



## A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families for the week of February 11, 2024

Read the Bible passage aloud in your group meeting. This is a worship discussion guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for your meeting, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

### Warm Up

- Recall a time where something shared in worship deeply encouraged you: a message, song, scripture, testimony, sacrament, prayer, or just the gathering itself. Why did it have impact?

### I Corinthians 14:1-25

- Paul continues to call the Corinthians to love and use their freedom—and their words-- to build God's church. Generally speaking: How are words used to unify How are words used to divide?

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<sup>1</sup> Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. <sup>2</sup> For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. <sup>3</sup> On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. <sup>4</sup> The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. <sup>5</sup> Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.

- The Corinthian Christians placed a great deal of emphasis on the gift of tongues. Why does Paul value prophecy over uninterpreted tongues?

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<sup>6</sup> Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? <sup>7</sup> If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played? <sup>8</sup> And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle? <sup>9</sup> So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible,

### Build Up the Church in Worship

how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air. <sup>10</sup> There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, <sup>11</sup> but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me. <sup>12</sup> So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

- What illustrations does Paul use to show why uninterpreted tongues do not build up the church?

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<sup>13</sup> Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. <sup>14</sup> For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. <sup>15</sup> What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also. <sup>16</sup> Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say "Amen" to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying? <sup>17</sup> For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up. <sup>18</sup> I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. <sup>19</sup> Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

- What does Paul teach us about the goal of Christian worship?
- What might be examples of "unfruitfulness" in worship today?

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<sup>20</sup> Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature. <sup>21</sup>In the Law it is written, "By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners will I speak to this people, and even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord." <sup>22</sup>Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers. <sup>23</sup>If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds? <sup>24</sup>But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, <sup>25</sup>the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.

- **Paul insists that elements of the worship service must be comprehensible to both unbelievers & believers, and he assumes that both will be present. What does Paul say is the purpose of tongues and prophecy?**
- **Paul sees that comprehensible, evangelistic worship is the context for the conviction of sin (24). Have you ever fallen under conviction in worship? What was that like?**
- **Worship shows the uninitiated inquirer what his heart has been secretly, but misguidedly, searching for (25). Has the spirit ever met you in worship to "disclose the secrets of your heart" or "reveal that God was among us"?**
- **Reflect on this week's passage together, and use it as a guide for a time of prayer.**

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Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene,  
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