

Small Group Study

Bring Your Offering

From the sermon series, "Giving as Worship"



SCRIPTURE

Have a volunteer read the following scripture:

Psalm 96:7-13 (NLT)

*7 O nations of the world, recognize the Lord;
recognize that the Lord is glorious and strong.
8 Give to the Lord the glory he deserves!
Bring your offering and come into his courts.
9 Worship the Lord in all his holy splendor.
Let all the earth tremble before him.
10 Tell all the nations, "The Lord reigns!"
The world stands firm and cannot be shaken.
He will judge all peoples fairly.

11 Let the heavens be glad, and the earth rejoice!
Let the sea and everything in it shout his praise!
12 Let the fields and their crops burst out with joy!
Let the trees of the forest rustle with praise
13 before the Lord, for he is coming!
He is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with justice,
and the nations with his truth.*

QUESTIONS

1. For many, the first thing that comes to mind when they hear the word worship is music. But worship is so much more. Worship is our daily lives. Worship is serving others. It's countless hours in private prayer. Worship is helping those in need. And worship is giving.

Icebreakers

Use the questions below to help people open up and to focus your meeting. It is very helpful to go around in a circle with the leader going first. (Remember if you have new members or guests you should take time to introduce everyone.)

- 1.** What is one of the best gifts you ever received?
- 2.** How do you usually like to spend your free time?
- 3.** If money were not an issue, where would you spend a one-week vacation? What would you do there?



How would *you* define the word worship?

2. Have you ever thought about giving as worship? What were your thoughts on Fred's teaching this weekend regarding giving as worship?

3. We give to bless God and to thank God and to love God and to expand His kingdom in our city, nation, and world. How can we take something that is temporal (like our resources) and use it for something that is eternal?

4. What have been your challenges and struggles with giving to the church? What blessings have you seen come from being a generous giver?

5. Fred said this weekend, "We can't out give God." What do you think he meant by that?

6. Read the following scripture:

Romans 12:1 (NIV)

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Now read the same verse in a different translation:

Romans 12:1 (MSG)

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering.

What does this verse mean to you?

7. How can our everyday lives (sleeping, eating, going to school) be worship?

8. What do you think about the statement "everyone worships something"? Give some real life examples of how and what you've seen people worship. (Note: worship doesn't always mean that a person bows down to something. It can also mean where someone devotes the majority of her time and talent.)

9. Why is it a bad thing to be giving something more worth than God?

10. Close this discussion in prayer. Here is a sample: "God, thank You that You are worth more than all of us could ever imagine. Help us to leave here today as true worshipers of You. God, help us this week to think in all we do about how we are truly worshiping You with our lives. Forgive us for settling and worshiping other things, help us to remove those and to place our gaze on You. Thank You for loving us like You do. In Jesus' name, Amen."

God bless,

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