

Theme name, a title for God.

Definition statement. Serves as foundation of Worship Planning discussion.

GOD WHO SPEAKS

It is God's good nature to reveal more than to veil. He speaks through creation, His Word, and His Son.

SCRIPTURE*

Genesis 1
1 Samuel 3:11-14
Psalms 19
Psalm 19:1-6
Psalm 19:7-11
"Thus saith the Lord."
Isaiah 40:6-9
John 1:1-18
2 Timothy 3:10-17
Hebrews 1:1-5
2 Peter 1:16-21
Revelation 22:18-21

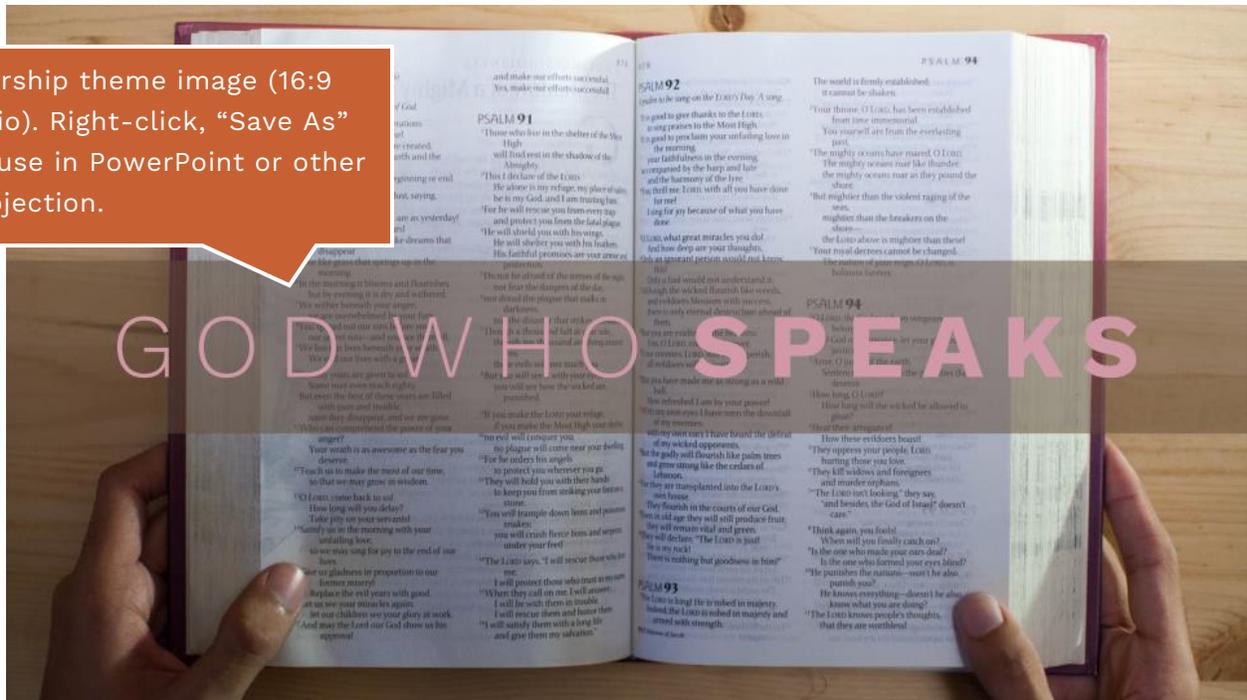
Key Bible passages on this theme in canonical order.

MUSIC†

Be Thou My Vision[‡]
Break Thou the Bread of Life
How Firm a Foundation
How Firm a Foundation (Forrest) SATB
How Majestic Is Thy Name
O Great God
O Word of God Incarnate
Open Our Eyes, Lord
Show Us Christ
Speak, O Lord
Standing on the Promises
The Bible Stands (Lopez) SATB
Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Congregational songs and published vocal music (bold). Assumes traditional worship but includes modern hymns.

Worship theme image (16:9 ratio). Right-click, "Save As" to use in PowerPoint or other projection.



The bolded Scripture passages are preparatory, posted in previous week's bulletin and on social media.

* Daily preparatory readings shown in bold.

† Published choral and vocal music shown in bold.

‡ "...and Thou my true Word."

PRESENTING & PROMOTING THIS THEME

History of our approaches to this theme in worship. (We freely reuse and add.)

APOLOGETICS

Begin with *an apologetics approach*. Many believe God is a force, but He is a person. Many who believe *Approach title*. He is absent or silent to the human race. But He has spoken. Use Psalm 19 as the progression of God's speech. First, we can gather much from God's nature from creation (Romans 1 backs this up). We should not dismiss the personal communicative power of God's creation. But His special revelation is even better! By it we can know what He is like. And as we read, we discover that He is inclined toward a relationship with us and is willing to humble Himself and die just to restore relationship with us. Praise the Lord that He is a God who has not remained silent. He speaks!

Brief summary of theme approach. If theme introducer is extemporaneous, these are his/her speaking notes.

All belief systems begin with certain presuppositions—belief in God and faith. The same is true of authentic Christianity, which holds two basic presuppositions: 1) God exists, and 2) God has revealed Himself.

A person can believe the first presupposition, that God exists, and still be far from the Christian concept of God. He might believe God is a force. Or instead, he may believe that God is a person, but one who is practically absent or silent to the human race.

It is in the second presupposition that Christianity distinguishes itself. For Christianity not only believes God exists, but it also teaches that God has revealed Himself. He has spoken! Psalm 19 shows the progression of God's speech. First, we can gather much about God's nature from seeing creation—what theologians have called general revelation. The last half of Romans 1 makes this same case. We should not dismiss the personal communicative power of God's creation. But it gets even better, according to Psalm 19. God has revealed Himself through special revelation that is found in His written Word—the Bible. He speaks to us using words. And by them, we know even better what He is like.

This truth is an unspeakable grace to the human race, for as we read what God has revealed about Himself, we discover that He is inclined toward a relationship with us and is willing to humble Himself and die just to restore the relationship with us that was previously broken. When He speaks, He gives life. Praise the Lord that He is a God who is not silent. He speaks!

(James) If theme is pre-written and delivered (rather than extemporaneous), we record it here for future use.

CREATION SPEAKS

Walk through Psalm 19 with pictures of the sun, planets, etc. in the background on the screen. Creation demands a worship response, and we have even more knowledge than the psalmist to which we should respond. God has revealed Himself not only in the speech of Creation but also in His written Word, the Bible, and through the Incarnate Word, Jesus. Our response must be to pray with the psalmist's words and thoughts that are acceptable to God.

If a theme approach is especially tied to particular Scriptures, we include them in bold, here.

SUPERIOR WORDS

Psalm 19; 2 Peter 1:16-21 | God has given us an amazing gift: His Written Word. He has chosen to speak to us through His very specific words, not just the vague (though beautiful) illustrations in nature. He communicates directly, clearly, in language! This is the ultimate and clearest form of communication, and it's what God has given to us in the Bible. Use illustration of Noah Webster's translation.

Promotional Post: It's true that images have power to communicate a high quantity of information. But if you want specific clarity of understanding, there is nothing like the written word. This is exactly the form in which God has revealed Himself to us through His Word.

We worship Him this week as the God Who Speaks. These daily readings for the week can help you prepare to worship Him Sunday: [Insert preparatory Scripture readings.]

We started recently promoting our worship themes ahead of time on social media. That post wording is approach-specific and recorded here in a shaded box.



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