
Creative Core Ideas

Sharing in Worship & Prayer

In this component, we're focusing on and responding to Christ directly. Worship and prayer allow people the chance to focus on God's attributes and actions, to bring Him glory and to enjoy His presence with us. Worship is so much more than singing. It is living a life for Him, being devoted to and reflecting on God. It is the corefa's role to model a heart of worship and to facilitate a variety of creative expressions of worship and prayer within the group. Before trying any of these creative ideas, consider having a Bible study to answer what prayer and worship are and what role they play in the life of a disciple.

1. Read scripture out loud -- a psalm, for example. Then, have people write their own psalm and share.
2. Share stories of how people saw God moving and acting over the past week and pray prayers of gratitude and praise in response.
3. Sing worship songs together! If someone has a musical ability in your core, this is a great time for them to serve. Otherwise, sing some easy a capella hymns or even use Youtube!
4. Read through some scripture and then pray in response to what you've read.
5. Focus on different types of prayer: intercession, petition, confession, thanksgiving. Bring in some scriptures that model each of these and then practice each type of prayer.
6. The week before, read 1 Corinthians 14:26 together and assign everyone to come to core with something to share: a song, scripture, an encouragement -- whatever the Lord moves them to bring! Then, have a time for everyone to share.
7. Listen to and discuss hymns and/or other worship songs. Hymns have such a rich and beautiful history. Often, discussing the origins of old hymns can add a richness to their meaning and bring the words to life in a new, fresh way!
8. Go on a prayer walk together. Walk around your campus, walk around certain buildings, or pray for specific groups of students together. Split up into smaller groups if need be.
9. Read, talk about, and rewrite the Lord's prayer in your own words.
10. Listen to the Vapor or Centering Prayer meditations by the Liturgists and journal in response.

Sharing in the Word

Scripture is where God begins to talk to us; it helps us to see what living for and like Christ means. It shows God's unfailing love and participation with His people, and it is one way we begin to see and experience Him ourselves. Because the Bible speaks, either directly or indirectly, to every area of our lives, the scripture can be integrated into all these areas, not just when we sit down for a Bible study. It is the corefa's responsibility to plan out and facilitate a study time with meaningful questions that help people observe and understand the text and that stimulate the group to move beyond the discussion to a place of obedience.

1. Memorize scripture: Choose one scripture a week to memorize as a core. Make this fun and exciting! Get a sticker chart for when people have memorized a verse. Your core could even work all semester to memorize an entire chapter of scripture! The memorization of scripture is a powerful tool!
2. Read a story from the gospels, and then give your core members time to write out the story from the perspective of one of the characters or an onlooker. Then have everyone share what they wrote. Often this gives texture and meaning to stories and brings them to life in new ways!
3. Instead of having a Bible study, have people share verses that have impacted their lives at different times. Have them share why those verses or parts of scripture were meaningful to them!
4. Have your core members rewrite a section of scripture you're studying in their own words. Sometimes this helps us to understand and internalize the text!
5. Watch the Bible Project videos that correspond to the books of the Bible you read or study as a core.

Creative Core Ideas (Cont.)

6. Read a whole book of scripture aloud in one core. Have one reader, or use a Bible app or Youtube video. This is how the New Testament letters were typically shared with their audience. Hearing the word can add a new dimension to it! Ask them what their response to the book is.
7. Lectio Divina: this is a special kind of Bible study that you can lead your core members to listen to the Holy Spirit. It's a way to read the Scripture to be formed more than informed. Look up instructions online!

Sharing Lives & Social Interaction

Core should be a place where people can share openly and honestly about their lives. This includes simply being together and growing in friendship through some fun and casual activities. Community is such a blessing, and we believe strongly that it is important for real life change. The corefa should initiate and facilitate experiences both inside and outside of the formal core meeting where all core members can participate and enjoy the spiritual act of just being and playing together.

1. Plan a dinner, dessert, or fun activity (for core or after the large group meeting) with another core or for the staff
2. Movie nights.
3. Have a core sleepover or go on a camping trip!
4. Have a game night! Bring board games, video games like Just Dance, and snacks!
5. Sports (volleyball, bowling, disc golf, speedball, ultimate frisbee, etc.) can be a fun way to connect and play together. Plus, most of these are free or cheap!
6. Go to a local park and walk, set up hammocks, have a picnic, or toss a frisbee.
7. An activity during core: gather 4 or 5 random household items and then split the core into two groups. Give them 5 minutes to prepare a short skit that they perform for the other group to guess each item. This is a silly way to help people laugh and get out of their comfort zones!
8. During core, have everyone share briefly about their past, present, and future. You could even do one of these each week for three weeks! Examples of things to share for each category are: Past – where you came from, family relationships, activities you did in high school, embarrassing or funny phases they went through, spiritual background, etc. Present – What's your major, job, hobbies, what is your biggest pet peeve, what you do for fun, etc. Future – Where you'd like to be in five years, something fun or scary you'd like to try, etc.
9. M&M Sharing – Each person takes an M&M. After that, you tell them that each color represents a topic (you decide the topics, i.e. blue=Family, red=Junior High story, etc.) They each share something about their lives from the topic for their color of M&M.
10. Draw your Story – Have each person draw their spiritual journey and then share with the group (this takes a long time unless you really limit it).
11. Question Jenga: Get a set of Jenga blocks and number each block. Play Jenga normally, but when someone pulls out a block, they have to answer a question from a numbered list of questions. (Supplies required: numbered Jenga blocks, a list of silly, light-hearted questions)
12. Question Ball: Similar to Question Jenga, but some may prefer the fun of throwing the ball across the room. Get a beach ball and write light-hearted get-to-know-you questions on it. When someone catches the ball, they answer the question their right thumb landed on before throwing it to someone else.
13. Happy/Crappy or Highs and Lows: Everyone share a high point in their week and a low point in their week.

Creative Core Ideas (Cont.)

Sharing in Mission

It is important that all of us in core grow an outward heart of mission and service together. If we don't, we will become inwardly focused and stagnant. A major vision for these communities is that they would have an impact outside of themselves. The corefa should suggest and encourage campus or community service projects, as well as ways for the group to be active in their witness for Christ. It has been said that if you aim for community, you'll seldom get mission, but if you aim for mission, you'll always get community.

1. Adopt a child through World Vision or a missionary through Compassion International. Pray, write letters, and encourage regularly, along with your monthly contribution.
2. Organize an outreach event! Your core can host an outreach display or campus conversations. Your staff person can help you get this together!
3. Volunteer somewhere together! Senior living centers love to have young people come by and talk to the residents! You can also look into serving at soup kitchens, homeless shelters, or a food bank.
4. Get an Angel from an Angel Tree around Christmas time and get a gift for a child as a core.
5. Pick a specific major or department at your school and pray for those students and faculty. Write professors letters of encouragement and pray over the primary buildings they work in.
6. Make signs of encouragement during finals week. This is a great way to bless the campus community! You can also hand out scantrons and pencils (they're pretty cheap on Amazon).
7. Plan a bring-a-friend-to-core night. Plan something fun and a core plan meant for new people who may not know Jesus.
8. Serve the community as a core by cleaning up one of the ministry houses!