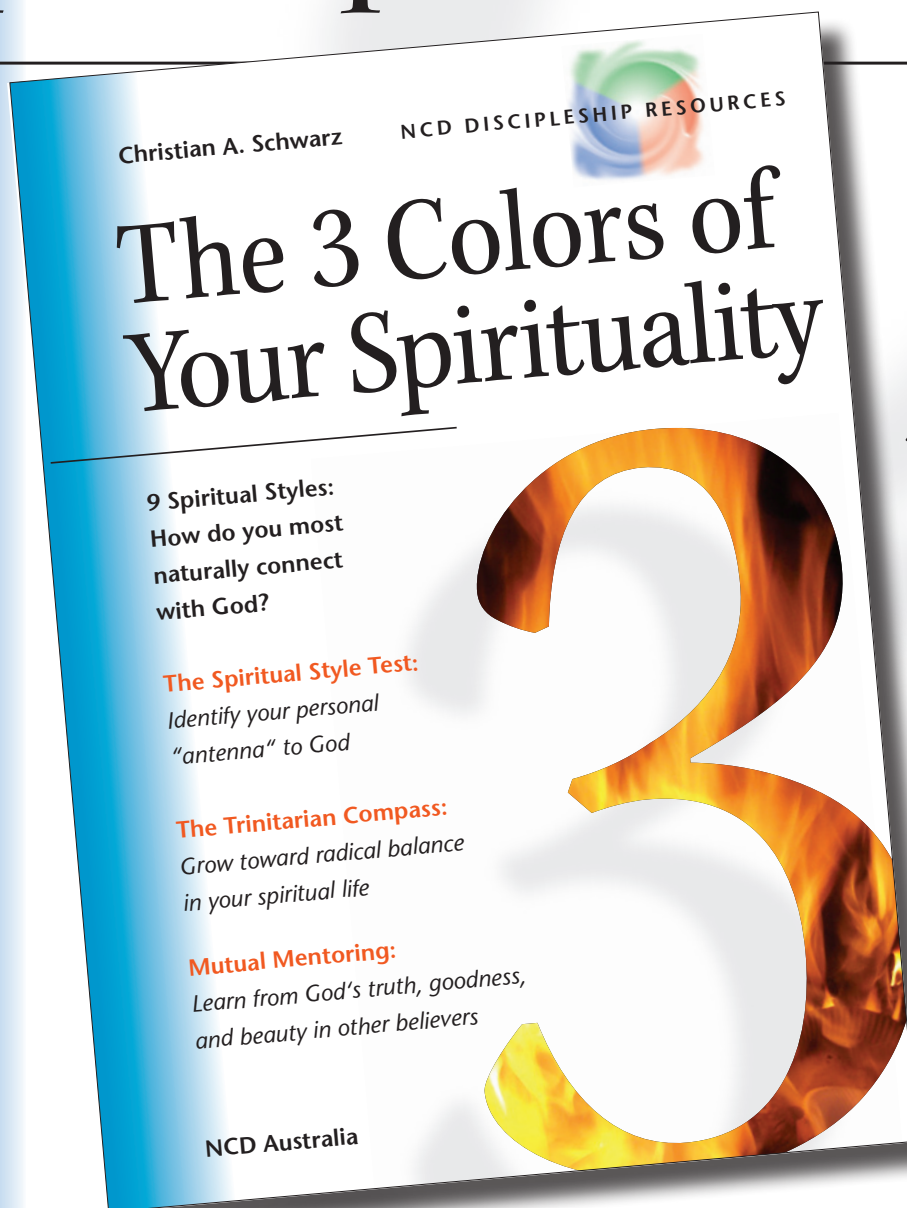


Worship preparation prompts for...



Seeing and celebrating what God is already doing in your church

church-wide pilgrimage

A guide for your worship team

Introduction

Releasing what God is already doing

Your church is about to embark on a church-wide pilgrimage associated with the book, *The 3 Colors of Your Spirituality*, and on toward a fuller experience of God's truth, goodness and beauty. The members of your church will take the *Spiritual Style Test* to determine the way in which they each most naturally connect with God and will also come together once a week for a series of themed services at the usual worship time/s. Optionally, your church may also include weekly small group discussions and readings through *The 3 Colors of Your Spirituality* book (check with your pastor to see if this will be happening).

These worship preparation prompts are intended to help you shape those worship services to best harness what will already be happening in your church as people discover their unique spiritual styles. The pilgrimage outline is as follows (optional small group components are marked with a *):

***Week 0: Dedication Gatherings**

- *Small groups (equipping small group members with books, reading guides, etc.)

Week 1: Pursuing the true, the good, and the beautiful

- Worship service (*atmosphere of openness*)
- *followed by small group gatherings during the week

Week 2: Discovering where darkness has no power

- Worship service (*atmosphere of repentance*)
- *followed by small group gatherings during the week

Week 3: Your divine connection

- Worship service (*atmosphere of anticipation*)
- *followed by small group gatherings during the week

Week 4: Attaining to the fullness of Christ

- Worship service (*atmosphere of commitment*)
- *followed by small group gatherings during the week

Week 5: Transforming your world

- Worship service (*atmosphere of celebration*)
- *followed by final small group gatherings during the week

Each of the weekly worship preparation prompts consist of the following types of suggestions that are directly related to topics within the book related to the given week of the *Reading Guide*. You will find it helpful to visit the *Church-wide Pilgrimage* tab on the web site (see address to the left) to download a copy of the *Reading Guide* to research the specific chapters of the book related to each week of the pilgrimage.

Atmosphere: This relates to the suggested mood surrounding your worship service.

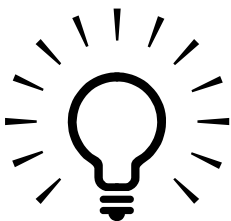
Key words/phrases: These are concepts from the relevant chapters in the book. Some will be useful to consider or incorporate in your worship service (e.g. songs, sermon, etc.).

Scripture suggestions: Some of these suggestions are referred to within the *Reading Guide* and others relate more broadly to the weekly theme. They may be of use in a Scripture reading, sermon preparation, or as part of the worship leader's presentation during worship.

Guide questions: These are some prompts to help you in developing an honest natural worship service and harnessing what God is already doing around you.

In the *Church-wide Pilgrimage* tab on the web site, you will find all of the artwork from the book in case you would like to make use of particular images in your worship services.

It may be that your pastor has sought to empower a *Scribe Team* to act as reporters during your church's pilgrimage (see the *Church-wide Pilgrimage* tab on the web site for details). If so, this team could be a great resource for you to draw upon as, through your worship services, you seek to release what God is already doing in your church. Ask your pastor about it.



If you haven't received it already, be sure to ask your pastor for a copy of *The 3 Colors of Your Spirituality* book to assist with your preparation.



Visit the "Church-wide Pilgrimage" tab on the web site for an overview of the whole pilgrimage and access to various downloads you may find helpful.

Worship preparation prompts

Week 1: Pursuing the true, the good, and the beautiful (pages 11-35 in *The 3 Colors of Your Spirituality*)

Week 1 begins exploring what it means to know God's truth, goodness, and beauty. It is a challenge to consider what your picture is of a "spiritual person." This week also looks at what fruitful spiritual passion really is, as well as looking at the very different, and yet equally valid, ways people connect with God.

It would be of great value if during this week's service, a few of the key influencers in the church could in some way communicate to the congregation their personal sense of expectation about the church-wide pilgrimage ahead.

Atmosphere: In this first week, nurturing an atmosphere of **openness** would be most consistent with the topics.

Key words/phrases: (referred to in the Week 1 readings)

- God's truth, goodness, and beauty
- Spiritual passion
- What is a "spiritual" person?
- Spiritual style: your antenna to God
- Radical balance

Scripture suggestions:

- I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. - Ephesians 3:16-21
- I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. - Ephesians 1:17-19
- You do not have because you do not ask God. - James 4:2
- "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard." - Psalm 19:1-3
- "The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." - Romans 1:18-20

Guide questions:

- How can you build the sense of anticipation for worship prior to the formal start time this week and encourage the honouring of God and blessing of the body for an extended time after the formal finish?
- What symbols of truth, goodness and beauty could you use during this week's worship service? (e.g. a large display Bible, a footwashing bowl and towel, and a floral display)
- What recent new life do you see within the life of the church that should be drawn in and harnessed in the worship service to bless God and build up the church?
- What has this week's preacher gained personally from the readings and discussions that can be shared to encourage and inspire the congregation?
- How can you actively encourage every member of the congregation to prepare themselves to bring an offering of worship this week in tune with their gifts and passions?



In shaping your worship services each week of the pilgrimage, creatively consider how the key words and phrases could be understood and expressed in your unique congregation.



Visit the web site to download artwork associated with The 3 Colors of Your Spirituality

Worship preparation prompts

Week 2: *Discovering where darkness has no power*

(pages 36-63 in *The 3 Colors of Your Spirituality*)

Week 2 shows the church how connecting with God through your lowest or opposite spiritual styles can illuminate darkness you sense within you and take away its power. It looks at what may have shaped their spirituality so far and what the pursuit of spiritual maturity looks like in practical terms. The topic of spiritual motivation also features this week, as they consider what brings meaning to their life and how it relates to their personal spiritual style. This then leads to an introduction of the topic of spiritual mentors and how they can guide you toward a fuller experience of God. All of this begins with familiar words from Jesus (Mark 12:30 below) that summarize and underpin the rest of this week of the pilgrimage.

The use of symbols of light and darkness would be helpful this week in emphasizing a repentant attitude of turning from dark to light.

Atmosphere: Nurturing an atmosphere of **repentance** would be most consistent with the topics of this week.

Key words/phrases: (referred to in the Week 2 readings)

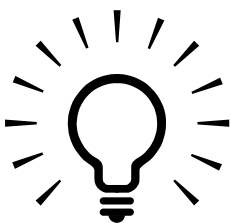
- The Jesus rule
- Spiritual childhood, adolescence, maturity
- Sin
- True, Good, Beautiful
- Knowledge, Action, Experience

Scripture suggestions:

- "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." - Mark 12:30
- The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day. - Proverbs 4:18
- "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." - Matthew 7:3-5
- "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth." - Revelation 3:15-16
- "This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all." - 1 John 1:5
- "None of you lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl. Instead you put it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light. Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are healthy, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are unhealthy, your body also is full of darkness. See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness. Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it dark, it will be just as full of light as when a lamp shines its light on you." - Luke 11:33-36

Guide questions:

- How can you create an atmosphere of repentance that will be apparent to worshippers as they arrive and begin to worship?
- Is there someone in the congregation that could share their story of turning from the dark to light and how that has changed their life?
- What stories emerging from the church-wide pilgrimage could be incorporated in the worship service this week?
- What has this week's preacher gained personally from the readings and discussions that can be shared to encourage and inspire the congregation?
- How can you actively encourage every member of the congregation to prepare themselves to bring an offering of worship this week in tune with their gifts and passions?



Consider somehow communicating with the church a day or two before worship to strongly encourage them to prepare themselves for the service in a specific practical way (e.g. get a good sleep the night before, arrive a little early, listen to some worship music or pray before arriving, etc.)



Visit the web site to download artwork associated with *The 3 Colors of Your Spirituality*

Worship preparation prompts

Week 3: Your divine connection

(pages 75-152 in *The 3 Colors of Your Spirituality* - participants only read a selection from within these pages depending on their personal Spiritual Style test results)

In Week 3, the main focus is on learning more about your native spiritual style—your strongest divine connection—and the need to continue growing in it. The secondary focus is on your lowest or opposite styles and their place in your expanding spiritual experience. All of this is likely to release considerable energy in your church over the coming weeks that you should look to harness in the worship services.

There is an opportunity to have a “grand unveiling” of your church’s overall *Spiritual Style Group Profile* in this week’s worship service. Ask your pastor what the plans are regarding this church-wide spiritual style profile.

Atmosphere: Nurturing an atmosphere of **anticipation** would be most consistent with the topics of this week.

Key words/phrases: (referred to in the Week 3 readings)

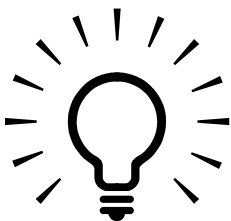
- Discovering your native spiritual style - your personal antenna to God
- Your God-given uniqueness
- Spiritual formation
- Sensory, Rational, Doctrinal, Scripture-driven, Sharing, Ascetic, Enthusiastic, Mystical, Sacramental

Scripture suggestions:

- For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you. Psalm 139:13-18 (All of Psalm 139 could be used)
- The key verses for your church’s native style and its lowest style could be used. These can be found on page 28 of *The 3 Colors of Your Spirituality*.

Guide questions:

- How will you affirm and thank those present in your worship service whose personal native style is the same as your church’s native style and have therefore helped to make that particular “antenna to God” strong in your church?
- How will you encourage those present in your worship service who have some of your church’s *opposite* styles to see the importance of their experience of God to the overall life, growth and passion of your church?
- Which key influencers or relatively unknown people in your church have an encouraging story to tell about the discovery of their native spiritual style?
- Would it be helpful to print and display the spiritual style images or names (ie. the images on pages 87, 95, 101, 109, 115, 123, 129, 137, 143 of *The 3 Colors of Your Spirituality*) or any other artwork from the book around your worship sanctuary this week? (see the web site for these downloads)
- What stories emerging from the church-wide pilgrimage could be incorporated in the worship service this week?
- What has this week’s preacher gained personally from the readings, discussions or from their own spiritual style profile that can be shared to encourage and inspire the congregation?



In addition to your personal readings this week, read pages 176-177 of *The 3 Colors of Your Spirituality* so as to be sensitive to the dynamics associated with your church’s spiritual style test results.



Visit the web site to download artwork associated with *The 3 Colors of Your Spirituality*

Worship preparation prompts

Week 4: Attaining to the fullness of Christ

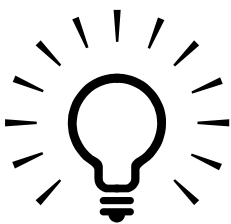
(pages 153-172 in *The 3 Colors of Your Spirituality*)

Spiritual training is the center point of Week 4. If your congregation in any way sees the disciplined life of Jesus as one to be imitated, then training will at some stage need to be on the agenda. Even if they have only just discovered their native spiritual styles and are embracing them for the first time, exploring growth in their opposite styles this week will give them a preview of what is yet to come when they are ready to pursue a radically balanced relationship with God.

Atmosphere: Nurturing an atmosphere of **commitment** would be most consistent with the topics of this week.

Key words/phrases: (referred to in the Week 4 readings)

- Exploring your opposite pole
- Don't worship your spiritual style
- "Dark night of the soul"
- Mountain tops and valleys
- Spiritual training
- Rituals
- 28 days of discipline



Be sure to speak with various key influencers in your church prior to this week's service to find out what their personal response is to what they have learnt on the pilgrimage so far and whether they would be prepared to share it with the congregation in some form.

Scripture suggestions:

- Teach me, LORD, the way of your decrees, that I may follow it to the end. Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart. Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight. Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain. Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word. My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the very end. The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. - Psalm 119:33-37, 112, 130
- I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you. - Psalm 32:8-9
- Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. - 1 Corinthians 3:1-2
- "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize." - 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
- "Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come." - 1 Timothy 4:7-8
- We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me. - Colossians 1:28-29

Guide questions:

- What images or metaphors of spiritual or physical training would speak to your congregation and should be used in some way this week to reinforce the message?
- Which key influencers in your church would be willing to share about their own intentions for spiritual growth in order to motivate and inspire the congregation?
- What stories emerging from the church-wide pilgrimage could be incorporated in the worship service this week?
- What has this week's preacher gained personally from the readings and discussions that can be shared to encourage and inspire the congregation?



Visit the web site to download artwork associated with *The 3 Colors of Your Spirituality*

Worship preparation prompts

Week 5: Transforming your world

(pages 173-192 in *The 3 Colors of Your Spirituality*)

Week 5 opens the door to how spiritual growth in the life of your congregation can lead to transformation of the world around you. It is a call for the realistic renewal of radically balanced Christianity that will bring an entirely new level of hope and healing to the world.

This final worship service of your church-wide pilgrimage should be a time of celebration and praise, thanking God for his grace in providing many different ways in which to know him more fully. It should also be a time for sharing a vision of what God could do through your church if each person in the congregation embraced the opportunity to more fully experience God.

Atmosphere: In this final week, nurturing an atmosphere of **celebration** would be most consistent with the topics.

Key words/phrases: (referred to in the Week 5 readings)

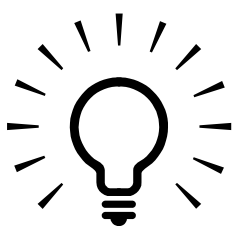
- Spiritual maturity
- Mutual mentoring
- Change is possible
- The Kingdom of God manifests itself: in a changed society; in heaven; within you
- The Trinitarian Monastery

Scripture suggestions:

- "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." - Mark 12:30
- Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. - 2 Corinthians 3:17-18
- In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. - Matthew 5:16
- Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I tell you, it is hard for the rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With human beings this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." - Matthew 19:23-26

Guide questions:

- How will you publicly promote the "28 days of discipline" and "Mutual Mentoring" processes freely available on the web site as a means of helping your congregation keep their momentum for spiritual growth beyond the church-wide pilgrimage (see the web site for details)?
- Which key influencers in your church would be willing to share about their own intentions for spiritual growth in order to motivate and inspire the congregation?
- What stories emerging from the church-wide pilgrimage could be incorporated in the worship service this week?
- What has this week's preacher gained personally from the readings and discussions that can be shared to encourage and set an example for the congregation?
- Who should be affirmed during the worship service for their leadership and ministry in helping your church's pilgrimage to be a success? How will this be done?
- What will be said publicly to the church about the leadership's intentions regarding the next stage of church-wide growth and development in order to harness the energy that the pilgrimage has released? Who will present it and when will it be presented?



Be sure to speak with various key influencers in your church prior to this week's service to find out what their personal response is to what they have learnt on the pilgrimage so far and whether they would be prepared to share it with the congregation in some form.



Visit the web site to download artwork associated with The 3 Colors of Your Spirituality