

TALK IT OVER

Rethinking The Church

How Worshiping with Others Changes You

Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave him great pleasure. Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT)

Human beings are hardwired to worship. In every culture people worship God. They may use different ways and styles, but we are all driven to worship God. This week we will look at what worship is, why we worship, the kinds of worship God loves, and then we'll discuss and practice as a group various ways to tell God we love him.

OPEN YOUR GROUP WITH A PRAYER. THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE – SELECT THE POINTS YOU WANT TO DISCUSS.

1. Worship can be defined as expressing our love and gratitude to God. What are you grateful to the Lord for?
2. Some of us have trouble expressing our love to God in worship because we don't feel loved ourselves. How would you encourage a person who feels this way?

Jesus: "The most important command of all is this one: You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, and all your soul, and all your mind, and all your strength!" Mark 12:29-30

3. Read Mark 12:29-30 aloud together. What kind of worship does God love?
4. Share a time where worship changed a perspective you had on a problem. What changed?
5. There are at least seven ways to tell God you love him. Choose as many ways as your remaining group time permits and do them together: 1) listening and responding to God's Word; 2) singing to him with our whole hearts; 3) talking to God together in prayer; 4) sharing the Lord's Supper together; 5) recommittting our lives to God; 6) giving back some of what God has given; 7) being baptized. [For 6), discuss ways in addition to tithing in which we can give back to God. For 7), If anyone in the group has not yet been baptized and desires to know more contact Bob (paddockva@gmail.com).

Diving Deeper (optional)

1. With so many church services available online, it's become a blessing and a convenience for many to be able to listen to the weekly sermon on their home computers. In some cases, the computer is the only way you have to attend church. But it's important to realize that watching worship is not doing worship. Why do you think that is so?
2. How would spending more time each day in conversation with God help you build relationship with him?
3. In what way is reading the Word of God a form of worshiping God? Describe what may result when we fail to make the Word of God central to our lives.