## עעבטנ טוטעף טוטנעטטוטוו עעבטנוטווט

## **History (Making it Personal)**

- 1. Talk about a time in your life where you experienced the presence and power of God in a tangible, real sense. Where? When? What was happening in your life? What set up this encounter with God?
- 2. Using the "fuel gauge" illustration share around the room how you have tended to come into corporate worship gatherings. What should be the balance between coming to "receive" and coming to "give"?
- 3. Talk for a few moments about the "sacred" and "secular" divide that we have created in our lives. Why do we tend to compartmentalize our worship into just a slice of our lives? Have you seen your work, your studies, your recreation, your socializing as "worship unto God"?

## Digging Deeper (Looking to the Bible)

4. Read Acts 2:42-27; 4:32-37. Focus this week on the "sense" of God that was present in this first church; their reverence and "fear" of God.

Do we struggle with the concept of "fearing God."?

How should we understand that term biblically?

Consider the following: Acts 9:31; 2 Corinthians 5:11;

Matthew 14:22-25; Luke 2:8-9; Acts 5:1-5.

Balance the above with: Hebrews 4:16 and Psalm 100:4-5

Talk about words like reverence/irreverence – holiness/joy – celebration/quiet – confidence/flippancy – prayer/praise

- 5. Scan through the "psalms of ascent" (Psalms 120-134) and talk about preparing for worship. How do you "get ready" for church? Have we given enough attention to our heart's preparation BEFORE we meet?
- 6. Read Acts 1:14; 2:42; 4:23-31 and talk about the role of prayer in our experience of God. If prayer is the "air in the tire" that makes a life of worship come alive, why are we so often content to ride around on a flat? How can we grow in this area? We ALL give mental ascent to the role of prayer so why is it so difficult to actually practice?
- 7. Read Isaiah 6:1-8; Revelation 5:6-14; Acts 2:43 & Ephesians 1:18-20. Talk about how God's power, signs, wonders, and awesome glory affected these people. How long has it been since you "felt" God in this way? What is your opinion about why we see so few signs and wonders? Why not here in Canada...today?

## Taking It Home (Application)

- 8. Before our next weekend's service intentionally take some time to prepare. Our topic: Discipleship. Listen to some worship music, read some scripture, evaluate how much you have "grown" in the past year.
- 9. We have a very important membership meeting October 19<sup>th</sup>. We have had many staff changes, and we are falling short of our budgeted target and may need to discontinue some ministries. Would you take a day this week to pray and fast for this family talk time and come prepared to share what God is saying to you.
- 10. Finally, as you pray as a group, ask God to "stir" us afresh with a palpable sense of His presence and power. How "hungry" are we?