

WORSHIP CHRIST

Small Group Curriculum

INTRODUCTION

All humans are seeking to worship. The pursuit to fulfill oneself with more things, deeper thoughts, greater accomplishments, and stronger experiences is everywhere! But the simple truth is that every one of us desperately needs God before anything else! Why? Saint Augustine said it well: “God, you have made us yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you.”

How do you find your rest in God? The cry of your heart must be to the Lord. “Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.” (Psalm 29:2) When you declare from your soul the worthiness of your Savior, it brings Him the glory He deserves. Your individual and corporate worship of Him is what brings your heart and mind to the alignment of what is true, and satisfies your longings.

Worship directed to an unworthy person or object is called idolatry: placing anyone or anything on the throne that is God’s alone. The first of God’s ten commandments forbids idolatry with the words, “You shall have no other gods before Me.” (Exodus 20:3) One of the greatest sins, then, is directing that adoration elsewhere, not only because it insults God, but also because it insulates our hearts from the delight in which we were created to revel.

When Jesus said, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21), He was emphasizing the centrality of worship in every person He created. The highest and most powerful human experience is to express our love to the most worthy object of that affection. In the elevation of Christ’s worthiness, our greatest joy is discovered.

WORSHIP = _____

WHY SHOULD I WORSHIP?

Because of the “mercies of God.” God has given us so much that we didn’t deserve: grace, love, mercy, forgiveness—the list could go on. When we dwell on the attributes of God and fully appreciate everything He has done for us, it should naturally produce an affection and adoration for God in our lives.

I should worship because

- God _____ it (Revelations 4:11)
- God _____ it (Exodus 20: 3-5)
- God _____ it (John 4:23)

HOW SHOULD I WORSHIP?

By presenting our “bodies as a living sacrifice” to God. The word “bodies” here means more than just our flesh. “Worship is mind, emotions, and will engaged in whole-person ascription of worth.” (James MacDonald) True worship happens when we center our entire being on God. Our actions, such as singing or serving, are outward expressions of our worship, but our true worship of God starts from within at the heart level.

True worship of God:

- Starts with _____ (Romans 12:2)
- Leads to _____ (Hebrews 4:12-13)
- Results in _____ (1 John 4:19)

WHO (OR WHAT) SHOULD I WORSHIP?

God very clearly states that we are to worship Him and Him alone (Exodus 20:3). Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are also worthy of our worship as members of the triune God.

Unfortunately, it is easy for us as humans to elevate other things and people to a level of worship in our lives. We may not keep a golden statue on our mantel, but we are still prone to setting up idols in our hearts.

What do I worship above God?

- _____? (Matthew 6:24)
- _____? (Ephesians 2:1-3)
- _____? (Matthew 10:37)

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What are some specific things people tend to worship more than God?

2. It is common to think that worship is all about music and singing.

What are some other ways we can express worship to God?

3. Why do you think repentance is such an important part of true worship?

BREAKOUT/ACCOUNTABILITY

1. Treasures can be material, relational, vocational, physical, emotional, or spiritual . what are three things you treasure other than God? Do any of these things ever get more of your attention than God?

2. List out some things you are grateful for that God has given you. When you are finished, pray through the list, thanking God personally for each one. Use this opportunity to allow your affection for God to grow and to express true worship of God from your heart.
