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## **Steps into Worship** – (condensed from *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard J. Foster)

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“Worship is something we do. We learn to worship by worshipping. Let me give a few simple steps that will help the experience of worship:

First, learn to practice the presence of God daily. Really try to follow Paul’s words, “Pray without ceasing” (1 Thess. 5:17, KJV) Punctuate every moment with inward whisperings of adoration, praise and thanksgiving.

Second, have different experiences of worship. Worship God when you are alone. Worship in small and large groups.

Third, find ways to really prepare for the gathered experience of worship. (Go to bed early on Saturday.) Arrive early before the actual worship service and filling the room with the presence of God. Let go of inner distractions so that you can really participate.

Fourth, have a willingness to be gathered in the power of Christ. Let go of any personal agendas, concerns and prepare to hear the word of God. Absorb any distractions with gratitude. If someone is making extra noise, bless them. Thank God that they are alive and that they have energy. Become willing to relax with distractions - - they may be a message from God.

Fifth, cultivate holy dependency. Look forward to God acting and moving, teaching, wooing and working within the act of worship. The Holy Spirit is at work within each worshiper and within a congregation. We are to open ourselves to the work of the Spirit.

Sixth, go to worship even if you don’t feel like it. Learn to offer a sacrifice of worship. Perhaps you have had disappointing experiences in the past . . . perhaps it was because you weren’t adequately prepared. Go, praying. Go, expecting. Go, looking for God to do a new and living work among you.”

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”  
Colossians 3:16

Worship should be considered a Spiritual Discipline because it is an ordered way of acting and living that sets us before God so that we can be transformed by God. ~Richard J. Foster

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Amen.



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A FUN MAZE!!!**

**ON THE**

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little chick find her  
Easter basket?



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