Planning a Worship Season

A Fillable Guide for Hope Avenue Teams

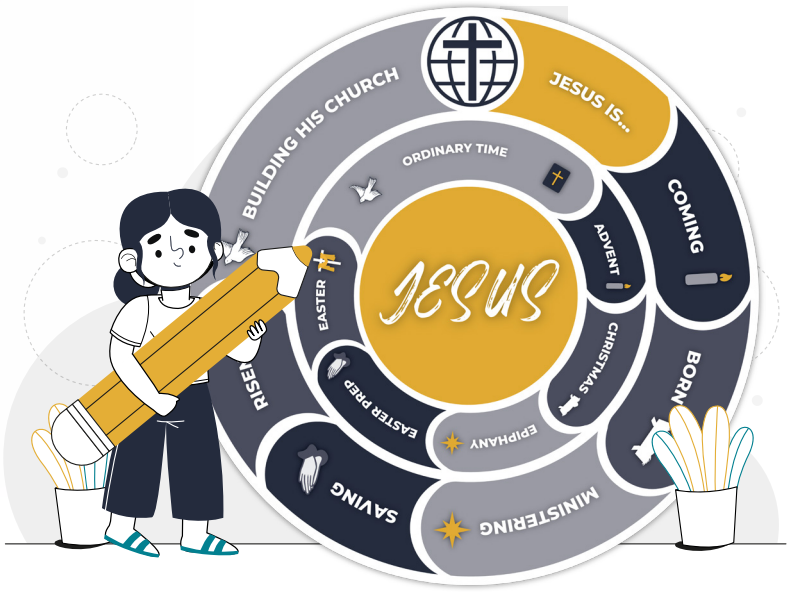
GCI CHURCH HACKS

WHY PLAN SEASONALLY

The worship calendar helps us rehearse the story of Jesus throughout the year. Seasonal planning allows the pastor and Hope Avenue team to look beyond individual Sundays and develop a connected worship experience shaped by Scripture, the life of Christ, and the needs of the congregation.

Planning together also creates more opportunities for local voices, meaningful worship practices, and participation across the Avenues.

- Keeps Jesus at the center
- Connects the pericopes across the season
- Encourages prayerful collaboration
- Creates space for local voices and gifts
- Helps the congregation participate in the meaning of the season



1. BEGIN WITH JESUS

Worship season

Season dates

Who is Jesus revealed to be in this season?

What part of Jesus' story are we rehearsing?

What response might the Spirit be inviting from our congregation?

For an overview of the season and additional support, visit GCI Worship Resources.

2. ATTEND TO YOUR CONTEXT

Prayerfully notice the people and place God has entrusted to your congregation.

What is happening in the life of our congregation?

What are people in our neighborhood carrying or experiencing?

Who should we especially consider as we plan this season?

3. DEVELOP THE SEASONAL EMPHASIS

Seasonal emphasis or sermon series

Central message

Key phrase or invitation

By the end of this season, what do we hope people understand, experience, or practice?

4. PLAN THE SEASON

Use the weekly pericopes and your shared seasonal emphasis to develop a connected experience across the season.

Date and worship day	Pericope	Sermon focus or title	Congregational response or practice	Local voices or special elements
				
				
				
				
				
				

For longer seasons, continue on an additional copy of this page.

5. SHAPE THE WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Which worship practices will help the congregation participate in the season?

Examples: prayer, silence, confession, lament, Communion, testimony, generosity, Scripture reading, or another embodied response.

How might music, Scripture, visuals, or the worship environment reflect the season?

Where can members contribute their voices, gifts, or stories?

How will guests understand what is happening and be invited to participate?

What consistent element could connect the season from week to week?

6. CONNECT ACROSS THE AVENUES

Avenue	Planning question	Our next step
Faith	How might the season continue through discipleship and formation?	
Hope	How will the worship gathering embody the season?	
Love	How might the season shape hospitality and neighborhood engagement?	

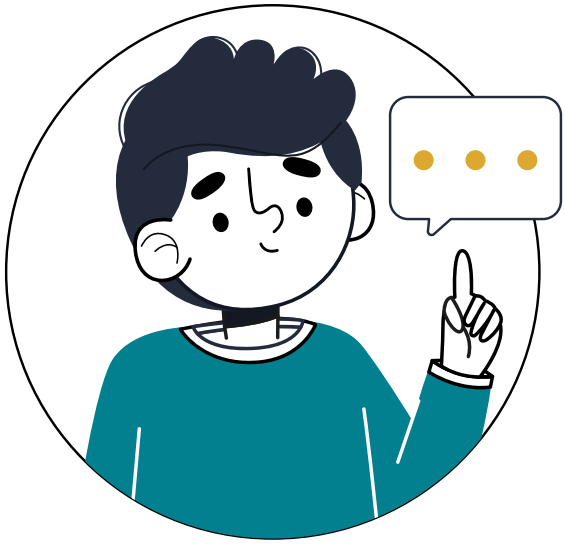
7. IDENTIFY NEXT STEPS

Action	Planning question	Due date	Our next step

THE ESSENTIALS

Seasonal planning is not about making every element match a theme. It is about helping the congregation encounter and respond to Jesus through the movement of the worship calendar.

Begin with prayer, attend to the pericopes and your context, and make room for the gifts and voices of the congregation. Start with one season, reflect together, and build from there.



AFTER THE SEASON

Where did we notice the Spirit at work?

What helped people participate more fully?

What should we continue or adjust next time?

Want to Go Deeper

- *GCI Worship Resources: Seasonal explanations, worship patterns, liturgies, and additional resources*
- *The Church's Worship Calendar: A theological overview of the annual worship calendar*
- *GCI RCL Resources: Sermon preparation resources for the weekly pericopes*