

**Instructions:**

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pick 3-5 questions to discuss that pertain to your group's unique style and needs.



**Series description:**

In Scripture, Paul prays that the church in Ephesus would be rooted and grounded in love so that they may be filled with the fullness of God. What does it mean to be rooted and grounded? How can we continue to bear fruit for the Kingdom that will last? And what are the marks of a fruitful community of faith?

Join us for this new teaching series as we consider the values of Revolution Church and find inspiration to be rooted together in love toward a future with Christ.

*\*\*This is a great opportunity for newcomers to learn more about our church and mission! Invite a friend and we will see you there!*

**Key Scriptures**

*Ephesians 3:14-4:6*

**Questions Related to This Week's Message:**

1. What is the first thing you think of when you hear about being rooted and grounded in something?
2. Our first value is "Reveal: Helping people see Jesus." How do you see us living this value through our opportunities for worship at Revolution?
3. Why is the practice of passionate worship so important? How has it been formative to your faith journey?
4. How does our church make people of all ages and stages feel welcome?

## **Going Deeper, from companion guide for *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* by Robert Schnase**

“Vibrant, fruitful, growing churches offer Passionate Worship that connects people to God and to one another. People gather consciously as the Body of Christ with eagerness and expectancy; encounter Christ through singing, prayer, Scripture, preaching and Holy Communion; and respond by allowing God’s Spirit to shape their lives. Lives shaped by God’s Spirit become the nucleus for congregations with extraordinary warmth, graciousness and belonging. People are searching for worship that is authentic, alive, creative and comprehensible, where they experience the life-changing presence of God in the presence of others. Through Radical Hospitality, congregations offer the gracious invitation of Christ, open doors to relationship and foster a sense of belonging. Through Passionate Worship, God draws people to Christ (many for the first time), deepens understanding and relationship with Christ, and over time, transforms lives as disciples grow in the image of Christ.

### Examples of/Suggestions for Passionate Worship:

- People practice and experience resurrection in worship; every Sunday is a little Easter.
- Practicing Passionate Worship – churches make this sacred time as free as possible from distractions, annoyances and inconveniences and people sense the deliberate care in preparation and intention.
- Passionate spiritual communities not only worship and pray at Sunday services, they also make worship an essential element of every mission trip, youth program, adult retreat, capital funds campaign, and ministry initiative.
- More than one or two of the 5 senses is addressed in Worship – both silence & music deepen unity and reverence; visual focal points on cross or communion table; bread tastes good or smells newly-baked; flowers are fresh & candles glow with real flames; sense of touch when people have time to greet one another with handshakes or embraces.
- Pastors offer an invitation to further discipleship or membership and they encourage visitors to talk with staff or members to find out how they can get involved in church life.
- Trustees reviewing with the pastor the functionality and effectiveness of microphones, sound systems, lighting and looking through the chancel, sanctuary, foyer and nursery to see that the church always looks inviting, fresh, clean, safe and well-lit.
- Mission teams and work project leaders intentionally including periods of prayer, devotion, worship or Communion with their groups.
- Staff-Parish Relations Committee discussing how to foster learning opportunities and adequate spiritual preparation for the pastor and staff to support excellence in worship.
- Ushers, greeters, nursery personnel and other hosts meeting to pray and discuss how to deepen the quality of warmth and hospitality.

The motivation for enhancing the quality of worship is not only about deepening our own faith but also about allowing God to use us and our congregations to offer hope and life and love to others. God works through us to change the world. Worship is God’s gift and task, a sacred trust that requires our utmost and highest.”

**Read the list of examples and suggestions for congregations above.**

**What stands out to you?**

**What do you see that we could begin, continue, or improve to foster passionate spiritual worship?**