



WOR 301 - 3 credits

## Worshipping with Sign Language

### Description

This course is designed to deepen your worship experience by encouraging you to worship the Lord wholeheartedly, involving spirit, soul, and body. By learning the “Sign English” interpretation of fifty popular worship songs used in the Church today, you will begin to focus yourself to a greater extent on the words of the songs. The symbolism of the signs will assist you in visualizing the concept being sung, and the result will be more complete involvement in worship of our Lord and King. (NOTE: Access to a VCR and a video camera is required for this course.)

### Objectives

- You will both speak and read the manual alphabet.
- You will know the “Sign English” interpretation of at least 50 worship songs.
- You will recognize the need to focus your entire being on the Lord during worship, using every ability available to give homage to the King. Specifically, you will recognize the need to focus the eyes of your heart upon the Lord during worship and involve your body in the worship experience.
- Your worship experience will be deepened, expanded, and enhanced as a result of worshipping with sign language.

### Texts

*The Joy of Signing* by Lottie Riekehof

*Worshipping with Sign Language* songbook and videos by Patti Virkler

### Course Requirements

1. Learn to sign the manual alphabet fluently with both hands. Speed is not important, but fluency is. You will submit a video of yourself signing the alphabet and selected sentences to your instructor for grading.

2. Learn the Sign English interpretation of the fifty songs taught on the videos. The format for each song on the video is as follows:

- Each new sign is explained and demonstrated.
- The song is slowly spoken with signing.
- The song is sung three times, starting slowly and progressing toward near-normal speed.

For most songs, this will not be enough practice to become fluent. Therefore, it is your responsibility to rewind the tape and keep practicing until you know you are totally familiar with the song. (Beside the name of each assigned song is the counter number at which that song may be found. For example, to find “Glory to the Lamb” at 2-1012, you would rewind tape two to the beginning, reset the counter to “0”, then fast forward until the counter shows “1012”.)

The songbook was designed to give you room to make your own notes about signs for the words right in the book. The better notes you take, the more quickly you will learn the songs and signs.

It will be helpful for you to have frequent feedback. If possible, have a friend or family member watch you and the tape to look for any obvious mistakes. Watching yourself in the mirror is also helpful. You will submit a video of yourself signing selected songs to your instructor for grading.

Your ability to sign the demonstrated songs and fingerspell fluently will count for 25% of your grade.

3. Learn the Sign English interpretation for a song of your own choosing. This may be a worship song which your local church sings regularly which is not included in the course, a favorite song from a tape such as Hosanna! Integrity, or a song by a favorite artist. If you need help, feel free to contact your instructor. You will submit a video of yourself signing this song to your instructor for grading. This will count for 25% of your grade.
4. Earn at least a “B” on all tests. Each test will count for 25% of your grade, and will include Scripture memorization.

---

## Standards for Grading Assignments

As indicated below, “C” or 2.0 level work is considered average. **Leaders are not average people.** You are therefore expected (required) to put forth the effort necessary to demonstrate at least “B” (3.0) level work or higher on all assignments which you submit. Any which do not will be returned to you with input from your instructor on how you can raise your grade to the expected level. **A course grade will not be given until your assignments demonstrate that you have understood the material presented in the course and allowed your life to be transformed by the Spirit and the Word studied** — the requirements for attaining a “B”.

Your individual assignments (notebooks, tests, reports) will be graded according to the following standards. These grades will be averaged together to determine your course grade. Remember, CLU is training leaders and leaders are above-average people. Your work will reflect that.

- “D”
  - Indicates barely passing work that is inferior to the average both in quantity and in quality.
  - Manifests a lack of initiative or sense of responsibility or both.
- “C”
  - Average work; either steady work of an acceptable quality, or work of a high quality which is uneven, irregular or fragmentary.
  - May be mechanically or outwardly correct but shows little reflection upon or personal assimilation of the material.
- “B”
  - Intelligently has fulfilled the requirements of this course.
  - Understands the subject matter presented and has applied it to his life in a limited manner but has not really made the truths his own.
- “A”
  - Grasped the material with thoroughness, industry and correctness of detail.
  - Made the material his own by thinking about it and integrating it, using originality, natural ability, and insight.



---

## WOR 301 Worshipping with Sign Language

# Course Schedule

---

### Lesson One

Memorize Isaiah 6:1-3.

View the introductory teaching session on the video, which gives a short overview of the course, a brief history of sign language, and a few important principles which are integral to proper signing. Take notes in the *Worshipping with Sign Language Song Book*, pages iii through v, as you listen.

Read pages 7 through 15 of *The Joy of Signing*.

View the instruction on the manual alphabet on the tape (1-1345). The instructor leads you through the alphabet only two times on the video. Feel free to rewind this segment as many times as necessary, until you are comfortable forming the signs with both hands. The diagrams on page 16 of the text will also be helpful to you. Practice for five to ten minutes now and every day until you can fluently form the entire alphabet. Speed is not an issue. Clarity and fluency are. Practice in front of a mirror, comparing your hand formations to the diagrams. Ask a friend to evaluate you.

Learn the following songs from the video:

Holy Is the Lord of Hosts (1-1600)

Hosanna (1-2313)

I Praise Your Name (1-2755)

To Thee We Ascribe Glory (1-3125)

Each individual song segment is approximately five minutes. Do not move on to a new song until you are fully comfortable with the last one. The order of the songs was carefully designed to build your vocabulary gradually, with each song building on the last. The firmer your grasp on the early songs, the easier it will be for you to learn the more difficult later ones.

If you are doing each lesson all at once (rather than spread out through the week), it will be helpful to you to run through all of the new songs you have learned one more time before you end each lesson.

---

### Lesson Two

Review the manual alphabet and all of the songs you learned in the first lesson.

Learn the following songs from the video:

We Give the Glory to You (1-3380)

Let There Be Glory and Honor and Praises (1-3620)

See His Glory (1-3770)

Blessed Be the Name of the Lord (1-4033)

Glorify Thy Name (1-4295)

Alleluia (1-4511)

Practice fingerspelling the sentence used in typing practice which includes all of the letters of the alphabet: "The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dogs." It is important to begin using the letters in words and sentences. It does little good to be able to quickly run through the alphabet, since nothing is really communicated by doing so.

Review your new songs.