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A People of Worship

WHY DOES IT MATTER WHO WE WORSHIP?

The POINT › When God is the center of our worship, we can experience Him more deeply, remain faithful, and foster gratitude.

› EZRA 3

1 When the seventh month arrived, and the Israelites were
in their towns, the people gathered as one in Jerusalem.
2 Jeshua son of Jozadak and his brothers the priests along with
Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and his brothers began to build
the altar of Israel's God in order to offer burnt offerings on it,
as it is written in the law of Moses, the man of God. 3 They
set up the altar on its foundation and offered burnt offerings
for the morning and evening on it to the LORD even though
they feared the surrounding peoples. 4 They celebrated the
Festival of Shelters as prescribed, and offered burnt offerings
each day, based on the number specified by ordinance for
each festival day. 5 After that, they offered the regular burnt
offering and the offerings for the beginning of each month
and for all the LORD's appointed holy occasions, as well as the
freewill offerings brought to the LORD. 6 On the first day of
the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the
LORD, even though the foundation of the LORD's temple had
not yet been laid. 7 They gave money to the stonecutters and
artisans, and gave food, drink, and oil to the people of Sidon
and Tyre, so they would bring cedar wood from Lebanon to
Joppa by sea, according to the authorization given them by
King Cyrus of Persia. 8 In the second month of the second year
after they arrived at God's house in Jerusalem, Zerubbabel
son of Shealtiel, Jeshua son of Jozadak, and the rest of their
brothers, including the priests, the Levites, and all who had
returned to Jerusalem from the captivity, began to build. They
appointed the Levites who were twenty years old or more to
supervise the work on the LORD's house. 9 Jeshua with his sons
and brothers, Kadmiel with his sons, and the sons of Judah
and of Henadad, with their sons and brothers, the Levites,
joined together to supervise those working on the house of
God. 10 When the builders had laid the foundation of the LORD's
temple, the priests, dressed in their robes and holding trumpets,
and the Levites descended from Asaph, holding cymbals,
took their positions to praise the LORD, as King David of Israel
had instructed. 11 They sang with praise and thanksgiving to
the LORD: "For he is good; his faithful love to Israel endures
forever." Then all the people gave a great shout of praise to the
LORD because the foundation of the LORD's house had been
laid. 12 But many of the older priests, Levites, and family heads,
who had seen the first temple, wept loudly when they saw the
foundation of this temple, but many others shouted joyfully.
13 The people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful
shouting from that of the weeping, because the people were
shouting so loudly. And the sound was heard far away.

THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

FACT:
You can worship God through simple actions like admiring nature. When's the last time you stopped to appreciate the detail in a spider's web and give glory to its Creator?[1]



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // CHURCH
The church is a fellowship of believers who are called to meet together regularly for the sake of studying Scripture, prayer, worship, and serving and encouraging one another.

Why does it matter if we worship or not? Worship matters because it's at the very heart of our relationship with God. When we gather to worship, whether as individuals or as a group, we are responding to God's greatness, goodness, and love for us. It isn't just a thing we do; worship is an act of setting aside everything else that distracts us and putting God first. Through worship, we acknowledge that Jesus alone is worthy of our praise and that our lives are meant to be lived for His glory.

The Bible reminds us in Psalm 95:6 to come worship the Lord: "Come, let's worship and bow down; let's kneel before the LORD our Maker" (CSB). Worship draws us out of ourselves and points our hearts toward our Creator, reminding us of His faithfulness and renewing our sense of hope. It shapes our attitudes, corrects our priorities, and sustains our faith, especially in tough times. When we worship, we are not only expressing gratitude for what God has done, but we are also growing in our trust for what He will do. That's why worship isn't just important; it's essential for every believer's walk with Christ.

EZRA 3:1-7

1 How can you make worship a priority, especially if you're facing challenges or uncertain circumstances?

2 What step of obedience or generosity can you take to trust God more deeply?

THE POINT // WHEN GOD IS THE CENTER OF OUR WORSHIP, WE CAN EXPERIENCE HIM MORE DEEPLY, REMAIN FAITHFUL, AND FOSTER GRATITUDE.

Our faithfulness in the "ordinary" times of life lays the foundation for what God wants to build later in us. #BSFLStudentsMoreThan aBuilding

EZRA 3:8-9

3 Where is God asking you to "begin the work," even if the results aren't immediate or easily seen?

4 Who is watching your faithfulness?

5 What ordinary act of obedience might God be using for something greater in your life or community?

EZRA 3:10-13

6 What things in your life—small beginnings or first steps—can you thank God for?

7 How might remembering God's faithfulness in the past help you practice gratitude in your current struggles or disappointments?

8 How can you bring your joy and sorrow to God with gratitude, trusting His goodness in every season?



LIVE IT OUT



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // CHURCH

The church is a fellowship of believers who are called to meet together regularly for the sake of studying Scripture, prayer, worship, and serving and encouraging one another.

Everyone worships something or someone; the key question is who or what that is. Students often have many things vying for their attention. It's important to see that God alone is worthy of worship. When He is at the center of our worship, we can experience Him more deeply.

GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

PEOPLE

FAMILY

COMMUNITY & WORLD

CHRIST

9 **How does the faithfulness of Christ, who laid down His life for us and continues to build His church, call you to unity, steadfast obedience, and gratitude as you follow Him each day?**

10 **In what practical ways can you express gratitude to Christ for all He has started (and is still finishing) in your life, even when you experience both joy and sorrow?**

THE POINT // WHEN GOD IS THE CENTER OF OUR WORSHIP, WE CAN EXPERIENCE HIM MORE DEEPLY, REMAIN FAITHFUL, AND FOSTER GRATITUDE.

COMMUNITY



11 How can your Bible study group come together in greater unity, stepping out to serve, worship, and build up one another, even when the work is difficult or the results are not immediate?

12 How can your group create an environment of gratitude that welcomes both celebration and real sorrow as you remember God's faithfulness together?

CULTURE

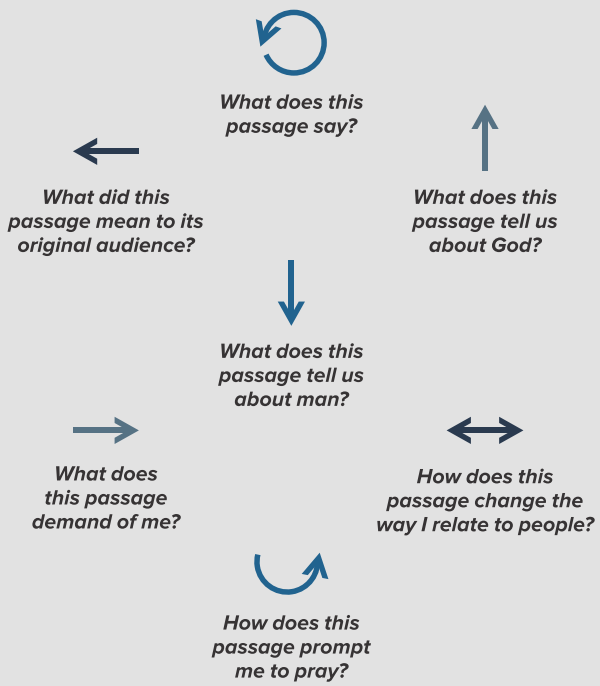
13 We live in a world that often celebrates quick results and individual achievement. How can we, as believers, model patient faithfulness, teamwork, and trust in God's timing to those around us?

14 Intentionally express gratitude in a public or group setting this week, such as on social media, at a meal, or in a conversation. Highlight God's ongoing work in your life, and invite others to share what they're grateful for as well.

DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of **Bible Reading**



Day One
PSALM 95:6

This verse is an invitation to approach God with reverence and humility. Worship is more than singing songs; it's an attitude of the heart that recognizes God's greatness and our dependence on Him. Bowing down and kneeling are outward actions that reflect an inner surrender. When we humble ourselves before God, acknowledging Him as Creator and King, we open our hearts to His presence and direction.

In our busy lives, it's easy to rush past moments of real worship and turn our attention to other things. But this psalm reminds us to pause and give God the honor He deserves. Setting aside time to bow our hearts and lives before the Lord keeps our focus on Him and shapes us into people who live with gratitude, awe, and surrender each day.

- **What does it look like for you to "bow down" and worship God in your daily life?**

- **How can you create more space in your routine this week to honor God as your Maker with genuine reverence?**

Day Two
JOHN 4:23-24



In this conversation with the woman at the well, Jesus shifted the focus from outward rituals and specific places for worship to the condition of our hearts. God is seeking worshipers who are real and who come close to Him, not just with words, but with the sincerity of their spirit and by aligning their lives with His Word. Worship is never about a formula; it's about an ongoing, real relationship with God.

As we grow as people of worship, we can ask the Holy Spirit to help us see God more clearly and respond with honesty and gratitude. True worship transforms us, grounding us in God's love and reshaping our priorities to match His truth.

- **What might need to change in your routine or mindset for your worship to become more heartfelt and real?**

- **How can you invite the Holy Spirit to lead you into deeper worship this week, both in private and in community?**

Day Three
HEBREWS 13:15

True worship isn't just a Sunday event; it's a continual response to God's goodness because of what Jesus has done for us. Sometimes, offering praise feels easy and joyful. Other times, it's a real sacrifice given in moments of struggle, sorrow, or confusion. But God calls us to praise Him in every season, trusting that He is faithful, even when life is difficult.

Choosing to offer a "sacrifice of praise" shapes our hearts. When we declare God's goodness aloud in prayer, song, or conversation, our view shifts from our problems to His faithfulness. Praise becomes a daily discipline and an act of obedience that helps us remain rooted in Christ, regardless of our circumstances.

- **In what areas of your life do you find it most difficult to offer God praise? Why?**

- **What are some practical ways you can make praise and thanksgiving a regular habit each day this week?**

Day Four
REVELATION 4:11

This vision of worship in heaven reveals that God's worthiness is rooted not just in what He does but in who He is as Creator. Everything in existence owes its being and purpose to Him, and all of heaven responds in adoration and awe. This verse reminds us that worship begins with recognizing God's greatness and His sovereignty over all creation, including our own lives.

When we see God as the center of all things, our daily priorities and attitudes shift. Instead of living for ourselves, we begin to honor Him in our schools, relationships, and decisions. Worship becomes more than a song; it's acknowledging God's worth in all that we do. Recognizing His authority fills us with gratitude and calls us to faithful obedience.

- **How can recognizing God as your Creator shape your attitude and actions throughout your day?**

- **What specific steps can you take this week to intentionally give God glory and honor in your daily life?**

Day Five
PSALM 150:6



This simple but powerful sentence is the final note of the book of Psalms, calling all creation to give God the praise He deserves. The call is not limited by circumstances, location, or ability; if you have breath, you are invited to worship God. Whether in moments of joy or sorrow, strength or weakness, our lives are meant to echo with gratitude and praise. Worship is the natural response to recognizing God's greatness and faithfulness in every season.

Sometimes life is busy or challenging, and worship can easily slip into the background. But when we pause and remember that every breath is a gift, it leads our hearts to praise. Gratitude refocuses us and draws us closer to God. Let your worship today be intentional, whether through words, songs, prayer, or acts of love, as you join all creation in lifting up the name of the Lord.

- **What are some simple ways you can intentionally praise God throughout your day?**

- **How can remembering that each breath is a gift from God shape your attitude and actions this week?**