

The NLW Pathway Leader Guide by Dwayne Moore

SAMPLE

Week 1 — Acknowledge God First

Foundational Awareness

This Week's Focus

Worship begins with God. He reveals Himself first. Our part is to notice, acknowledge, and respond.

Formation Habit

Acknowledge God First

Formation Result

Foundational Awareness

Key Idea from Learning to Worship God

Worship does not begin with our effort, emotion, or performance. Worship begins as God reveals Himself and we become aware of His presence, worth, beauty, truth, and activity.

Key Practice from The NLW Pathway Guide

Students practice slowing down, noticing God, acknowledging Him, and responding throughout the day.

Before the Session

The facilitator should read or review:

- LTWG Chapter 1: Worship Begins with God
- PG Week 1 overview and daily pages

- This Week 1 Leader Guide session

Session Goal

By the end of the session, students should understand that worship begins with awareness of God and should be able to identify at least one way they can practice acknowledging Him in daily life.

30–45 Minute Session Plan

1. Welcome and Opening Question — 5 minutes

Ask:

When did you notice God this week in an ordinary moment?

If students are hesitant, offer examples: creation, Scripture, a conversation, conviction, gratitude, beauty, provision, or a moment of peace.

2. Big Idea Review — 5 minutes

Briefly summarize:

Worship begins with God. We do not manufacture worship. God reveals Himself, and we respond. This week was about learning to slow down enough to notice and acknowledge Him.

You might say:

“A person can notice beauty and still miss God. Worship begins when noticing becomes acknowledgment.”

3. Discussion — 15–20 minutes

Choose three to five questions, depending on time.

1. What stood out to you from Chapter 1 or the Week 1 daily practices?
2. Where do you find it easiest to notice God?
3. Where do you find it hardest to notice Him?
4. What tends to capture your attention before God does?
5. How could acknowledging God first change the way you approach worship leadership, school, relationships, or ordinary responsibilities?
6. What is one small “pause” you could practice this coming week?

4. Practice Check-In — 5–7 minutes

Ask:

- How did the daily guide go this week?
- Was it difficult to slow down?
- Did the rhythm feel helpful, awkward, easy, or challenging?
- Did anyone miss a day and then return?

Normalize imperfection. Remind students that the goal is not perfection, but attention and return.

5. Closing Prayer and Next Step — 3–5 minutes

Invite students to pray silently for one area where they need to become more aware of God.

Suggested closing prayer:

Lord, awaken our hearts to Your presence. Teach us to notice You, acknowledge You, and respond to You in ordinary moments. Help us begin with You. Amen.

Student Next Step

This week, students move into Week 2: Pray He-We-They.

Encourage them to practice the daily rhythm and pay attention to how prayer shapes their awareness of God.

Leader Notes

Students may think awareness sounds too simple. Help them see that attention is deeply formative. What we notice shapes what we love.

Some students may feel guilty about distraction. Keep the tone grace-filled. The invitation is to return, not to perform.