

“The Father Seeks Worshippers”

Zoe Christian Fellowship of Whittier
Bishop Edward A. Smith
Dr Joshua Smith, Pastor

INTRODUCTION TO LESSON

Life Group Lesson Objective: To understand “true worship” is worshipping God in an acceptable way to Him.

Life Group Leader Lesson Preparation:

COACH: Ask each life group member to share in their own words how the scripture for the week could be applied to their life...

- "God seeks true worshippers – John 4:23-24

WHY WE WORSHIP GOD: - Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. – Isa 45:22

Thus saith the Lord, the heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; where is the house that ye build unto me? And where is the place of my rest? – Isa 66:1

HOW WE WORSHIP GOD: Jesus said to the Samaritan woman at the well “God is a spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth”. John 4:24

- Acts 17:23-28
 - True worshipers **KNOW** God – through His son Jesus Christ
 - Jesus said **“I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them”** John 17:26 (NLT)

All through the bible, scripture teaches **FEAR** is a reverence for the Lord.

- To respect, honor and be in awe of God is to Worship him.
- The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom - Proverbs 1:7
- Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him – Ps 33:8

WEEK 1 – Worship is Giving Our Whole Heart to God

Discussion Question: What does ‘giving the whole heart to God” mean to you as an individual?

- Hebrews 12:28-29 says, "Let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with **reverence** and **godly fear**. For our God is a consuming fire."

WORSHIP HIM IN DIFFERENT WAYS WITH REVERENCE

1. In Love: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with *all thine heart*, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. - Deuteronomy 6:5
2. In Trust: Trust in the Lord *with all thine heart*; and lean not unto thine own understanding. -Proverbs 3:5
3. In Prayer: And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me *with all your heart* – Jeremiah 29:13

Jesus told the Samaritan woman the time is NOW to worship God in spirit and in truth.. John 4:21-23

Worshipping God "in spirit" means with reverence, attentiveness, and honoring God, while understanding what we are doing.

Our worship must glorify God. 1 Corinthians 6:20 says, "For you were bought with a price; therefor **glorify God** in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

Let's be honest - Discussion Question: What happens when you don't give your all to God (your whole heart)?

Week #2 – CULTIVATING A LIFE OF TRUE WORSHIP

Group Discussion Question: Is your lifestyle as a believer being developed and promoting worship every day?

True Worship is **NOT JUST** singing songs and praising with our lips when we come together as the body of Christ.

True Worship is other outward actions that we say and do out of heart of reverence, respect, and honor to God our Savior and Creator.

OBEDIENCE

Jesus said in John 14:6 – “I am the way the truth and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me”.

The Father Seeks Worshippers ... – February 2021

Following Christ and sharing him with others in the world is the ultimate obedience and reverence to God.

Love is a form of Worship

- We love Him because He first loved us – I John 4:19
- Oh Lord, I love thy law – Ps 119:97
- We love our enemies – Matt 5:44, 46

Prayer is a form of Worship

- I honor him because his word gives me confidence when I pray and I believe that my prayers will be answered – I John 5:14
- Luke 18:1 – Jesus said “always pray”

Disobedience to God’s Word is a form of Vain Worship

Matt 15:1-9 “they draw near me with their mouth, and honor me with their lips; but their heart is far from me”

Share other ways of obedience as true worship to God.

Let's be honest - Discussion Question: *We set goals, we write down visions: Is becoming a True Worshipper one of your goals/vision?*

Week #3 – WORSHIP GOD IN TRUTH

Group Discussion Question: God’s truth to us about us is not always easy to receive...Discuss things God has told us personally about ourselves that was difficult?

In John 4:21 – Jesus told the woman the time is coming when you will not worship God on this mountain or in Jerusalem.

John 4:15-18

- After speaking the truth to her about her life, he then spoke the truth to her about God. God reveals himself to us by his spirit...it doesn't take a special place or time that we worship him.
- I Cor 2:9 – “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.
- Cor 2:10 – “...but God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.
- I Cor 2:14 – “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him: nor can he know them because they are spiritually discerned

Jesus told the woman the truth, and the truth made her free; she went and told the men of that city about Jesus and they came to him and believed on Him because of his word.

- John 4:39-41

The Father Seeks Worshippers ... – February 2021

Revelation knowledge will cause us to worship God in spirit and in truth

Surrendering, yielding to his truth about us is to worship him; don't make excuses, yield to the Spirit of God when he "reveals" truth to us.

He loves us enough to tell us the truth....

Remember truth is part of your spiritual armor – Eph 6:14

Let's be honest - Discussion Question: *What one truth has God revealed to you about you that has helped you to become a true worshipper?*

Week #4 –WORSHIP GOD WITH THE GRACE OF GIVING

Group Discussion Question: - Discuss how giving is an act of worship?

Mal 3:10 – says BRING.....an act of our will...God says bring it to me

- II Corinthians 8:5 – And not as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.
- II Corinthians 8:7 – But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you abound in this grace also.
- II Corinthians 9:7 – So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity (compulsion); for God loves a cheerful giver.

Mark 12:41-44 – And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.

Rom 12:8 – He who exhorts, in exhortation; **he who gives, with liberality;** he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Let's be honest - Discussion Question: *At Zoe we say "let's now worship the LORD with our tithes and offerings...has it been a sacrifice or worship?"*

Remember Cain & Able:

Gen 4:1-5 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD." Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. Abel also brought of the

The Father Seeks Worshippers ... – February 2021

firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,⁵ but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.