

Life Group Lesson

Essentials • Week of August 21

Introduction

Using the acronym C-H-R-I-S-T, the fourth core value of Christ Church is ‘I’ – “Incarnational and inspirational worship that is relevant and authentic is at the heart of who we are as we help people grow closer in their walk with Christ.” This fourth core value is a big one! What comes to mind when you think about worship? What does worship mean to you—how would you describe (explain, define) worship to someone who has no clue about God, the church, or who Jesus Christ is? Often, even those of us familiar with Christianity and the church may think of worship as a corporate service involving music, teaching, communion, and prayer. Others may think of worship as an event resembling a Christian concert. Still others may think of worship more in terms of a private setting, involving solitude and quiet reflection. Worship means different things to different people. What does the Bible say about worship?

Psalm 100 says we are to shout joyfully to God, enter His gates with gladness, and come before Him singing. We are to acknowledge that God is God and we are not. In Scripture, worship is both intentional and spontaneous. The Bible opens with the account of Adam and Eve in the Garden of God. Worship was a natural outflow of their joy and innocence. It involved purity, fellowship with the Lord and each other; worship included work that was fulfilling—like tending the Garden, assignments that were fun like naming the animals. Worship was walking with the Lord and admiring His creation. All was new and special until the Serpent showed up and interrupted the natural outflow of love. Lies and deception opened the door for man to fall off-path. And as Adam and Eve chose to eat of the only tree that was *not* good for them, worship with their Father was broken. They were led away from God’s presence.

Sin has consequences. Adam and Eve’s own son in jealousy and anger, killed his younger brother *over worship*. God accepted the younger son’s offering (Abel) and rejected the older son’s offering (Cain). We cannot bring God our leftovers and expect God to honor it as though we were offering our very best to God. That would be lying to ourselves and to God (Genesis 4:1-16). Later, in the New Testament, Jesus says these words: “But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship Him that way” (John 4:23). God in His great mercy, allowed Adam and Eve to have another son. Eve named him Seth, for she

said, “God has granted me another son in place of Abel, whom Cain killed.” It was during the days of Seth’s grandson (Enosh) that people first began to worship the LORD by name” (see Genesis 4:25-26).

Background

Across the pages of God’s Word is story after story of man’s folly against the backdrop of God’s faithfulness. We are all sinners that fall short of God’s standard, and there is no way any of us could offer worship good enough for our Lord. Yet, the Lord is gracious and accepts our offerings of praise if we offer ourselves in the right spirit – in Spirit and in truth. The Bible tells us about people like Noah and Abraham, though not perfect, built altars and chose to offer a sacrifice as worship (Genesis 8:20-22, Genesis 12:7-9). Jacob (whose name was changed to Israel) worships God when he awakes from a dream by making a promise to serve and tithe to the LORD who appeared to him (Genesis 28:10-22). There is also a story in the Bible about a man—a good man—who loses everything and still chooses to honor the One who gives and takes away. It has been said that choosing to worship God during times of intense pain and suffering becomes a *sacrifice of praise* and very special unto the Lord. This is what Job did (and also what Jesus did). It is unclear why Job had to suffer as he did; but in his own words, he said: “...Should we accept only good things from the hand of God and never anything bad?” (Job 2:10). Job teaches us how to worship and revere God even when life does not make sense.

Reading the Text

Read Job 1:1-12

1. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. How can we help you?

In Closing

We are not sure why Job had to suffer as he did. He lost everything—his wealth, his ten children, his health, his appearance, his status in the community. When Job’s friends came to console him, they hardly recognized him and they were speechless for seven days (see Job 2:11-13). When nothing was left, but a hull of

a man, Job still revered God. Sometimes life makes no sense; will you still honor God? In the last chapter, Job says: “I had only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes” (Job 42:5). For any of us who are having to endure deep pain, great loss, unexplained hardship, cry out to the Lord! Your faithfulness in the midst of suffering gets heaven’s attention. The psalmist reminds us: “The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; He rescues those whose spirits are crushed” (Psalm 34:18). Cry out to God. He will show up! Choose to honor (trust) the Lord, and your worship will become a sacrifice of praise—an aroma of praise and adoration—that is especially sweet and pleasing unto the Lord.

The LORD is righteous in everything he does; he is filled with kindness.

¹⁸ *The LORD is close to all who call on him, yes, to all who call on him in truth.*

¹⁹ *He grants the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cries for help and rescues them. Psalm 145:17-19*

Close in a Time of Prayer asking:

How can I pray for my fellow Life Group participants this week?

One Year Bible Readings

August 21: Job 1:1-3:26, 1 Corinthians 14:1-17, Psalm 37:12-29, Proverbs 21:25-26

August 22: Job 4:1-7:21, 1 Corinthians 14:18-40, Psalm 37:30-40, Proverbs 21:27

August 23: Job 8:1-11:20, 1 Corinthians 15:1-28, Psalm 38:1-22, Proverbs 21:28-29

August 24: Job 12:1-15:35, 1 Corinthians 15:29-58, Psalm 39:1-13, Proverbs 21:30-31

August 25: Job 16:1-19:29, 1 Corinthians 16:1-24, Psalm 40:1-10, Proverbs 22:1

August 26: Job 20:1-22:30, 2 Corinthians 1:1-11, Psalm 40:11-17, Proverbs 22:2-4

August 27: Job 23:1-27:23, 2 Corinthians 1:12-2:11, Psalm 41:1-13, Proverbs 22:5-6

Essentials

Text: Job 1:1-22

Plain Truth:

Incarnational and inspirational worship that is relevant and authentic is at the heart of who we are as we help people grow closer in their walk with Christ.

Incarnational Worship –Where we engage in:

1. Praise and _____
2. _____ read
3. _____
4. Offering
5. _____

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