



8-20-17 Sermon Discussion Guide "Worship"



Context

Throughout this summer we are talking about words and ideas that we often hear in church but rarely define. This summer provides a chance to hit "pause" and reflect upon these ideas, their importance, and their impact upon life. This week we look at the word worship. We all know this word, but let's think about how to define it, and how to incorporate the worship of God into our daily living.

Checking In

Since the last time your group has met, how have each of you experienced God at work? What have you celebrated? What have you mourned?

Introduction

Usually we think of worship as what we do on Sunday mornings. However, popular pastor and author Rick Warren wrote, "Anything you do that brings pleasure to God is an act of worship." As I think about this quote, I am reminded that we worship for God's benefit, not ours. When we worship God, we please God. We acknowledge God and are reminded that God is in charge, not us. We can worship God corporately with others (as on Sunday mornings), and we can also worship God individually.

Discussing the Text

1. Sara listed six reasons why corporate worship is so important. (They are: there is comfort in community. A reminder that God is near. A reminder that we don't worship and serve God alone. This helps us grow in our relationship with God. This helps us learn from one another. There is a joy in being together.) Which one resonated the most with you. Why do you enjoy Sunday morning worship? What aspect is most important to you?
2. Anything we do can be an act of worship if we are aware of God's presence and work as if working for God. Have you thought in this mindset before?
3. Ann Voskamp, in her book *One Thousand Gifts*, spoke of washing dishes as a way to fully experience the presence of God. Do you struggle with busyness taking your attention away from the presence of God?

So what?

1. What is one practice you can do to make you participate more fully in corporate worship?
2. What are ways you worship God on your own? What is a practice you can begin to aid you in worshipping God on your own?
3. Do you like worshipping God better alone or on Sunday mornings?

Prayer

Share something you for which you are thankful and/or something for which you need support. In particular, invite people to pray this week to have a heart and passion for making everything an act of worship.