

## Pray Together

**Use the first few minutes of your time together to lead your group in a focused prayer time.**

- **Praise:** Spend time praising God for who He is.
- **Repent:** Take a few moments to silently confess any sin that is lingering in your heart.
- **Ask:** Verbalize your needs and the needs of others to God.
- **Yield:** Surrender your will to God.

## Read Together

In recent weeks, we've discussed what it means to be better together as worshippers. We've highlighted some foundational points of worship (the why's) and discussed what happens when disciples gather for worship (the who's). This week we'll look at the what's and how's.

That should be a simple conversation. After all, no one has ever had experienced disunity when it comes to the what's and how's of worship, right?!?!?

And as we begin a conversation that can be very personal and very passionate, Paul's words to the Philippians in chapter 2 provide some fundamental guidance as we traverse these questions:

*Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. — Philippians 2:4-11*

So what are some practices of personal and corporate Christian worship? How does a growing disciple rightly engage in biblical worship of the One True God?

## Discuss Together

**Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion.**

- Read the following passages of Scripture. Discuss what they say about biblical worship of the One True God.
  - Mark 1:4-11 and Romans 6:1-6
  - 2 Corinthians 9:6-12
  - Romans 10:9-10 and 1 John 4:13-15
  - Matthew 18:15-20
  - Matthew 26:26-29
  - Matthew 6:7-15



- Luke 19:37-38

- Matthew 4:17, 28:19-20

- Good theology always connects doctrine and life. Are the worship practices discussed above prescriptive for the life of 21st Century North American Christians or do they simply describe an ancient practice? Why?
- Why prayer is worship? How can prayer be practiced as part of personal and corporate Christian worship?
- Do your prayers give you a broad and deep picture of the character and nature of God? How might your prayers be more aligned to the truth of God as revealed in Scripture?
- Christianity has been described as “the singing religion”. Why is singing so important for Christians? Identify portions of Scripture that support your position.
- Pastor C.J. Mahaney notes that singing is “Take Home Theology”. He claims the best songs the church sings serve as a three-minute, easily memorizable, deeply biblical summary of important truths from Scripture. Share one song that has helped you digest a deeply biblical summary of important truths from Scripture. (Don’t worry, you don’t have to sing it!) How does this song give you a broad and deep picture of the character and nature of God?
- Theologian and author Gordon Fee once said, “Show me a church’s songs and I’ll show you their theology.” Identify one song that was sung at your most recent worship service. Discuss the theological truths that song teaches. How does it exalt on honor Christ Jesus?
- How has the practice of generous and sacrificial giving impacted your spiritual growth in the last year? Share a story of how you saw God bless your faithfulness in giving.

## How I must obey Christ...

- Examine yourself. As a result of this study, identify a specific area in which you need to obey Christ this week.
- How do you specifically need to obey Christ in this area this week?
- How can Jesus redeem this area? How has He proven that in Scripture?
- Who will keep you accountable to this commitment this week?

## Pray Together

Read and pray through Acts 2:42-47.



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