

This midweek study will explore the biblical doctrine of worship. Use the following main points, Scriptures, teaching/discussion ideas, and questions to help students gain a better understanding of the essential doctrine for this session.

Essential Doctrine: Worship

While many reduce worship to an event or the singing of worship songs, worship is first and foremost something of the heart and extends to all areas of life. The aim and focus of worship is God, giving Him the exact due of praise and adoration He deserves. Worship should be carried out not only at a personal level within a Christian's life, but also in joining with other Christians in the corporate act of worship and stewarding our gifts for the glory of God. Corporate worship serves to edify and strengthen other Christians, but it also serves as a witness to non-believers of the greatness of God.

1 Worship is the expression of delight in who God is and what God does (Ps. 103; John 4:21-24).

- ▶ What images come to your mind when you think of worship? Explain.
- ▶ How would you define worship?

Read Psalm 103.

- ▶ Would you agree that this Psalm calls for worship? Why or why not?
- ▶ What elements make up this psalm? What emotion should the reader be experiencing over all?
- ▶ How did the psalmist try to stir up this emotion? What did he tell his soul to do? What did he recount?
- ▶ How can we come up with a working definition of worship?

At this point, suggest that worship is the expression of our delight in who God is and in what God does.

- ▶ Where does this Psalm express delight in God's person? Give specific verses.
- ▶ Where does this psalm express delight in God's work? Give specific verses.

Read John 4:21-24.

- ▶ What is worship not about (v. 21)?
- ▶ What is worship about?
- ▶ Does what Jesus says line up with our working definition? Why or why not?
- ▶ What is the relationship between knowledge of God and our feelings for God in worship? Why do we need both to be right for worship?

2 Worship extends to every activity of life for Christians (Rom. 12:1; 1 Cor. 10:31).

- ▶ Think back to our working definition for worship. Where can you practice worship?
- ▶ Is there anywhere that you cannot worship?

Read Romans 12:1.

- ▶ What did Paul say true worship looks like for us?

- ▶ List five different places you go in a week. What would worship look like in each of those places? How can you express your delight in who God is and what He does?
- ▶ What does worship look like at school? At family dinner? Out with friends?

Read 1 Corinthians 10:31.

- ▶ How is this verse a call for us to worship in all places?
- ▶ How is worshipping in all circumstances a witness to unbelievers?
- ▶ Why is it so essential to pursue our joy in Jesus in all things? What are some practical steps we can take to do that?

3 Christians gather together for corporate worship for mutual upbuilding and community witness (Heb. 10:24-25; 1 Pet. 2:9).

- ▶ In what ways is worship about an individual's relationship with God?
- ▶ In what ways is worship about a community's relationship with God?

Read Hebrews 10:24-25.

- ▶ How can we Christians help one another delight in God by encouraging one another toward love and good works? How do love and good works intensify our delight in God?
- ▶ What might our gathering together say to unbelievers?

Read 1 Peter 2:9.

- ▶ What kind of labels did Peter give us as a group? How do these labels encourage us to gather for worship, not to only make our worship individual?
- ▶ What is the purpose of our gathering together? Would you consider this purpose worship?

WRAP IT UP

- ▶ How can you make your life more of an act of worship this week? How can we practically, relying on the Spirit, delight in God? How can you help others worship this week?