

A Sacrifice of Praise

TALK IT OVER

Week Three – Worship in His Presence

Think back through the message. What sticks out to you?

Key Scriptures:

Hebrews 13:15 - Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to his name.

Psalms 95:2 - Let us come to him with thanksgiving. Let us sing psalms of praise to him.

Ephesians 3:12 - Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence.

Matthew 18:20 - For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them."

2 Chronicles 5:13-14 - The trumpeters and singers performed together in unison to praise and give thanks to the Lord. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals, and other instruments, they raised their voices and praised the Lord with these words: "He is good! His faithful love endures forever!" At that moment a thick cloud filled the Temple of the Lord. 14 The priests could not continue their service because of the cloud, for the glorious presence of the Lord filled the Temple of God.

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Have you ever had a life changing moment where the presence of God changed your life? What happened?
- Pastor Lane and Cole gave us five examples of what can happen when we get into the presence of God. Share about a time where you have experienced one of these or another change that happened when you were in the presence of God.

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- Pastor Lane said in the message there are three things the Bible teaches about the presence of God: He is everywhere, He is in us, and we can have a special encounter with His presence. What do each of those truths teach us about how to worship?
- Have you ever thought about what it would be like to be completely cut off from the presence of God, or even to not be able to access the presence of God because it was closed off to you? What does that stir up in you when you think about it?

Start sharing. Choose questions that create openness.

- Have you ever held back in worship because you felt like you weren't good enough or you were feeling the weight of your sin? What should you do when you are feeling like that?
- 2 Chronicles 5 tells the story of Solomon dedicating the temple to the Lord. Verses 13-14 describe the presence of God coming like a thick cloud and filling the temple in response to worship. What do you think that was like? What does that teach us about the presence of God when we worship?

Start praying. Be bold and pray specifically.

- God, we so often take for granted the reality of your presence in our lives. We are so grateful that you have removed the barrier to your presence and have invited us to experience the reality of your presence. Help us worship with passion and thankfulness for all you have done for us. Amen

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Determine to worship God with passion, regardless of how you feel or any guilt and shame you may be dealing with.
- Decide to prioritize gathering with other believers to worship God together so you can experience the manifest presence of God with your brothers and sisters in Christ. If you need to join online, try not to do it alone... watch and worship with someone else if possible.