



Round Table Discussion – Participant Guide

Introduction

1. Identify at least 3 ways the use of virtual worship has impacted our congregation.

Pivoting to Virtual Worship

2. How has the pandemic impacted people's thinking about gathering for worship?
3. Of what feelings/attitudes among our members must we be aware when making decisions about how to gather together for worship?

4. Agree/Disagree: The way we worship will never be the same after having gone through COVID.

5. The pastors mentioned some ways their congregations were blessed as a result of being forced to worship virtually. Share some ways you believe our congregation has been blessed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

6. What may make liturgical worship, in particular, challenging in an online environment? What are some ways our congregation might help overcome this challenge?

7. Share some ways you can see God's timing in allowing the pandemic at this time.

The Importance of Horizontal Relationships

8. Having been forced to do so many activities online during the pandemic (worshiping, Bible study, shopping, visiting, school) affords us the opportunity to evaluate which activities work as well or better online and which things lose something by being done online. Discuss which activities work as well or better and which lose something. Why?

9. When you attend worship, do you think more about your vertical relationship with God or your horizontal relationship with your fellow worshipers? Do you believe being forced not to gather for a period of time will help us appreciate our horizontal worship relationships more? Discuss.

Unintended Consequences

10. Agree/Disagree: Virtual worship needs to be the exception rather than the norm.

11. Identify at least two unique situations in which a person can only worship virtually.

12. Discuss: When a family chooses to worship virtually on its own schedule rather than worshipping in-person at the times its congregation offers services, children are indirectly being taught to prioritize other things over their faith.

13. Professor Wendland mentioned three important "P's" when caring for people's souls. What did he mean by each?

 Patience -

 Preference -

 Providence -

14. Can you think of any unintended consequences of virtual worship that were not mentioned in the video?

15. Pastor Hein pointed out that some church activities work very well virtually, and others do not. As a group, identify as many of each as you can.

The Lord's Supper

16. How might the pandemic become a blessing when it comes to people's attitude toward the Lord's Supper?

Final Thoughts

17. Pastor Hein mentions using the First Article gift of reason to think through how we handle virtual worship and how we provide content online. What did he mean by "use the First Article gift of reason?"

Whom will we task with thinking through and deciding how we handle virtual worship and how we provide content online?

What are some things they will want to consider?

18. As we make decisions going forward about in-person and virtual worship, how will we communicate our decisions to our members?