



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Everyday / Week 5

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

We can worship God with how we live every day.

SCRIPTURE

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving, and extol him with music and song (Psalm 95:1-2 NIV).

Let all that I am praise the Lord; with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name. Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I never forget the good things he does for me (Psalm 103:1-2 NLT).

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship (Romans 12:1 NIV).

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering (Romans 12:1 Message).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To expand students' view of worship and to encourage them to look for ways to be grateful and worship God in their everyday lives.

THINK ABOUT THIS

As we focus on the connection between worship and gratitude, keep in mind the specific circumstances and situations represented in your circle. You may have students for whom gratitude is hard to come by because of what they've been through in the past or what they're walking through right now. Be sensitive to those perspectives and circumstances. We're not asking students to pretend to be happy, grateful, or okay when they're just not. Rather, we want them to see worship as a way to connect with God, not just when things are going as planned but when life is pressing them in ways they didn't expect, too. We want them to see worship as a part of their everyday lives in every season of life—the good and the bad! For the ones who are able to easily connect with God in worship and gratitude, that's great! And for the ones who find this a struggle for any reason, remind them that part of connecting with God is honesty. Being honest with God about where they are and what they're experiencing can connect them back to God in worship in a new, deeper way.

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the content as needed, and don't feel like you need to complete everything listed.

DURING GROUP

DISCUSS THIS

1. What song do you listen to when you're...
 - a. Excited?
 - b. About to do something challenging?
 - c. Heartbroken?
 - d. Happy?

- e. With your friends?
- 2. How can music play a part in your relationship with God?
- 3. In your own words, how would you define “worship”?
- 4. In what ways might your view of worship be limited?
- 5. What do worship and gratitude have to do with one another?
- 6. What might change about your relationship with God if you made worship a part of your everyday life?
- 7. What are some things you’re grateful for right now?
- 8. How can appreciating those things connect you to God in worship?

TRY THIS

Start your own practice of gratitude! Take time to notice things around you that you can be grateful for, and worship God when you do. You can even share a few of the things on your list with your students to encourage them in the same practice this week!
