



Small Group Guide: Worship in Living Color

Opening Prayer

Begin your group time by inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and deepen your worship experience together.

Icebreaker

Share a time when you experienced God's presence in a powerful way during worship. What made that moment different from other worship experiences?

Key Takeaways

1. Performance vs. Presence

The church today often emphasizes excellent music, sound, and production, but we must prioritize encountering God's presence over putting on a performance.

2. Black and White to Living Color

Just as television transitioned from black and white to living color, our worship needs to move from routine, lifeless expressions to vibrant, Spirit-filled encounters with God.

3. Three Characteristics of Living Color Worship:

- **Unified** - Coming together as one body with one purpose
- **Intimate** - Developing a personal relationship with God
- **Enduring** - A lifestyle that sustains us through every circumstance

4. Access to God's Presence

When Jesus said "It is finished," the veil was torn, giving us direct access to God's presence. But we must choose to step through and enter in.

Discussion Questions

Section 1: Understanding Living Color Worship

1. What does "performance over presence" look like in modern church services? Have you experienced this?
2. The sermon mentions that "God is more interested in our direction than our perfection." How does this change your approach to worship?
3. Read Revelation 4:2-11 and 5:1-14 together. What stands out to you about the worship happening around God's throne right now?

Section 2: Unified Worship

1. Why do you think unity is so powerful in corporate worship? Can you think of biblical examples beyond the Jericho story?
2. The illustration of singing "Happy Birthday" showed how quickly a room can be unified. What prevents us from experiencing that same unity in worship?
3. Discuss this statement: "When we rise up as a mighty army of worshipers and declare the high praises of God, we begin to see the plans of the enemy frustrated and the plans of God furthered." Have you seen this happen?

Section 3: Intimate Worship

1. What does it mean to bring your "own song" to God rather than just singing the words on the screen?
2. The sermon emphasized stepping through the torn veil into God's presence. What holds people back from entering into that intimate place with God?
3. How can we develop a lifestyle of intimacy with God outside of Sunday morning worship?

Section 4: Enduring Worship

1. Read Acts 16:16-34 (Paul and Silas in prison). What impresses you most about their response to being imprisoned?
2. The sermon mentions three things that happened when Paul and Silas worshiped at midnight:
 - An earthquake came
 - Chains were unfastened
 - Doors were opened
3. Which of these do you need God to do in your life right now?

4. How can worship sustain us during our "midnight hour" - our darkest, most difficult times?

Personal Reflection

Take 3-5 minutes of silence for each person to consider:

- Am I settling for "black and white" worship when God is offering "living color"?
- What barriers (fear, self-consciousness, busyness) keep me from fully entering God's presence?
- Is worship just a Sunday activity for me, or is it a lifestyle that sustains me through every circumstance?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose at least TWO of the following to practice this week:

1. **Develop Your Own Song**
 - Spend 10 minutes in private worship where you don't use a playlist or hymnal. Sing your own words to God - even if it's just one phrase repeated.
2. **Step Through the Veil**
 - Set aside 15-20 minutes to intentionally "enter in" to God's presence. Remove distractions, quiet your mind, and focus solely on being with Him.
3. **Worship in the Midnight Hour**
 - When you face a difficult situation this week, practice praising God even before you see the victory. Declare who He is and what He can do.
4. **Unity Practice**
 - Make a conscious effort this Sunday to fully engage in corporate worship - sing out, raise your hands, close your eyes, and join with others in declaring God's praise.
5. **Journal Your Worship**
 - Write down your own psalm or prayer to God. Pour out your heart on paper as an act of worship.

Group Activity (Optional)

Worship Together:

- Turn off all devices and distractions
- Play an instrumental worship track or worship a cappella
- Encourage each person to sing their own song to God during instrumental

breaks

- Create space for silence and listening
- Allow the Holy Spirit to lead your time

Closing Discussion

How has this sermon challenged or changed your understanding of worship?

What is one specific thing you want to remember from today's discussion?

Closing Prayer

Have different group members pray for:

- Greater unity in corporate worship at your church
- Deeper intimacy with God for each person
- Breakthrough for those in their "midnight hour"
- Fresh encounters with God's presence

For Next Week

Encourage group members to:

- Share testimonies of how they practiced living color worship
- Note any breakthroughs or encounters with God
- Come prepared to discuss what sustained them through difficult moments

Leader Notes

- Be sensitive to those who may feel intimidated by more expressive worship
- Emphasize that worship is about the heart, not performance
- Create a safe space for people to be honest about their struggles
- Model vulnerability by sharing your own journey in worship
- Remember: direction matters more than perfection