

## Small Group Guide: "What Jesus Is Worth"

### Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by inviting God's presence and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and application of His Word.

### Icebreaker Question

Share about a time when you had to overcome a personal challenge or fear. What motivated you to keep going?

### Key Scripture References

Revelation 4:1-11

1 Corinthians 9:23-27

2 Timothy 2:1-6

James 1:12

Revelation 3:7-11

### Main Takeaways

The Act of Bowing Down - Worship involves physical and spiritual surrender to Christ's lordship

Crowns of Reward - God promises rewards for those who overcome selfishness and live selflessly for Him

The Cost of Discipleship - Following Jesus requires intentional discipline, endurance, and dying to self

The Crown of Thorns - Jesus wore thorns to break the curse and make a way for us

### Discussion Questions

#### Understanding the Message

The pastor mentioned not wanting to "show up in heaven empty-handed." What do you think he meant by this? How does this challenge or encourage you?

In Revelation 4, the 24 elders cast their crowns before God's throne. Why is this significant? What does it teach us about our accomplishments and rewards?

The sermon identified several types of crowns:

Victor's Crown (overcoming)

Crown of Life (enduring trials)

Crown of Righteousness

Which one resonates most with your current spiritual journey? Why?

### Personal Reflection

The pastor asked: "As you sum up your life, are you more selfish or selfless?" How would you honestly answer this question? What areas of selfishness do you need to surrender?

Paul wrote about "strict training" and making his body his slave rather than obeying every desire. What does spiritual discipline look like in your daily life? Where do you struggle most?

The sermon mentioned that we often fear witnessing for Christ. On a scale of 1-10, how comfortable are you sharing your faith? What holds you back?

### Digging Deeper

Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. Paul compares the Christian life to running a race and fighting with purpose. How does this athletic metaphor challenge your approach to following Jesus?

The pastor said, "If we hold things loosely with Christ, we won't have Christ. You've got to hold on." What does it mean to "hold on" to Christ? How is this different from just believing in Him?

In 2 Timothy 2:4, Paul writes that "no one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs." What "civilian affairs" distract you from serving Christ wholeheartedly?

## Application and Action

The sermon emphasized overcoming in three areas:

Overcoming yourself (selfishness)

Overcoming sin (personal struggles and sins of others against you)

Overcoming fear (especially in witnessing)

Which area is God calling you to focus on this week?

Jesus wore a crown of thorns to break the curse. How should remembering His sacrifice change how we approach our daily struggles and inconveniences?

The pastor mentioned that a church is like a constellation—multiple stars displaying God's brilliance together. How can our group better shine collectively rather than individually?

## Practical Applications

### This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

#### Option 1: Discipline Practice

Identify one area where you need "strict training" (social media, eating habits, entertainment choices, etc.)

Commit to denying yourself in this area for one week

Journal about what you learn about yourself and God through the process

#### Option 2: Witnessing Step

Write out your personal testimony in 3-5 minutes

Share it with one person in the group for feedback

Pray for an opportunity to share with someone who doesn't know Christ

### Option 3: Physical Worship

Practice kneeling/bowing during your personal prayer time each day

Reflect on what this physical act teaches you about surrender

Share your experience with an accountability partner

### Option 4: Selflessness Action

Identify one person who has wronged you or someone you struggle to love

Do something kind for them this week without expecting anything in return

Pray for them daily

Accountability Questions

What specific action will you take this week based on today's discussion?

Who will you share this commitment with for accountability?

How can the group pray for you specifically?

Closing Activity

Crown Casting Exercise:

Give each person a piece of paper

Have them write down one accomplishment, achievement, or "crown" they're proud of

Spend time in prayer, symbolically offering these to Jesus

If comfortable, physically bow or kneel as you pray

End by reading Revelation 4:10-11 together

Prayer Focus

Pray for:

Hearts that desire to live selflessly for Christ

Courage to overcome fear, especially in witnessing

Discipline to endure trials with joy

A deeper understanding of what Jesus is truly worth

Specific needs shared by group members

For Next Week

Read the book of James, chapter 1

Reflect on one trial you're currently facing and how you can "consider it pure joy"

Come prepared to share one way you practiced surrender this week

Leader Notes

Be prepared to share your own struggles with selfishness and discipline—vulnerability encourages openness

Don't rush through questions; allow silence for reflection

Focus on 3-4 questions that resonate most with your group rather than covering everything

Consider having someone share a brief testimony about overcoming through Christ

End on time and with hope—the goal is motivation, not condemnation