

The Sacred Journey

Small Group Discussion Guide

Message: Let's Start With Worship

Text: Exodus 20:22–26

1. Icebreaker (5 minutes)

Option A: What's one memorable worship experience that helped you feel especially close to God?

Option B: When you hear the word "worship," what images or moments come to mind — music, church services, personal devotion, etc.?

Transition: Exodus 20:22–26 reminds us that before God gives detailed instructions for how His people should live, He begins with worship. Right worship precedes right living.

2. Read Scripture Together (5 minutes)

Read Exodus 20:22–26 aloud. Then invite someone to summarize what this passage says about how Israel was to approach God.

3. Discussion: Right Worship Precedes Right Living (15 minutes)

A. God Wants to Be the Center of Your Life

"Do not make any gods to be alongside me." — Exodus 20:23

1. Why do you think Israel might have been tempted to worship other gods alongside Yahweh?
2. What are some "modern idols" that compete for our worship today?
3. Reflect on J.I. Packer's quote: "Your god is what you love, seek, worship, serve, and allow to control you." What might this reveal about where your worship is centered?
4. In your daily life, what tends to pull your focus away from God being at the center?

B. God Wants to Be the Focus of Your Worship

"Wherever I cause my name to be honored, I will come to you and bless you." — Exodus 20:24b

5. According to this passage, what distinguishes biblical worship from pagan or self-centered worship?
6. The sermon mentioned that "worship starts with God's grace, not our effort." How does that truth reshape the way we approach Sunday worship or personal devotion?
7. What do the "means of grace" (Scripture, prayer, baptism, the Lord's Supper) teach us about how God meets us in worship?
8. Read Hebrews 12:28–29. How does reverence and awe fit with joy and freedom in worship?

C. God Calls Us into a Community of Grace

"Tell the Israelites..." — Exodus 20:22

9. How does this passage show that worship is not just personal, but communal?
10. Why is it important to stay connected to a local church community for worship and spiritual growth?
11. Who in your church community has been an example of genuine worship or faithfulness to you?

4. Application: Living It Out (5 minutes)

- What's one step you can take this week to re-center your life on worshiping God first?
- How can you bring a "sacrifice of praise" when you gather for worship next Sunday (Hebrews 13:15)?
- What might it look like for your life to revolve around God like the planets around the sun?

5. Closing Reflection & Prayer

Read Aloud:

"God wants to be the center of your life and the focus of your worship."

Prayer Prompts:

- Thank God that He has revealed Himself and invited you to worship Him.
 - Ask the Holy Spirit to expose anything competing for your heart's devotion.
 - Pray for your church family — that worship would be marked by awe, grace, and Christ-centered joy.
- (Optional Closing Song: "The Heart of Worship" by Matt Redman)