

Community Part 9: Worship

How to Use

The goal with these discussion guides during the next few weeks, is that with your group or a few others, to have honest and authentic discussions around this idea of living life together as a “new family in Christ.” The hope is that this resource is not simply a study guide to further discuss the previous weekend’s message or a certain text in Scripture, but instead an application guide of how to further flesh out and live out God’s vision for biblical community. Each week will have a brief overview to read together, 2-3 discussion questions and a suggested practice to implement with your group.

The discussion questions have been crafted in a way to help get past the surface level response we can default to and to dig into honest and perhaps challenging conversations. You might not get through them all each week and that’s okay. Allow for some space for the Spirit to work and to give time for the conversation to reach a more intimate level. We would encourage you to invite the people you’re walking through these guides with to perhaps be a little more vulnerable than they might normally be. If your group size is large, consider breaking up into a few smaller groups to better facilitate honest conversations.

Our goal for the suggested practice each week is to help establish some new rhythms and ways to live out this idea of biblical community. Our challenge to you is to try these practices through the entire 9 weeks of this series. Perhaps at the end discuss with your group about how these practices went and what they might want to continue doing.

We would also encourage you to start each discussion with a time of prayer, inviting the Spirit to work in you and your group’s heart and minds around this topic of community.

Overview (Read this aloud together)

Leader: Read Revelation 4-5

Worship means, literally, acknowledging the worth of something or someone. It means recognizing and saying that someone or something is worthy of praise. It means celebrating the worth of someone or something far superior to oneself.

-N.T. Wright, Simply Christian

According to this definition, worship is not just for “religious people.” The world is not divided into those who worship and those who do not. We all worship. We are already worshipping something.

I’ve heard it said that it’s not that we are created to worship. Nor are we created for worship. We are created worshipping. We worship what we think is of ultimate worth; the deepest and most desperate desires of our heart. So, the real question we need to consider is not “do I worship” but “what do I worship.”

The next question we must ask is: "Is the thing I'm worshipping able to sustain the weight of my worship?"

Because God is our creator and the creator of all things, He is the only One who is of ultimate worth. He is the only one who can sustain the weight of our worship.

Discussion Questions

What has our experience been like so far with worship? Is it something that we can really engage well with or something that is more of a challenge for us?

Taking a moment to reflect, what might be some areas in our lives that is distracting us from God?

What are some areas in our lives that give us cause to worship God and give Him thanks?

What are ways we as individuals and corporately engage the practice of worship more actively?

Practice for This Week

If you've been following along each week with the discussion guides, take this week to reflect on the conversations that have been had and how the practices have gone. Consider what implementing these rhythms and practices into your daily life might look like for yourself but also as a community. Perhaps take some time next week as a group to discuss how this series has gone for everyone and ways everyone collectively as a group can pursue more depth within your community.