

8-17-2025

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

Small Group Guide: You Become What You Worship

Opening Prayer: Start the session with a prayer, asking God to guide your discussion and help everyone apply the teachings to their lives.

Key Takeaways:

1. We become like what we worship - either like our idols or like our Creator.
2. Tolerance has become a defining virtue of our age, but it falls short of true love and compassion.
3. Worship directed to God helps us live out our new life in Christ while still in a fallen world.
4. The gospel is central to creating a heart that wants to worship God.
5. God is worthy of our worship because He was willing to sacrifice His Son to restore our relationship with Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. The pastor shared his personal journey from Buddhism to drug addiction to Christianity. How has your faith journey evolved over time? What significant turning points have you experienced?
2. How do you see the "defining virtue of tolerance" playing out in society today? How does this compare to biblical love and compassion?

3. The sermon mentions "high tower Christianity." Have you encountered this attitude? How can we guard against it in our own lives?
4. Discuss the analogy of the mirror reflecting God's image. How have you seen this play out in your own spiritual growth?
5. What are some common idols in our society today? How can we identify and address idols in our own lives?
6. The pastor says, "God won't always remove our strongholds, but He asks us to trust and lean on Him." How have you experienced this in your own struggles?
7. How can we practically "let the word of Christ dwell richly among us" (Colossians 3:16) in our daily lives?

Practical Applications:

1. Self-reflection: Take time this week to examine your heart. Are there any idols competing for your worship? Write them down and pray about them.
2. Scripture meditation: Choose one of the Bible verses mentioned in the sermon (e.g., Colossians 3:12-13) and meditate on it daily for a week.
3. Love in action: Identify one way you can show Christ-like love (not just tolerance) to someone different from you this week.

4. Worship practice: Set aside dedicated time for worship each day, focusing on God's attributes and what makes Him worthy of worship.
5. Accountability: Partner with someone in the group to check in regularly about your efforts to worship God and resist idols.

Closing Prayer: End the session by praying for each other, asking God to help everyone grow in their worship of Him and resist the pull of idols.