

UNDERSTANDING WORSHIP

Rediscovering Intimacy With God

Review & Discussion Guide

Chapter One

1. How does the Anglo-Saxon origin of the word 'worship' influence our understanding of worship in a biblical context?

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2. In the Old Testament, what specific actions or attitudes do the key Hebrew words for 'worship' describe?

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3. What specific actions or attitudes do the key Aramaic words for 'worship' describe?

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4. What actions or attitudes do the main Greek words translated as 'worship' in the New Testament describe?

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Chapter One Group Discussion Questions

1. Discuss the importance of understanding worship as an action rather than a static concept. How do the various verbs for worship in the Bible challenge the notion of worship as a static concept?
2. Why is it significant to view worship as a dynamic engagement with God?

Chapter Two

1. Explain the two main characteristics of true worship as revealed in Scripture. How are they distinct yet intrinsically connected?

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2. Describe how the ‘devotional attitude and heart expression’ characteristic of worship is demonstrated in the Bible. What postures or actions in the Bible signify this type of worship? Provide examples from Scripture that illustrate these postures or actions.

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Chapter Two Group Discussion Questions

1. Discuss the role of ‘service’ in the context of worship.
2. Examine the translation issues related to the words ‘worship’ and ‘serve’.
3. Analyse the scriptural examples provided to highlight the distinction and connection between worship and service. Discuss the implications of neglecting either of these characteristics of worship.

Chapter Three

1. What are the three areas of expression that believers can offer to God in worship? Explain how each of these areas contributes to the devotional heart attitude characteristic of worship.

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2. How does the Bible demonstrate the ‘devotional attitude and heart expression’ characteristic of worship? Provide examples from both the Old Testament and New Testament.

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3. Explain the concept of ‘practising the presence of God’. How can believers apply this practice in their daily lives?

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4. Describe the connection between thanksgiving, praise, and worship. Why are these elements important in entering God's presence?

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Chapter Three Group Discussion Questions

1. Discuss the significance of experiencing a revelation of God's holiness in worship. How does this revelation impact a believer's worship?
2. Reflect on the illustration of the angels worshipping God. How does this imagery help us understand the continuous and awe-filled nature of worship in heaven?

Chapter Four

1. Why must adoration-type worship be elevated above service-type worship?

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2. In the story of Mary and Martha, what lesson can we learn about the prioritisation of worship and service?

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3. What does A.W. Tozer mean when he says, "Disobedient man had become sinful man. He had failed to fulfil the purpose of his creation—to worship his Creator in the beauty of holiness"?

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4. What are the potential dangers of emphasising service over worship, according to the text?

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Chapter Four Group Discussion Questions

1. Reflect on personal experiences where prioritising relationship with God over duties led to a deeper sense of fulfillment and purpose in service. Discuss how this lesson can be applied in modern church contexts where activities and programs can sometimes overshadow personal devotion and worship.
2. How does the book of Revelation illustrate the importance of the devotional heart characteristic of worship?
3. Discuss practical ways to foster a lifestyle of worship that aligns with the heavenly model described in Revelation.

Chapter Five

1. What are some activities that, according to the text, cannot be rightly called worship?

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2. Why is the concept of 'whole-of-life' worship considered a misconception in the text?

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3. What does the text suggest is the primary focus of true worship, and how should this influence the selection of songs for corporate worship?

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Chapter Five Group Discussion Questions

1. Discuss the difference between honouring God with daily actions and worshipping Him with undivided devotional attention.
2. Why is it important to distinguish between worship and service in a church setting, and what are the potential pitfalls of conflating the two?

Chapter Six

1. What is the ultimate goal for believers who worship in Spirit and truth?

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2. How does the apostle Paul describe the intimate nature of worship in 1 Corinthians 6:16-17?

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3. Why is it important to distinguish between true worship and soul-worship?

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Chapter Six Group Discussion Questions

1. Discuss the marriage metaphor used in the Bible to describe the relationship between God and His people. How does this metaphor help us understand the nature of worship?
2. In what ways can worship in Spirit and truth lead to practical changes in a believer's life, ministry, and community?