



# **Praising God in Work and Worship**

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Timothy Leadership Training Institute

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## Introduction

The manual Praising God in Work and Worship is part of the second level of TLT training.

Sometimes Christians get the impression that God is more interested in their church attendance than in their daily lives and work. However, the Bible teaches that we are called to give glory and praise to God in all we do, every day of the week: *Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.* (1 Corinthians 10:31) Christians honor and glorify God in many different ways, including their everyday work.

The word “worship” in this manual refers especially to the regular gathering of God’s people, once or more each week, for public worship.

The biblical principles of public worship studied in this manual are also important disciplines for daily Christian living, for example: daily prayer, daily confession, and daily reading of Scripture.

Working through this manual, you will:

- Interact with Scripture and your co-participants to better understand God’s call to work and to worship
- Evaluate your daily work and engage in it more effectively
- Become familiar with the 6 dimensions of public worship
- Develop your ability to evaluate and bring renewal to public worship
- Engage in disciplines to develop your personal faith life
- Practice what is learned through Kingdom oriented action plans related to work and public worship
- Continue to develop skills as a TLT facilitator and receive feedback on that ability
- Pursue or initiate 1st level TLT training in your local setting

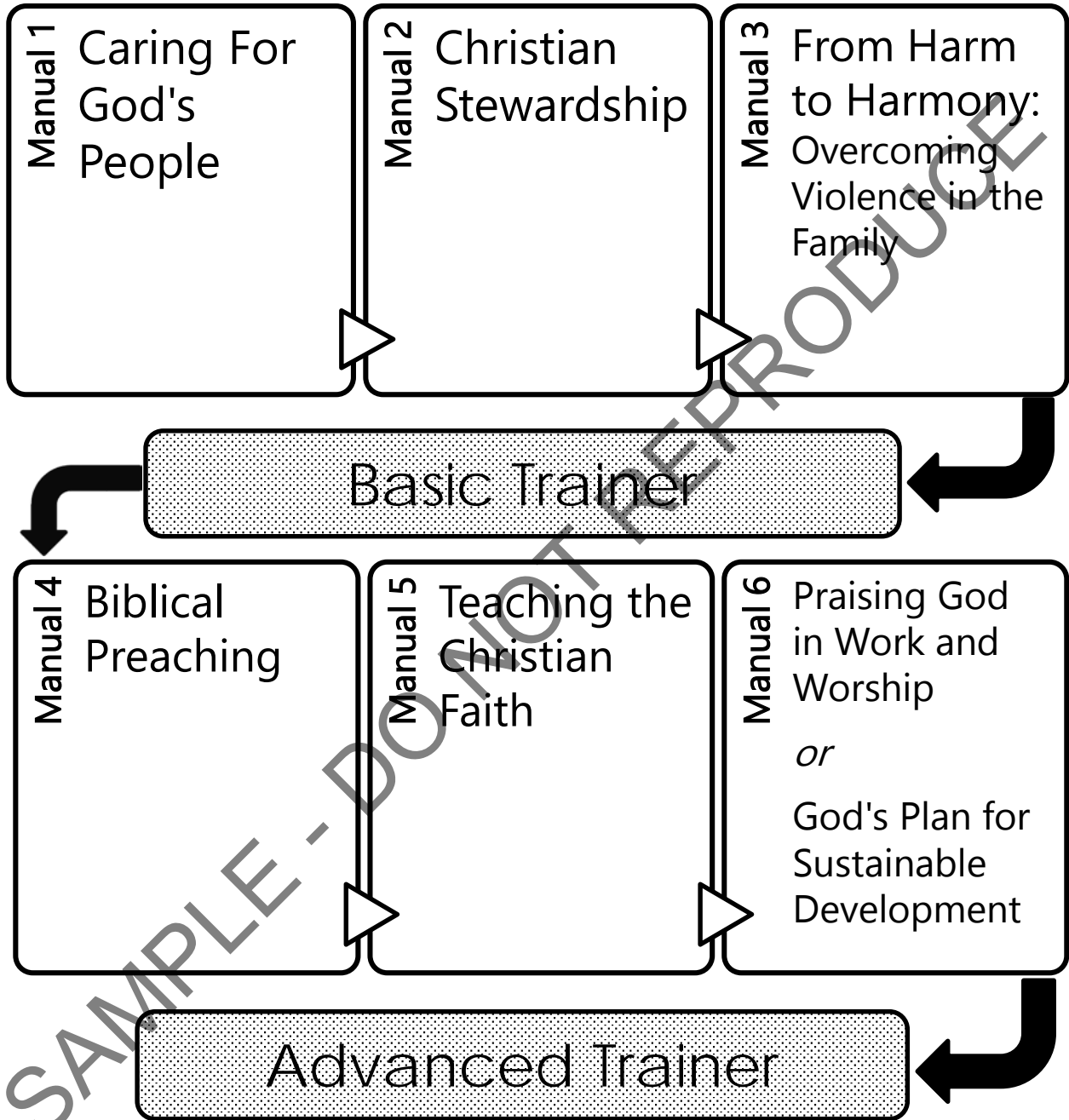
As you work through the manual you may find that some of the ideas presented are already familiar. If this is the case, think of others who you may train using the same manual in your local church or elsewhere. Whether you are a pastor, evangelist or lay leader, this manual provides you with a tool to train others on many different levels: parents, Sunday school teachers, youth group leaders, elders and deacons. In your group, discuss how God may be preparing you to train others, even those from other churches or from outside your area.

Before working through this manual in your group, we encourage you, once again, to briefly review Lesson 1 of the manual Caring for God’s People: *Great Things with God*. We are confident that God can continue to bring significant changes to your church and your community through this training.



## Timothy Leadership Training Certification

This is the path for Basic and Advanced Trainer certification by Timothy Leadership Training Institute.



\*Note: to receive an official TLTI certificate you must be trained by a TLTI certified trainer following standard guidelines. Trainers report trainings and request certificates through [reporting@tlti.org](mailto:reporting@tlti.org).



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## Participant Testimonies

The following testimonies come from participants around the world. More such testimonies are available on the Timothy Leadership Training website.

### AFRICA

#### **Zambia**

I often resented the work I had to do. I got demoralized and wanted to quit. Today, I am so thankful to know that God is interested in our work and that our work is a form of worship.

#### **Mali**

Since I began to practice and teach TLT in my church, we've experienced big changes. I started a vegetable garden. That made a great impression on the young people in our village who followed my example. They came to understand that working the earth is not a curse.

### ASIA

#### **Philippines**

I made plans so that the young people in our church would encourage the younger ones to learn to play musical instruments. When the older ones leave to study or work elsewhere, the younger ones can lead the Music Ministry. Right now, we have a new group of young people engaged in leading our Praise and Worship.

#### **Bangladesh**

I learned that I can serve God through my work. Last year I planted 300 banana trees and earned about \$1,250 US.

### LATIN AMERICA

#### **Cuba**

In order to celebrate more meaningful worship services and to have more broad participation, one pastor trained a group of seven people on biblical principles for public worship. Four months later, his small congregation has seven new worship leaders. They plan and lead the congregation in worship with confidence and joy. Their hesitations were overcome through training.

#### **El Salvador**

We have regular times of confession in silence before we enter into worship. We also include readings and confession times before our monthly Lord's Supper. Everyone comments on how meaningful this is. I also ask for (and get) members to testify to their feelings toward Jesus.

We incorporated dance into our praise time. Seventeen people are part of this new worship style, including three new persons from the community.



## Reminder to TLT Trainers

### Lesson Procedure

TLT lessons follow 4 steps:

- 1) **Report** - At the beginning of each lesson (except for the 1<sup>st</sup> lesson) each participant presents the report of what was accomplished since the last lesson.
- 2) **Reflect, discover, and discuss** - Then, participants read Scripture and discuss together the related questions. It is often helpful to read the Bible texts in their context. Group discussion trains participants to listen carefully to each other and to present their ideas clearly.
- 3) **Plan** - Participants write a plan to put into practice what they have learned. They report on that plan at the beginning of the following lesson.
- 4) **Pray** - At the end of each lesson, participants commit their plans to God.

*TLT training is for those who are prepared to make plans, to put their plans into action between the lessons, and then report on them during the next lesson. Most TLT learning takes place between the lessons as participants work their plans.*

### Inductive training

TLT training is not like classroom teaching when the teacher stands up in front of the class and talks while students listen and take notes. TLT training is interactive and *inductive*. *Inductive* means that during a lesson participants talk more than the trainer. An inductive trainer asks good questions and then gives participants time to reflect and discuss. A TLT trainer is like a good mathematics teacher who gives the class a problem to solve ... and then leaves the students **time to reflect** to find the answer instead of just giving them the solution!

Participants in TLT training discover new ideas and practices through their **own** reflection and discussion. And then they use what is learned to formulate and accomplish their **own** action plans for Kingdom change.

When you begin TLT training, you may find it difficult to teach in an inductive way. You may be talking more than other participants during a lesson. In that case, you must work to develop a more *inductive* style. It is often helpful to break into smaller groups so that each participant can reflect and discuss what is being learned.

A good trainer has already put into practice what is taught in the manuals and can tell how TLT brings change in the church and community. Good trainers also show that each participant is a valued member of the group and provide individual encouragement and assistance, even between training sessions.

**Reminder:** The last two lessons, the 4-6 Month Action Plan and its Report, are very important and should not be skipped!



## LESSON 1

### Serving God in Work in the Garden of Eden

1. **Genesis 1:26-28** Adam and Eve were created in God's image.  
*Think of someone in your family (perhaps yourself) who clearly resembles one of their parents. What did that person often hear when growing up?*

**Genesis 1:26** Adam and Eve were created to resemble God.  
*What are other words for "resemble"?*

2. **God Works**

**God works - Exodus 20:11, Psalm 104:24-25, Isaiah 45:18**  
*What was God's work at the beginning of the world?*

**God worked the earth - Genesis 2:7-8, 19**  
*What three things did God do when working the earth?*

**God worked to develop the earth - Genesis 1:20-24**  
*What did God create so that it would develop?*

*What are other words for "to develop" and "development"?*

**God worked also to meet the needs of Adam and Eve - Genesis 1:29; Genesis 2:8-9, 19-24**  
*What needs of Adam and Eve did God meet?*

**God worked together as a team - Genesis 1:1-2, John 1:1-3, Colossians 1:16, Hebrews 1:2**  
*What persons of the Trinity worked together to create the world?*

3. **Adam and Eve were created to work like God**

Adam and Eve did not create the world—God did. But God called them to work together, like the Trinity, to develop the earth and care for it.

**Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 2:15, 19**  
*What work did God give Adam and Eve to develop the earth and care for it?*

To do their work well, Adam and Eve needed to listen to God.

**Genesis 1:28-30, Genesis 2:15-17** *For what reason does God speak with Adam and Eve?*

- God **explains** the work they are to do.
- God **warns** them not to do what is forbidden.
- God **blesses** them. *What does it mean for someone to bless someone else?*

**Summary**

Like Adam and Eve, we are created in God's image. Like Adam and Eve, we are called to honor God by our work.

**4. MY PLAN**

**Activity:** Write one of the daily tasks you do that does not directly relate to the church. Examples might be cooking, doing school homework, preparing a field to be planted, or cleaning your home or yard. When will you do it?

How can you better accomplish this everyday task "*for the glory of God*" (1 Corinthians 10:31)?

Examples:

- I will not inwardly or outwardly complain that I have to do this task, but thank God that I have the capacity to do it
- I will ask God to give me the strength and wisdom to do this task well
- I will accomplish this task even though no one is asking me or making me do it

**Goal for Kingdom Change:** Write one change that you expect to happen, by God's grace, before the next lesson, because you did your everyday task for the glory of God.

5. At the end of the lesson, share your plan with another person and pray together.

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