

# Talk About It

Small Group Discussion Guide

## The Way of Wonder

Worship  
August 17-20, 2023

### Start Talking

Was there a fresh-baked smell you remember in your home growing up (or now)—cookies, Thanksgiving dinner, banana bread, pot roast, something else? What was it and how did it make you feel?

### Main Idea

We are in Week 3 of the teaching series, "The Way of Wonder". During this series, we will journey together to personally experience the awe and wonder of God like never before. Pastor Ken encouraged us to lean in and believe that God will change us over the next few weeks. This week, Pastor Ken taught on worship and how true worship is not an hour on the weekend but a lifestyle that takes advantage of every single opportunity to say, "Lord, I surrender my will and put You first."

### Personalize It

1. Pastor Ken said that worship is a heart issue played out in real life. What does that mean? Do you agree or disagree?
2. Why is our worship pleasing to God? How do we benefit from worshipping Him?
3. What is a practical example of how we can worship God in daily life?

### Let's Do It! Commit to a step and live it out this week!

1. What area of your life do you need to surrender to God? When the temptation to choose self in that moment comes, what can you do differently to choose God instead?
2. Next time you come to gather with other believers as the Church for worship, pray and prepare your heart in advance to be completely open and surrendered, ready to hear a special word from the Lord just for you. Then, thank Him and act on that word in your life.
3. Read Matthew 6 on your own this week. Jesus gives a warning to those who are just going through the motions but their hearts are far from him. After reading, identify an area of your life where you are going through the motions. Confess it to God in prayer and ask Him to transform your heart in that area.

## Let's Pray

Father, one of the hardest things to do is to surrender our will to Yours, even though we know Your plan is better than our plan and Your ways are better than our ways. Grant us strength to act on that knowledge by helping us develop a posture of surrender and humility, truly taking advantage of the opportunities that come every day, to put You first so we can then learn the joy, peace, and contentment that come when we honor You above ourselves. To You be all the glory, honor, power, and praise. Amen.

## Key Scriptures

### **Psalm 86:10-13 (NLT)**

"For you are great and perform wonderful deeds. You alone are God. Teach me your ways, O LORD, that I may live according to your truth! Grant me purity of heart, so that I may honor you. With all my heart I will praise you, O Lord my God. I will give glory to your name forever, for your love for me is very great. You have rescued me from the depths of death."

### **Mark 12:29-31 (NLT)**

Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD. And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."

### **Ephesians 5:1-2 (NLT)**

"Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God."

# Teaching Notes

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Worship - August 17-20

**Today - explore a question... What does it mean to worship?**

Need to define the terms...

Worship = an expression of honor, reverence, and adoration for God

Worship involves:

Special MOMENTS

Living in the AWARENESS daily

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

NLT Romans 12:1–2

For you are great and perform wonderful deeds. You alone are God. Teach me your ways, O LORD, that I may live according to your truth! Grant me purity of heart, so that I may honor you. With all my heart I will praise you, O Lord my God. I will give glory to your name forever, for your love for me is very great. You have rescued me from the depths of death.

NLT Psalm 86:10–13

Truth and God's Word are inseparable.

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God.

NLT John 1:1–2

So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

NLT John 1:14

Worship is a heart issue played out in real life...

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NLT Mark 12:29–31

Matthew 6 ... warning of "play acting"

Satan... fallen angel... His issue was PRIDE, He wanted to be God... put himself... worship himself more than, and over God...

You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. "God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil."

NLT Genesis 3:4-5

Worship

Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.

NLT Ephesians 5:1-2