

Objective: To be aware of the things that we value the most and to identify God's characteristics and His deeds that move us to worship.

What does worship mean for you?

Worship is "giving something value and worth above all else. What in your life do you value the most? What (if anything) have you valued above God in your past?

What do you think it means that you were "made" for worship?

Since worship is a response to who God is and what He has done, who is God to you and what has He done in your life?

For Further Study

Matthew 21:1-11

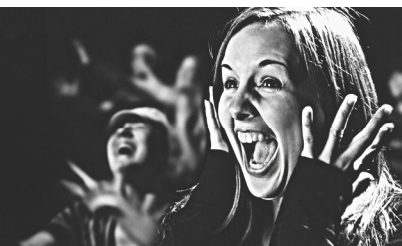
How would you define worship? Why do many Christians cheer like crazy at sporting events on Saturday and sheepishly sing praise songs to the Lord the next morning? What did the gathered crowd place on the road? Why? (21:8) What size crowd participated in welcoming Jesus? (21:8) What did the crowds shout as Jesus entered Jerusalem? (21:9) How did this "parade" affect those living in Jerusalem? (21:10) What did the crowd accompanying Jesus say about Him to those in the city? (21:11) If you had lived in Jerusalem during that time, do you think you would have been a follower of Christ or one of the people who looked skeptically at all His activities? How much do you think "the crowds" today understand Jesus' purpose and mission? In what ways do we simplistically "cheer" Jesus? How might we be able to change our city or campus or country if we honored Christ as King over all? How should worship play a role in your daily life? How can you honor Jesus as King this week? What special gift (time, money, possessions, effort, etc.) of worship can you present to Jesus today?

1 Chronicles 16:7-43

What is your favorite song of worship? Why? When was the last time you felt overwhelmed with thankfulness or gratitude? In what place or location have you most enjoyed worshiping God? What is the subject of the song David wrote? (16:7-36) According to David, why should we give thanks to the Lord? (16:8) What should people tell others about God? (16:9) What are the character qualities of God listed in this psalm? (16:15-22) How often do you take time to think about what God has done for you? What can you tell others about what God has done for you? How should we express our thanks and appreciation to God? Why is music a useful way of praising God? How much should we verbally praise God during the week? For what specific reasons should we praise the Lord? What are some of the reasons you have to be thankful to God? How can you use music to help you focus on and celebrate God in your life this week? Instead of talking only about family, sports, shopping, or weather with your friends this week, what about the greatness of God can you mention as praise?

Psalms 145:1-150:6

What kinds of things do you usually talk about with your friends? How do you feel when you tell someone about what God has done for you? How do these psalms characterize the Lord? (145:1-150:6) What is the overarching theme of these six psalms? (145:1-150:6) What should motivate God's people to praise the Lord? (145:1-150:6) What practical advice is offered about how to worship God? (145:4-7, 10-12; 146:1-2; 147:1; 149:1-3, 5-6; 150:1-6) How is Psalm 150 a fitting conclusion to the book of Psalms? (150:1-6) How has the Lord demonstrated His love for you? What should motivate us to offer our praise to God? What lessons can we learn from these psalms about how to praise the Lord? How do these passages encourage you to improve your worship of God? Practically speaking, how can you put your hope in the Lord? What specific steps could you take this week to add some creativity and enthusiasm to your worship of the Lord?



Objective: To explore how worship can be our usual “way of life”.

1. What worship practices or styles of worship make people feel uncomfortable or embarrassed? Why?
2. In view of who God is and what He has done, what is your response of worship?

Read:

David said to Michal...“I will celebrate before the LORD. I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes...”
~2 Sam 6:21-22 (NIV)

3. How can we combine reverence before God with unparalleled joy and celebration?

Read:

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our “God is a consuming fire.”
~Heb 12:28-29 (NIV)

4. When is the last time you were overwhelmed or “consumed” in the presence of God?

Read:

Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.
~John 4:23 (NIV)

5. God is seeking true worshipers. Is worship a way of life for you?
6. How can you express your wholehearted joy before the Lord this week? How can this expression be a regular habit or “way of life” for you?

Pray:

Ask God to help you maintain a lifestyle of worship.

For Further Study

John 12:12-19

Open: How do people usually react when they meet a celebrity? Why? Who are today's religious celebrities?

Explore: What had the crowd heard about Jesus? (12:12) How did the crowd greet Jesus when He arrived in Jerusalem? (12:13) What prophetic event took place? (12:14-15) When did Jesus' disciples realize the significance of these events? (12:16) What did the crowd that was with Jesus do when He raised Lazarus? (12:17) Why did many of the people go out to meet Jesus? (12:18) How did the Pharisees react to this event? (12:19)

Contemplate: What did you hear about Jesus that led you to seek Him? When are you reluctant to allow Jesus to take His rightful place as King in your life? How should we honor and worship Jesus as King?

Apply: How will you honor and worship Jesus with your life today?

Psalm 96:1-13

Open: What are some common elements of worship in your church? For you, what can cause church worship services to become stale or boring?

Explore: What call introduces the psalm? (96:1-3) How far did the psalm writer want the praise of God's people to extend? (96:1-3) What reasons did the psalm writer give to the nations to praise the Lord? (96:1-13) What does this psalm reveal about God's character? (96:1-13) Why should God's people be motivated to praise God? (96:4-6) Whom did the psalm writer call to worship God? (96:7-9) What will motivate creation to praise the Lord? (96:11-13)

Contemplate: What should be our motivation in praising God? What about nature inspires you to praise God? What kind of worship does God desire?

Apply: What is one thing you can do to revive your worship of God or make it more meaningful?