

The logo consists of the words "SO WILL I" in a bold, sans-serif font. "SO" is in blue, "WILL" is in purple, and "I" is in pink. The text is centered within a light gray square background.

## Parkway Fellowship

SO WILL I • WORSHIP THE LORD • PSALM 96:1-9 • 10/25/2020

### MAIN POINT

My worship is what I give to God.

### INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**What does it mean to “worship” something? Why should we worship God and God alone?**

**Is praise the same thing as worship? What is the difference? Is it possible to praise something without worshipping it?**

To worship something is to revere or honor it. To worship is to esteem something and to exalt it in our hearts. If that is what worship is, then we probably worship many different things.

We can love the created things, as long as we acknowledge the Creator. God must always be praised as the source of all our blessings and the Creator of all our loves. If we recognize Him in these things, then we will not sin when we praise them. Of course, if we can praise something without actually worshipping it, it may be possible for us to say good things about God without giving Him the homage He deserves.

### UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ PSALM 96:1-9.

**According to Psalm 96, what is the appropriate response to God’s glory? Who is being called to respond to Him?**

**What do you think it means to “sing a new song to the LORD”? How do you feel about the fact that singing is an integral part of your worship?**

**Why is it important to “declare His glory among the nations”?**

When the psalm tells us to sing a new song to the Lord, it doesn't mean that we have to sing a brand new song every time we sing. It doesn't even necessarily mean we have to sing! This is a poem, and what the psalmist is poetically telling us to do is to praise the Lord for all the new blessings that we see every day.

Human beings are the image-bearers of God. We are called to reflect His glory. When we do not praise the Lord, we fall short of our purpose and are robbed of our highest joy.

**What does it mean to “ascribe” things to the Lord?**

**Is it possible for us to ever truly ascribe or give to the Lord “the glory due His name”? Explain.**

**What would the fulfillment of verses 7-10 look like practically for us here at Parkway Fellowship?**

**Why should the earth tremble before the Lord? How do fear and worship go together?**

To ascribe things to the Lord is to speak of the attributes of His character. We should be telling others of His greatness, mercy, love, justice, and goodness. We should not hold back on our praise of the Lord; if we praise Him, it will result in other people praising Him with us. People may come to Christ because of the beauty that we ascribe to the Lord.

In Deuteronomy 10:20 Moses taught Israel, “You are to fear Yahweh your God and worship Him.” Joshua told Israel, “Fear the Lord and worship Him in sincerity and truth” (Joshua 24:14). The Lord is great and powerful, and Jesus tells us, “Don't fear those who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul; rather, fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28). If we respect the Lord, then we will be less likely to sin against Him.

**What connections can you see between God's plan to glorify Himself in all the nations and your daily work and ministry?**

**Worship is what you give to God, so worship is about more than the things we do at church, like singing songs and praying. What are some practical ways you can worship God in your everyday life?**

## APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

**What is one of your favorite praise and worship songs? Why?**

**What did you write down for #2 concerning God's wonders in your life?(Because You \_\_\_\_\_, I will worship You.)**

**What is one thing that tries to steal your worship?**

## PRAYER

Ask the Father to help you remember to glorify Him in all that you do. Pray that He will give you opportunities to ascribe glory to His Name in the presence of others. Ask that we will have the boldness and desire to take the gospel of Christ to all nations.

## COMMENTARY

| PSALM 96:1-10

96:1-3. This new song was cosmic praise for Yahweh's reign over a universal kingdom comprising all peoples (98:1; 144:9; 149:1; Isa 42:10). Mention of the sanctuary (96:6) implies a pre-exilic origin for this psalm. A threefold repetition of "sing" followed by three imperatives – praise... proclaim, and declare—underscore the purpose of the song: to glorify the Lord's works of salvation.

96:5. The psalmist contrasted the impotence of idols with the creative power of the Lord, challenging all association between false gods and the natural forces of the cosmos. The gods of the peoples are worthless or powerless (97:7; Isa 42:5,8,17).

96:6. Four descriptive nouns— splendor...majesty... strength, and beauty—are personified as divine escorts preceding the Lord's processional entrance into the temple.

96:7-9. These verses represent an expansion of 29:1-2, substituting families (lit "tribes, clans") of the people for "sons of God" (29:1), while adding bring an offering and enter His courts, and tremble before Him, all the earth. The modifications redirect the praise of the Lord from the heavenly realm to the earthly sphere, functioning as a polemic against other deities. To ascribe something to someone is to acknowledge they have that attribute.

96:10. With the phrase the Lord reigns, the psalmist reinforced the Lord's dual roles as King and Creator.

## | 1 PETER 4:11

4:10-11. Every believer in every church has received a spiritual gift from God for use in the life of the church. Within the body of Christ, love for each other finds expression in the use of spiritual gifts, not for self-advancement or as an attention-getter, but for the benefit of others. Every Christian, then, is capable of ministering to others within the body of Christ.

“Gift” (charisma) literally means “a gift of grace.” When Christians receive God’s grace in this way, we have the responsibility to share this gift with other Christians. Through such sharing we are faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms. What has been given to the individual as a gift of grace has also been given for the benefit of the body as a whole. Believers are agents of God in passing on the benefits of his grace in our life. God does not grant us gifts of grace for our personal use; he gives them for the benefit of the body of Christ.

Verse 11 illustrates this point by dividing the many gifts of grace into two broad categories: speaking and serving. Speaking includes not simply preaching or teaching, but many kinds of gifts involving speech, such as evangelism, speaking in tongues, prophecy, encouragement, and leadership. Serving includes any type of assisting or encouraging ministry that directly targets the benefit of others within the body of Christ, such as contributing to the needs of others, healing, miraculous powers, showing mercy, and encouragement.

Believers are to take these gifts seriously and to exercise them with an attitude of dependence on God (speak the very words of God, do it with the strength of God). When the gifts of grace are applied in this way, the attention and praise shift from the individual believer to God, the one who has gifted the believer in the first place.