



The JESUS Centered Life

We **GATHER** regularly to worship Jesus



Opening Prayer

Almighty God and Loving Father, guide our study today. May your Holy Spirit be in our hearts as we read your Word. Help us understand clearly why we gather to worship you. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Relationships require maintenance. We often talk about spending “quality time” with our children or with our spouse. This usually means setting aside our personal priorities to make time for the people who matter most to us. Or maybe we prefer to think of it as making those people a priority in our lives. However, we think about it, we know that it is important to regularly use our time to show our family that we love and value them. Sometimes this is hard to make happen. Schedules have to be changed, priorities have to be realigned, and seemingly important tasks just have to be set aside for awhile so that we can give our full attention to those who mean so much to us.

READ Leviticus 23:3

What does this verse have to say about the use of our time?

What are the two purposes of the seventh day?

What do you think “sacred assembly” means in this verse?

Who is to be the focus of this day?

The sabbath happens **regularly**. It happens once every week. Why do you think God commands us to GATHER for worship on a regular basis?

What is your biggest obstacle to weekly gathering for worship?

What are some ways you might overcome that obstacle to regular worship?

READ Luke 4:16

We all have things that we do because it is “what we do.” This verse says Jesus went to synagogue “as was His custom.” What activities in your life would equate with your customs?

What does it take to upset these customs?

Are these customs just habits or is there more to it than mere habit? Explain.

How does Jesus custom of regularly gathering for worship relate to Leviticus 23:3?

Luther in his small catechism translates the sabbath commandment as “remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy.” The word “holy” means set aside or set apart for God. God calls us to set aside time for worship. How is Jesus challenging you to GATHER more regularly to worship Him?

READ Revelation 7:9-12

These verses describe a vision of worship.

Who or what are at the center of the worship?

Who is the Lamb? (see John 1:29)

John 1:29 reminds us that Jesus “takes away the sin of the world.” What regular parts of our worship services address this aspect of our faith life?

While we are thinking about our worship service what are some other parts of our worship services that happen each time we GATHER? Why is it important to do these things in community?

Who makes up the congregation in John’s vision? (hint: Peek ahead to Revelation 7:13 and 14.)

One of John's purposes in writing Revelation was to provide a vision of what life looks like when God reigns. How can our regular worship be likened to the vision described in Revelation 7?

How is Jesus present in our worship services?

How are God the Father and the Holy Spirit present in worship?

READ 1 Peter 1:18-21

How do these verses place you and me squarely within John's vision of Revelation 7?

Summarizing What We've Learned

What have you learned about God's intention for us concerning GATHERing regularly for worship?

Jesus custom was to be at community worship regularly. How is Jesus still GATHERing with worshippers today? How can you be part of that GATHERing with Jesus?

In John's vision who were the worship participants? How do you know that God sees you as one of those with Him in His kingdom?