it mean to be made in God’s image, and therefore, relational beings?
 - How does this truth impact our worship?
 - p. 72-76:
 - What is the meaning of “dialogical?” (Use a dictionary if needed.)
 - Look through the Scriptures in the chapter for examples.
 - Discover the ways Jesus worshiped.
 - ◆ Outline them in your book or make a list, so you can track them.
 - p. 78-82:
 - Get acquainted with the charts for ways to build revelation and response into worship.
 - p. 82-83:
 - What are three challenges Cherry identifies for the worship of today?
 - Think of an example for each one that you can share in class.
- **Course Project, Step #1 (of 2)**
 - Begin to plan a worship service for your congregation or other group whom you lead or participate with in worship.
 - Consider all the elements and concepts we are exploring.
 - You will receive a separate information / planning guide to help you facilitate this project.

(Assignments to be completed before 3rd Live Class Session continued on the next page)

CONTINUED: Preparation for Live Class Session 3—June 5, 2021 (Assignments)

- **Pre-recorded class lectures** (using worksheet provided, take notes on material, questions you have & things you want to discuss.)
 - Video #5
 - Video #6
 - Video #7
 - Video #8
 - Video #9
 - Video #10
 - Video #11
 - Video #12

Live Class Session 4—June 19, 2021

- Objectives for Live Session 4:
 1. Discuss “participatory worship.”
 2. Compare / contrast Jesus’ model for worship with current worship practices.
 3. Present course worship projects.
- Assignments to be completed before Jun 19th:
 - **Reading: Worship Like Jesus, chapters 7 & 8**
 - Focus Exercises for Chapter 7: “The Disciple as Participant of Worship”
 - p. 88:
 - Before you read further, make a list as suggested at the top of the page, “What qualities make for a good worshiper?” Then read on!
 - p. 89-94:
 - What qualities did Jesus demonstrate as a worshiper of God?
 - p. 95-96:
 - Consider this list. What are some current actions of worship today that you can think of?
 - p. 96-102:
 - Consider the worship challenges of “proper faith” and “proper means” that Cherry lays out.
 - ◆ What insights do you find for your congregation’s worship?
 - **Course Project, Step #2:**
 - Each student earning credit for this course, will present *one* component of his/her choice from the worship service (Step 1) he/she created by June 5th.
 - Before June 19th:
 - email a written outline of your worship service to the instructor.
 - If you have a separate document(s) used during the component you will present in class, send that material to the instructor as well.
 - During the 4th Live Class Session on June 19th, each student earning credit for this course will:
 - present a brief descriptive summary of the entire service;
 - then, present the more detailed section of their choice.

(Assignments to be completed before 4th Live Class Session continued on the next page)

CONTINUED: Preparation for Live Class Session 4—June 19, 2021 (Assignments)

- ***Pre-recorded class lectures*** (*using worksheet provided, take notes on material, questions you have & things you want to discuss.*)
 - Video #13
 - Video #14
 - Video #15
 - Video #16