

# Key Takeaways and Discussion Questions



## Key Takeaways

1. **Worship is about Jesus, not us** - Worship is always for Him, about Him, with Him, in Him, through Him, and towards Him.
2. **The miracle of the church is Jesus** - We are part of the church not because of what we bring, but because of what Jesus did for us.
3. **We are called to be participants, not consumers** - Corporate worship requires contribution, not just consumption.
4. **God cares about our hearts** - The atmosphere, sound, and logistics matter, but God searches our hearts for genuine worship.

## Discussion Questions

### Understanding the Message

1. The sermon used the "restaurant ordering" illustration about church preferences. What did this reveal about how we sometimes approach worship? Have you ever caught yourself with this mindset?
2. Read Acts 2:42-47. What words and phrases emphasize community in this passage? How does this contrast with our individualistic culture?
3. What does it mean that "worship is always for Him, about Him, with Him, in Him, through Him, and towards Him"? Which of these is most challenging for you personally?

### Going Deeper

4. Paul reminds the Corinthians that God chose the foolish, weak, and lowly things (1 Cor 1:26-31). How does this truth humble us when we gather as a church? How should it affect our attitude toward others in the body?
5. Romans 12:1 calls us to "offer your bodies as a living sacrifice." The sermon listed several mild examples of what this might look like:

- Worshiping without fear of what others think
- Giving others freedom to respond differently than we do
- Worshiping for those who can't or won't
- Attending regularly even when inconvenient
- Uncrossing our arms and singing even when it's not "our thing"

Which of these challenges you most? Why?

6. The sermon mentioned Christians in Iran who face persecution daily. How does their perspective on "living sacrifice" challenge our complaints about church temperature, song selection, or service length?

## Heart Check

7. The Holy Spirit asked the pastor: "Are you as concerned about your heart as you are about your voice?" What is God asking you to be more concerned about in your worship life?
8. **Consumer vs. Participant:** On a scale of 1-10, where would you honestly place yourself?

- 1 = Pure consumer (only taking)
- 10 = Full participant (actively contributing)

What would need to change to move you closer to being a participant?

9. The Soul Survivor Church story revealed that people had lost their purpose for worship. Have you ever experienced a season where you lost sight of why you gather with the church? What brought you back?

## Application

10. Matt Redman's "Heart of Worship" challenges us to ask: "What am I bringing to God in worship?" How would you answer that question about this past Sunday? About your typical Sunday?
11. The sermon mentioned that there are seasons when we need to just receive (brokenness, hardship, emptiness). Are you in a receiving season or a contributing season right now? How can the group support you?

## Practical Applications

- [ ] Before next Sunday, pray specifically: "God, what am I bringing to you in worship?"
- [ ] Identify one way you've been a consumer and repent; ask God to make you a participant
- [ ] Practice worshiping "for those who can't or won't" - think of someone specific
- [ ] Challenge yourself to one physical expression of worship you normally avoid (raising hands, kneeling, etc.)
- [ ] Fast from criticizing or evaluating the worship service for one month