

4 WEEKS

Worship
MADE TO

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Learning to Worship

1

SMALL GROUP STUDY Psalm 96:1-3

Kicking it off:

What things would you say you are most devoted to in your life?

Big Idea:

You were created to worship.

Key Scriptures:

John 4:21-24

"Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

"Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples."

Psalm 96:4-6

"For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary."

Psalm 96:7-9

"Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts. Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth."

Discussion:

1. Prior to this week's message, how would you describe worship?
2. Read John 4:21-14. What do you think Jesus means when He says that God's worshipers must worship Him in Spirit and in truth?
3. We learned this week that worship is a response to all God is with all that we are. Discuss the many ways you can you engage every part of your being in worship.
4. Where can and should you worship Him?
5. Read Psalm 96:1-3. The response of the psalmist is to sing, proclaim and declare. Discuss what that might look like in your own life.
6. Read Psalm 96:4-6. Discuss what it means to fear God. How do we fear God, yet worship Him in love?
7. Read Psalm 96:7-9. After reading this passage, what expressions of worship do you see being brought before the Lord?
8. In what ways can you more wholly engage in worshipping God?

Wrapping It Up:

Sing a song of worship together in your group. Doesn't matter

what song or what you sound like, just bring an offering of worship before God.

Prayer Focus:

Pray for our worship and creative team, as they plan and prepare each week's service, that they would do so being led by God's Spirit in every way.

Memory Verse:

"God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." John 4:24

The Seriousness of Worship ²

SMALL GROUP STUDY 2 Samuel 6:1-7

Kicking it off:

Share about a time you underestimated the seriousness of a situation and it came back to bite you.

Big Idea:

Worship is dangerous business.

Key Scriptures:

Leviticus 10:1-3

"Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before the Lord, contrary to his command. So fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord. Moses then said to Aaron, "This is what the Lord spoke of when he said: "Among those who approach me I will be proved holy; in the sight of all the people I will be honored." Aaron remained silent."

"David again brought together all the able young men of Israel—thirty thousand. He and all his men went to Baalah in Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the Name, the name of the Lord Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim on the ark. They set the ark of God on a new cart and brought it from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, were guiding the new cart with the ark of God on it, and Ahio was walking in front of it. David and all Israel were celebrating with all their might before the Lord, with castanets, harps, lyres, timbrels, sistrums and cymbals. When they came to the threshing floor of Nakon, Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God, because the oxen stumbled. The Lord's anger burned against Uzzah because of his irreverent act; therefore God struck him down, and he died there beside the ark of God."

Acts 5:1-10

"Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet. Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God." When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. Then some young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him. About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?" "Yes," she said, "that is the price." Peter said to her, "How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The feet of the men who buried

your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also." At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events."

Romans 12:1

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."

Discussion:

1. This week we are considering the seriousness of worship. What are some ways that one might not take worship seriously?
2. Read Leviticus 10:1-3. What do you discover about Nadab and Abihu's actions in verse one?
3. What insight does verse 3 give you into the reason they died for their actions?
4. In verse 3 it says: "And Aaron remained silent." How do you suppose this incident impacted Aaron?
5. Read 2 Samuel 6:1-7. What

reason does this passage give for Uzzah being struck down by God?

6. These are two sobering passages that address irreverent or unholy worship. Why do you think God takes these acts so seriously?
7. Read Acts 5:1-10. Ananias and Sapphira participated in worship through giving, however, there was a problem with their worship, which caused their immediate death. Discuss their indiscretion and the possible reasons God may have struck them dead as a result.
8. Read Romans 12:1. What does this passage describe as worship that is pleasing to God?
9. When you consider what God has established as true and proper worship, what might be the common denominator in the deaths of these who had unacceptable worship before God?
10. How does offering your body as a living sacrifice intersect your daily life with your acts of corporate worship?

Wrapping It Up:

Consider if there are any ways that you are approaching

God with irreverent or unholy worship. Confess that together and pray for a heart of worship that is holy and pleasing to God.

Prayer Focus:

Pray for our United college ministry and the students that gather each week for campus Bible studies and for monthly United nights.

Memory Verse:

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”

Romans 12:1

Private Worship

3

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

Discuss a hobby or sport that you do with others that you also must practice on your own. (golf, etc.). How does practicing or training alone, enhance your collective experience?

Big Idea:

If you do not know how to worship privately, you cannot understand how to worship collectively.

Key Scriptures:

Psalm 63:1-11

"You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you in a dry and parched land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. I will be

fully satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. I cling to you; your right hand upholds me.⁹ Those who want to kill me will be destroyed; they will go down to the depths of the earth.¹⁰ They will be given over to the sword and become food for jackals.¹¹ But the king will rejoice in God; all who swear by God will glory in him, while the mouths of liars will be silenced."

Discussion:

1. Read Psalm 63. This psalm was written by King David, who is well known for his many intimate psalms toward God – in good times and in bad. What are some of your observations about how David addresses God in this psalm?
2. What are some ways that you might earnestly seek God?

3. In verses 1-5, David speaks of how his personal worship of God satisfies and refreshes his soul. Discuss how you have experienced this in your own times with God?
4. David seemed to have a sense of the condition of his soul and his need for God to satisfy it. How would you describe the condition of your soul currently?
5. In verses 6-11, David speaks of how God upholds him and gives him confidence, even in the face of his enemies. Discuss areas where you are currently needing confidence or experiencing opposition in your life.
6. How might these verses, and the practice of private worship help you in that?
7. Where do you go to see or meet with God?
8. If you are not currently taking time for private worship, discuss with your group how you can each make time for that, and then hold one another accountable.

Prayer Focus:

Pray for the Hope Center as we continue to serve our community – and consider serving together their as a group.

Memory Verse:

“You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you in a dry and parched land where there is no water.”

Psalm 63:1

Wrapping It Up:

Pray for one another to experience God in fresh ways as you worship privately this week.

Corporate Worship

4

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

Discuss your best corporate experience, whether it be a game, concert or some other large gathering. What made it so special?

Big Idea:

Worshipping together corporately is vital because it reminds us of the work of Christ.

Key Scriptures:

Hebrews 10:19-25

"Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a

guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Discussion:

1. Read Hebrews 10:19-25. There are two main callings in this passage: draw near to God, and encourage one another collectively. Discuss how you see that happening as you gather for worship at Sunnybrook.
2. According to these passages, how is it that you can draw near to God?
3. Jesus is our great High Priest, and as we gather together corporately and

- participate in communion, we are “holding unswervingly to the hope” we have in Him. Discuss how remembering His great sacrifice, together with others, helps you to do that.
4. How have you been spurred on toward love and good deeds as you have gathered together with others to worship?
 5. During this season of COVID, we all experienced a time of being separated from others, not being able to worship together corporately, and some are still experiencing that. How did/does that impact you?
 6. What kind of priority do you place on corporate worship?

Memory Verse:

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Hebrews 10:25

Wrapping It Up:

What commitments are you willing to make toward gathering together and worshipping corporately?

Prayer Focus:

Pray for all small groups that they may be able to spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

NOTES:

Top 10 Tips for Leading a Small Group

1. Establish a welcoming, accepting, and safe environment.
 - Take time to prepare.
 - Make sure to give a warm enthusiastic greeting to each person.
 - Verbally communicate the environment that you hope to create.
 - Ephesians 4:1-3
2. On the opening night of your group you need to have some intentional discussions centered around these questions:
 - What is the purpose of our group?
 - What is the vision for our group?
 - What are your expectations?
 - What do you hope to gain from this group experience?
 - What are some things we value as a group?
 - What are some healthy guidelines we need to have in place?
Review and sign a group agreement.
3. Be authentic. Spend time sharing your life stories in order to get to know each other on a deeper level.
4. Find a good balance between:
 - Truth and grace/Bible study and life
 - Encouraging and challenging one another
 - Giving and receiving feedback from each other
5. Ask good questions to stimulate good discussion. Use open ended questions and follow up questions.
6. Hang out together, do things socially, eat together and have fun together!
7. Develop a missional lifestyle, find a service project to do together in the community.
8. Raise up new leadership by rotating facilitation of the group.
9. Share the responsibilities in order to increase individual commitment and ownership of the group.
10. Pray for your group and for each other!

Find ways to celebrate what God is doing in your group! Who else could you invite to join you in order that their life may be impacted by what God is doing in your group?

Group Agreement

OUR PURPOSE

To transform our spiritual lives by cultivating our spiritual health in a healthy small group community. In addition, we: _____

OUR VALUES

Group Attendance: To give priority to the group meeting. We will call or email if we will be late or absent.

Safe Environment: To help create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved. (Please, no quick answers, snap judgments, or simple fixes.)

Respect Differences: To be gentle and gracious to people with different spiritual maturity, personal opinions, temperaments, or imperfections. We are all works in progress.

Confidentiality: To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group, and to avoid sharing improper information about those outside the group.

Encouragement for Growth: To be not just takers but givers of life. We want to spiritually multiply our life by serving others with our God-given gifts.

Welcome for Newcomers: To keep an open chair and share Jesus' dream of finding a shepherd for every sheep.

Shared Ownership: To remember that every member is a minister and to ensure that each attender will share a small team role or responsibility over time.

Rotating Hosts/Leaders and Homes: To encourage different people to host the group in their homes, and to rotate the responsibility of facilitating each meeting.

OUR EXPECTATIONS

- Refreshments/mealtimes _____
- Childcare _____
- When we will meet (day of week) _____
- Where we will meet (place) _____
- We will begin at (time) _____ and end at _____
- We will do our best to have some or all of us attend a worship service together.
- Our primary worship service time will be _____
- Date of this agreement _____
- Date we will review this agreement again _____
- Who (other than the leader) will review this agreement at the end of this study _____



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