

A Sacrifice of Praise

TALK IT OVER

Week One – The Basics of Worship

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.

*Psalm 35:9-10: Then I will rejoice in the Lord. I will be glad because he rescues me.
10 With every bone in my body I will praise him...*

Psalm 147:1 - Praise the Lord! How good to sing praises to our God! How delightful and how fitting!

1 Tim 2:8 - In every place of worship, I want men to pray with holy hands lifted up to God, free from anger and controversy.

1 Corinthians 14:24-25 - But if all of you are prophesying, and unbelievers or people who don't understand these things come into your meeting, they will be convicted of sin and judged by what you say.²⁵ As they listen, their secret thoughts will be exposed, and they will fall to their knees and worship God, declaring, "God is truly here among you."

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Do you think of yourself as a passionate worshipper or a quiet reserved worshipper? Why do you think you are that way?
- Pastor Lane said in the message that reserved worship is a learned cultural behavior, not a biblical behavior. Do you agree? Why or why not?

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- How does the way we worship affect others around us? How does the way other people worship affect you?
- Have you been in a service where someone's passionate worship was more distracting than encouraging? What happened as a result? How can we encourage that passion while guarding against the distraction?

Start sharing. Choose questions that create openness.

- Have you ever come to church and just not felt like worshipping but after you started, it just became natural? What happened to make you change?
- At the end of the message Pastor Lane challenged us not to get out of our comfort zone in worship but get a new comfort zone. What does that mean to you? How can we do that?
- Read 1 Corinthians 14:24-25. Paul says our worship (declaring the truth of God – prophesy) can convince people that Jesus is real and with us. What does your worship declare to people about Jesus? What about our church as a whole?

Start praying. Be bold, and pray specifically.

- God, help me to learn a new comfort zone in regard to worship. Help me to worship passionately and without worrying about what others may think of me. Help my worship declare to the world that you are alive and with us. Amen.

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

- Think about things you were taught or things that were said to you that have stifled your passion to worship God. Take those things to God in prayer and ask Him to bring you freedom from those things.
- Pick one thing you can do to be more passionate about worship (smile while you sing, clap your hands, raise your hands, dance, etc.) and decide to do it next time we gather.