



**Sermon Discussion Guide**  
**07.24.22 Message | Casey Cox**

**Key Scriptures:**

*Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.*

- Psalm 95:1-7a

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!*

- Psalm 100:4

*...the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.*

- Revelation 4:10-11

**Message Highlights:**

- *Barak* means to kneel, to bless God, to praise, to salute, and to thank.
- *Barak* is rooted in aligning our hearts with God so that we can abundantly praise and worship him.
- There has to be a deeper motive for why we worship the way we do; without a motive, they are just mindless actions.
- *Barak* is about the reaction of our hearts to God's goodness.
- Adoration, gratitude, and humility are the three pillars of *barak* that lead us to recognize our reason to praise God.

**Conversation Starter:**

Have you ever worked with someone on a project whom your end goals and purposes did not align with? Compare that experience to working with someone who you did align with and talk about how your shared vision positively impacted the experience.

**Discuss the Message:**

1. What we adore says something about us; think about something you adore and name some of the reasons that person/place/thing has earned your adoration.
  - a) What is God to you? What about your relationship with him might need to change to increase your adoration of him?
  - b) How does scripture reveal to you that God is good to you? Spend some time looking up scripture that helps you see his goodness.
2. What reasons do we have to praise God with gratitude, according to Psalm 95:1-7?
  - a) Are there specific experiences, people or things in your life that spur on a grateful heart of worship within you?
  - b) How can you foster habits that encourage you to authentically and fully worship God from day to day?
3. God doesn't force us to *barak*, but rather he gives us reason to *barak*. What does this show us about God's character?
  - a) Read Revelation 4:10-11; take some moments to dream about worshiping God from the perspective of heaven, where distractions and agendas are eliminated.
  - b) How might you cultivate a life where you are able to put distractions and schedules aside to bestow adoration and gratitude upon God for the things he has already done?

**Pray:**

*God, we thank you for giving us reasons and opportunities to worship you with our lives. You are a God who is faithful to us, and we praise you for your goodness and kindness. When we find ourselves confused or we aren't sure what our next steps are, would you let our impulse be to worship you, and to abide in you? We are thankful for the covenant relationship you choose to pursue alongside us each day. Help us to practice adoration, gratitude, and humility towards you this week as we remember the power of barak. In Jesus' name, amen.*