

Here's a small group guide based on the sermon transcription:

Small Group Guide: Worship - Our Reasonable Service

Opening Question:

What comes to mind when you hear the word "worship"? How has your understanding of worship changed over time?

Key Takeaways:

1. Everyone worships something, consciously or unconsciously.
2. Anything in creation can become an idol - a created thing we turn into an ultimate thing.
3. What we live for, die for, and give our attention to reveals what we worship.
4. Worshiping anything other than God leads to losing what we worship, becoming enslaved to it, and experiencing disorder in our lives.
5. God is both jealous and compassionate, fighting for our relationship with Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon states, "Worship is consciously or unconsciously responding to something you deem valuable enough to live for." How does this definition challenge or expand your view of worship?
2. Reflect on the quote by David Foster Wallace. How have you observed the truth of his statement that "everybody worships" in your own life or in society?
3. The sermon mentions that we can discern our idols by what we live for and what we give our attention to. What potential idols do you recognize in your own life based on these criteria?
4. How does the concept of God being both jealous and compassionate impact your understanding of His character and His relationship with us?

5. The sermon discusses how worshiping created things instead of the Creator leads to disorder in our lives. Can you share an example of how you've experienced this in your own life or observed it in others?
6. How does Jesus' life and sacrifice demonstrate God's jealousy and compassion for us?

Practical Applications:

1. Screen Time Audit: Review your phone's screen time data this week. What does it reveal about where you're giving your attention? How might you adjust your habits to prioritize worship of God?
2. Idol Inventory: Take some time to prayerfully consider what you might be worshiping other than God. Write down any idols you identify and commit to discussing them with a trusted friend or mentor.
3. Attention Redirect: Choose one area of your life where you've been giving undue attention to a created thing. Brainstorm ways to redirect that attention towards God this week.
4. Compassion Challenge: Reflect on how God's compassion has been evident in your life. Choose one way to extend that same compassion to someone else this week, remembering that true compassion "never forgets a face."
5. Daily Worship Check: For the next week, set a daily reminder to ask yourself, "What am I worshiping today?" Use this as a prompt to realign your heart towards God.

Closing Prayer:

Lord, help us to diligently watch ourselves and recognize the idols in our lives. Thank you for your jealous love that pursues us and your compassion that never abandons us. Guide us to worship You alone, finding true life and proper order in our relationship with You. In Jesus' name, Amen.a