

Lindale Bible Class:

WORSHIPING

OUR GOD

IN SPIRIT, TRUTH, AND WITH OUR ENTIRE BEING

THE PURSUIT OF GOD

Seeking God Himself and learning to live consciously in His presence.

THE PURPOSE OF MAN

Recovering the purpose for which we were created:
knowing, honoring, and delighting in God.

THE RESURRECTED LIFE

Living from the identity, power, love, and hope of the risen Christ.

OCTOBER–DECEMBER 2026

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AM I PASSIONATELY PURSUING GOD?

Psalm 63:1–8

BIG IDEA

Christianity is not merely knowing things about God. It is knowing, desiring, and pursuing God Himself. It is ongoing, intentional, and determined.

1. DAVID HAD GOD, BUT STILL SOUGHT HIM (63:1-2)

David already knew the Lord. Yet Psalm 63 begins with hunger: “I shall seek You earnestly; my soul thirsts for You.” Knowing God did not end David’s pursuit. It intensified it.

2. GOD’S “LOVINGKINDNESS IS BETTER THAN LIFE” (63:3-5)

David is in a dry and weary land, but his deepest desire is not for changed circumstances. God’s lovingkindness is better than life, and His presence satisfies the soul.

3. GOD HIMSELF BECOMES THE TREASURE (63:6-8)

David remembers God. He meditates on God. He reflects on the ways God has helped him. With God is joy, regardless of circumstances, and with fellowship is God’s helping hand.

EMPHASIS

We must press beyond just correct beliefs about God toward a living hunger for God Himself. The person who has truly found God does not stop seeking Him; relationship creates appetite, and appetite fuels relationship.

THE QUESTION: Do I want God, or mainly what God can give me?

AM I PASSIONATELY PURSUING GOD?

Psalms 63:1–8

OBSERVE THE TEXT

1. What words does David use to describe his desire for God?
2. What does David remember about God from earlier experiences?
3. What satisfies David in verses 3–5?

THINK DEEPER

4. How can someone know a great deal about God without deeply desiring Him?
5. Do you deeply desire a stronger relationship with God? What does that mean to you?
6. How is wanting God different from wanting changed circumstances?

EXAMINE YOURSELF

7. When I pray, how long can I praise God and delay thanksgiving and request?
8. How is my life different when God's nearness is all that I require?
9. How might bible reading be affected if the clear goal is God Himself?

PRAYER

Father, deepen my desire for You. Teach me to value Your presence above Your gifts and to seek You because You are worthy of being known and loved.

TAKE IT WITH YOU: “My soul thirsts for You.” — Psalm 63:1

WHAT DO I HOLD TOO TIGHTLY?

Genesis 22:1–14; Matthew 6:19–34

FROM LAST TIME

We began with the hunger to know God Himself. Now we face a great obstacle: allowing one of God's gifts to become more precious than the Giver.

1. ISAAC WAS A GIFT - AND A TEST

(Genesis 22:1-14)

Even a good and God-given blessing must never occupy the place that belongs to God alone.

2. WE CAN BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF WHAT WE OWN

(Matthew 6:19-21)

Treasures include relationships, plans, influence, security, reputation, accomplishments, and expectations.

3. SURRENDER RESTORES PROPER ORDER

(Matthew 6:24)

Abraham's obedience showed that God remained greater than the promise God had given him.

4. THE OPEN HAND IS THE FREE LIFE WITH GOD

(Matthew 6:31-34)

When nothing must be protected from God, we can enjoy His gifts without making them our identity or security.

EMPHASIS

The surrendered person can possess many things without being inwardly possessed by them. God is not one treasure among many; every other treasure is held with an open hand before Him.

THE QUESTION: What would be hardest for me to place completely in God's hands?

WHAT DO I HOLD TOO TIGHTLY?

Genesis 22:1–14; Matthew 6:19–34

OBSERVE THE TEXT (Genesis 22:1–14)

1. What makes God's command especially difficult for Abraham?
2. What does Abraham's response reveal about his trust in God?
3. Where do you see both surrender and confidence?

THINK DEEPER

4. How can good gifts become spiritual competitors?
5. What is the difference between loving something deeply and loving it unhealthily?
6. How can subjecting your gifts to God make you freer to enjoy those gifts?

EXAMINE YOURSELF

7. What person, possession, dream, role, or reputation would I be most afraid to lose?
8. How do I protect against my faith falling apart if I lost such a vital thing?
9. What would open-handed trust look like in this situation? How do you express this in prayer?

THIS WEEK

Identify one thing you deeply value. Thank God specifically for it. Then consciously place it back into His hands: "This is Yours before it is mine."

WEEK 1: SEEK GOD HIMSELF. HOLD EVERYTHING ELSE WITH AN OPEN HAND, SUBMITTING IT TO HIM.

WHAT VEIL MUST BE REMOVED?

Hebrews 10:19–25

BIG IDEA

Christ has opened the way into the presence of God. Yet a veil can remain within us, based on our flesh: the self-life that insists on primary attention.

1. THE WAY INTO GOD'S PRESENCE IS OPEN

Hebrews begins with confidence: by the blood of Jesus we may enter the holy place. The first veil has been dealt with. God is not withholding Himself from us. (10:19–21)

2. AN INNER VEIL CAN EXIST BASED ON OUR FLESH

Tozer names self-righteousness, self-pity, self-confidence, self-sufficiency, self-admiration, self-love, egotism, exhibitionism, and self-promotion. Self craves all of your attention.

3. SELF MUST COME UNDER THE CROSS

The problem is deeper than a few bad habits. The veil is woven from the self-life itself. It cannot simply be educated or decorated; self-rule must be surrendered to Christ. (Luke 9:23; Galatians 2:20)

4. THE OPEN WAY CALLS US TO DRAW NEAR

Hebrews does not stop with access. Because Jesus has opened the way, we are told: “let us draw near.” The goal is real fellowship with God—with a sincere heart, full assurance, and a cleansed conscience. (10:22–25)

EMPHASIS

Christ has removed the barrier before us; so what remains in the way? The great obstruction is the insistence of self to preserve its own importance. The answer is not self-hatred, but the surrender of self-rule to Jesus Christ.

THE QUESTION: If the way to God is open, what in me still resists drawing near?

WHAT VEIL MUST BE REMOVED?

Hebrews 10:19–25

OBSERVE THE TEXT

1. What has Jesus done that gives us confidence to enter God's presence? (10:19-21)
2. What phrases in verse 22 describe the heart and confidence with which we draw near?
3. What kind of life flows from drawing near to God? (10:23-25)

THINK DEEPER

4. Why can the self-life remain strong even in someone who is knowledgeable and active?
5. Which of these "self-sins" are easiest to disguise as virtues: self-confidence, self-righteousness, self-pity, self-protection, or self-promotion?
6. What does it actually mean to deny oneself and take up the cross for Jesus? (Luke 9:23)

EXAMINE YOURSELF

7. When I feel threatened, overlooked, disappointed, or just plain tired, what mechanism do I invoke to protect myself that can block my view of God?
8. Where does concern for my reputation, comfort, control, or being right compete with drawing near to God? Why, in Christ, are those things less important now?
9. What would it look like this week if my relationship with Christ allowed me to have peace in Him, confidence in my life, and a freedom that doesn't need to focus on myself?

PRAYER

Father, thank You that Jesus has opened the way into Your presence. Expose the self-life that keeps turning my attention back toward me. Teach me to surrender it and draw near to You and rest in Christ's sufficiency.

TAKE IT WITH YOU: "LET US DRAW NEAR WITH A SINCERE HEART." — HEBREWS 10:22

ARE YOU EXPERIENCING GOD?

Psalm 34:1–10

FROM LAST TIME

Removing the veil is not an end in itself. We must now see whether the God we confess closeness to is, in fact, nearer, ever nearer, as we walk every day.

1. GOD IS A REALITY TO BE INTERACTED WITH

God is not merely a conclusion we reach or a doctrine we affirm. Psalm 34 speaks in the language of encounter: seek, hear, look, taste, fear, trust. These are relationship terms.

2. FAITH EXPERIENCES WHAT THE SENSES CANNOT

Faith is not imagining an unreal world; it is responding to the unseen God as truly as our senses respond to the visible world. It is the spiritual being as real to us as the physical.

3. “TASTE AND SEE” IS A REAL ACTIVITY INVOLVING MIND, BODY, AND SOUL

Psalm 34:8: “O taste and see that the LORD is good.” Truth about God is meant to lead us into trust, worship, dependence, and a Singular Source for that which is truly good.

4. WE MUST CULTIVATE SPIRITUAL RECEPTIVITY

Spiritual faculties can become dull through neglect. As we turn our attention toward God in faith, Scripture, prayer, obedience, and worship, we have real internal work to do. (I Corinthians 2:14-16; Hebrews 5:11-14)

EMPHASIS

The visible world dominates us because our physical senses are continually engaged. We must practice the presence of God until the unseen world becomes a conscious, compelling reality to the soul. *How do you do that?*

THE QUESTION: Am I merely believing truths about God, or am I learning to live in conscious response to the living God?

ARE YOU EXPERIENCING GOD?

Psalm 34:1–10

OBSERVE THE TEXT

1. List the words that detail how David articulates His interaction with God in 34:1-10. What do they reveal about David's relationship with God?
2. What does David say happened when he sought the Lord in verses 4–7?
3. Why is “taste and see” (v. 8) stronger language than simply “know and believe”?

THINK DEEPER

4. We are naturally more responsive to the visible world because our senses are constantly exercised. How can we train our senses to see beyond this realm?
5. What does it mean to “experience” God? How is that more than just grasping or reciting ideas about Him? In what ways do you do best accomplish this?
6. Why must genuine interaction with God remain rooted in the God revealed in Scripture rather than in feelings alone?

EXAMINE YOURSELF

7. In ordinary life, which feels more immediately real to me: my visible circumstances or the unseen presence and character of God?
8. What am I doing or thinking in times when I feel God's nearness and help the most?
9. Where could I deliberately turn my attention toward God this week and how?

THIS WEEK

Read Psalm 34:1–10 slowly each day. Choose one action—seek, look, taste, fear, trust—and deliberately practice it. Ask God to make His reality more compelling to your heart than the circumstances you can see.

**TAKE IT WITH YOU: “O TASTE AND SEE THAT
THE LORD IS GOOD.” — PSALM 34:8**

WHERE CAN YOU GO FROM HIS PRESENCE?

Psalms 139:1–12

BIG IDEA

We do not have to bring God near. God is already present. Spiritual maturity learns to live consciously before the God who is always here.

1. GOD IS PRESENT EVERYWHERE

Psalms 139 leaves no corner of creation outside God's presence. Heaven, Sheol, the farthest sea, darkness - David cannot travel beyond God. This is universal presence: God is here, everywhere, always.

2. GOD DOES NOT HAVE TO "COME" TO US

God's presence is objective reality, not something our emotions manifest. We may become more aware of Him, but our awareness does not make Him present. He is always near us.

3. THE DIFFERENCE IS OUR AWARENESS OF HIM

If God is equally present everywhere, why do some people seem to experience Him more deeply? It is spiritual receptivity: some have learned to recognize, trust, and respond to God.

4. HIS PRESENCE MAKES ALL OF LIFE SACRED

God is not confined to church, prayer, or devotional time. Work, meals, travel, conversation, suffering, solitude, and rest all occur in His presence. No legitimate moment of life is spiritually empty. A big part of this is refusing to isolate God to a place or time.

EMPHASIS

It is not our job to persuade God to come near or care about us. He is already here, and He always does. The pursuit is learning to recognize and respond to His presence until God becomes a constant, acknowledged companion.

THE QUESTION: If God is already present everywhere, what keeps me from living consciously in His presence?

WHERE CAN YOU GO FROM HIS PRESENCE?

Psalms 139:1–12

OBSERVE THE TEXT

1. What parts of David's life are already known and seen by God in Psalm 139:1–6?
2. What is David's understanding of God's omnipresence in Psalm 139:7–12?
3. Does Psalm 139 present God's presence mainly as comforting, confronting, or both?

THINK DEEPER

4. Read Acts 17:24–28. How does this text explore the idea of God's universal presence?
5. Read Matthew 28:18–20. How should Jesus' promise "I am with you always" affect courage and mission?
6. Read Hebrews 13:5–6. How does "I will never desert you" turn God's presence into practical confidence?

EXAMINE YOURSELF

7. If God is in every place you are, what are your daily disciplines to acknowledge Him?
8. If Christ is right next to you, and you know, how might that affect your choices?
9. How can this spiritual reality be relevant even when busy with work, school, or life?

THIS WEEK

Choose three ordinary moments each day and deliberately acknowledge: "God is here." Connect that awareness to one New Testament promise about His nearness, and let it shape what you think, say, and do.

**TAKE IT WITH YOU: GOD IS ALREADY HERE.
LEARN TO LIVE IN RESPONSE TO HIS PRESENCE.**

IS YOUR LIFE AN OFFERING TO GOD?

Romans 12:1–2 • Colossians 3:17

FROM LAST TIME

The soul that fixes its gaze on Christ begins to see all of life differently. The pursuit of God is not confined to devotional moments; our whole life becomes an offering.

1. GOD CLAIMS THE WHOLE PERSON

Romans 12 calls us to present our bodies as a living and holy sacrifice. Worship is not merely something the mind feels or the mouth says. We place our actual lives at God's disposal. This moves beyond vertical offering and more to the course of all our life.

2. WORSHIP EXTENDS BEYOND THE ASSEMBLY

Paul describes this surrendered life as our spiritual service of worship. Work, relationships, meals, decisions, recreation, suffering, and service can all be lived consciously before God.

3. EVERYTHING CAN BE DONE IN THE NAME OF JESUS

Colossians 3:17 removes the artificial boundary between sacred and ordinary: whatever we do in word or deed can be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, with thanksgiving to God. In this way, all our choices and relationships answer to God's will and honor.

4. THE ORDINARY LIFE BECOMES HOLY GROUND

The goal is not to escape ordinary life to find God. It is to recognize that every legitimate task can become an expression of love, obedience, gratitude, and worship when offered to Him. Every part of our life exists within the sphere of God's presence and worthiness.

EMPHASIS

The sacred-secular division disappears when the whole person belongs to God. The Christian can turn ordinary acts into worship by doing them for God's glory. This is, with integrity, faithfulness, and subjecting it all to Him.

THE QUESTION: What part of my ordinary life have I failed to see as belonging to God?

IS YOUR LIFE AN OFFERING TO GOD?

Romans 12:1–2 • Colossians 3:17

OBSERVE THE TEXT

1. What does Romans 12 tell us to present to God?
2. How does Paul describe this offering?
3. How broad is the command of Colossians 3:17? Where does it apply?

THINK DEEPER

4. Why are we tempted to divide life into spiritual and non-spiritual categories?
5. How can an ordinary task become an act of worship even if it isn't notably God-focused?
6. What changes when we consciously do something "in the name of the Lord Jesus"?

EXAMINE YOURSELF

7. Which ordinary part of my life feels least connected to God?
8. How could I approach that activity or period differently if I saw it as belonging to Him?
9. If my body is a vessel for daily offering, what responsibility do I have to care for my body?

THIS WEEK

Choose one ordinary responsibility you normally treat as spiritually insignificant. Do it deliberately for God: with gratitude, excellence, love, and an awareness that you are living before Him. Pray before and afterward.

WEEK 4: PURSUE GOD UNTIL ALL OF LIFE IS LIVED IN HIS PRESENCE.

IS YOUR SOUL GAZING UPON JESUS?

Hebrews 12:1–3; Matthew 11:28–30; II Corinthians 3:16–18

BIG IDEA

Faith turns the attention of the soul away from self and toward Christ. We endure by fixing our eyes on Jesus.

1. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE REQUIRES DIRECTION

Hebrews pictures life as a race. We lay aside what entangles us and run with endurance. But endurance requires more than effort; it requires knowing where to look.

2. FAITH FIXES ITS ATTENTION ON JESUS

The center of the passage is not the runner but Christ. Jesus is the author and perfecter of faith. Faith looks away from its own adequacy and rests its attention upon Him.

3. SELF-FOCUS PRODUCES INSTABILITY

Constantly measuring our strength, progress, reputation, or failures keeps the self at the center. We should acknowledge our highs and lows, but more than that, the Christ who leads us through life. Don't forget Jesus' words: "deny yourself... and follow Me." (Mt. 16:24).

4. BEHOLDING CHRIST PRODUCES ENDURANCE

Jesus endured the cross because of the joy set before Him. When we consider Him, His faithfulness reframes suffering, opposition, weariness, and the temptation to give up.

EMPHASIS

Faith is the gaze of the soul upon a saving God. We do not create spiritual life by staring harder at ourselves. We look outward and upward toward the One who is faithful. In Him is redemption, direction, hope and strength to live a faithful life.

THE QUESTION: Where do my eyes naturally go when life becomes difficult?

IS YOUR SOUL GAZING UPON JESUS?

Hebrews 12:1–3; Matthew 11:28–30; II Corinthians 3:16–18

OBSERVE THE TEXT (Hebrews 12:1–3)

1. What must the runner lay aside? What does that look like for you?
2. Where does the writer tell us to direct our eyes? What does that practically mean?
3. What does considering Jesus protect us from in verse 3?

THINK DEEPER

4. Why does constant self-examination make spiritual growth harder rather than easier?
5. What is the difference between responsible self-awareness and self-absorption?
6. How does looking to Jesus change how we understand hardship or failure in this life?

EXAMINE YOURSELF

7. When I struggle, do I first look at Christ, myself, circumstances, or other people?
8. What concern repeatedly pulls my attention away from Jesus?
9. What truth about Christ do I most need to keep before me right now?

PRAYER

Father, teach me to look to Your Son. When I am discouraged, proud, afraid, or weary, turn my attention away from myself and help me remember who He is and what He has done. And then... strengthen my faith to walk with Him.

TAKE IT WITH YOU: FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS.

WHY DID GOD MAKE US?

Isaiah 43:6–7, 21; Psalm 95:1–7

BIG IDEA

God created humanity with a unique capacity to know Him, delight in Him, and willingly praise Him. Worship is not one activity among many; it is the purpose that orders every other part of life. Define "worship" with that scope.

1. GOD MADE US FOR HIMSELF

(Isaiah 43:6-7)

We are not self-created or self-defined. We belong to the One who formed us. Our identity begins with God's purpose, not our preferences. This authority design is crucial to faith.

2. GOD FORMED A PEOPLE TO PRAISE HIM

(Isaiah 43:21)

God's people were formed to declare His praise. Redemption restores our voice and our lives to their proper direction. We have been saved to be holy worshipers of God.

3. WORSHIP RESPONDS TO WHO GOD IS

(Psalm 95:1-5)

The Lord is the great King and Maker. Worship begins with His greatness, not with our circumstances or what we hope to receive. This all may sound unfair: that God would make us for the purpose of glorifying Him. But recognition of His greatness will demand this action.

EMPHASIS

Worship is humanity's full reason for existence. We were made capable of consciously admiring God, loving Him, and responding to His worth in a way the rest of creation cannot. So value in life is measured by what is given to God.

THE QUESTION: Is worship the center of my life - or one part of it?

WHY DID GOD MAKE US?

Isaiah 43:6–7, 21; Psalm 95:1–7 ·

OBSERVE THE TEXT

1. What reasons for worship are given in Psalm 95:1–5?
2. What changes in verses 6–7 as praise becomes bowing and belonging?
3. According to Isaiah 43:21, why did God form a people for Himself?

THINK DEEPER

4. What's the difference in worshiping because God is worthy and thanking Him for gifts?
5. How can salvation become man-centered if we treat our rescue as the final objective?
6. If worship is our purpose, how should it shape work, family, recreation, and hardship?

EXAMINE YOURSELF

7. Am I comfortable stating that God made and saved me TO worship Him?
8. Is my worship, at church and otherwise, an offering before God? In what way?
9. How can I offer praise directly to God in my everyday life and schedule?

PRAYER

Father, You made me for Yourself. Teach me to see Your worth, delight in Your greatness, and offer You more than words. Let my whole life declare Your praise.

TAKE IT WITH YOU: “WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF HIS PASTURE.” — PSALM 95:7

WHAT HAS SIN DONE TO WORSHIP?

Romans 1:18–25; Genesis 3:1-6

FROM LAST TIME

We were made to worship God. Romans 1 shows what went wrong: humanity did not stop worshipping; we redirected worship from the Creator toward created things.

1. CREATION MAKES GOD'S POWER PLAIN (Romans 1:19-20)

The world points beyond itself to the eternal power and divine nature of its Maker. Creation should awaken reverence.

2. SIN REFUSES TO HONOR AND THANK GOD (Romans 1:21)

The fall of worship begins when God is known but no longer honored as God. Gratitude disappears as the self moves to the center.

3. FALSE WORSHIP EXCHANGES GOD FOR HIS GIFTS (Romans 1:22-23)

The worshipping impulse remains, but it attaches itself to people, possessions, pleasure, power, and the visible world.

4. MISDIRECTED WORSHIP DISORDERS LIFE (Romans 1:24-25; Genesis 3:1-7)

When the Creator is displaced, desires and choices lose their proper order. What we worship eventually shapes who we become. The real person we then worship is ourselves.

EMPHASIS

Human sinfulness is a tragedy of lost identity. We still worship, but sin clouds the object and purpose of worship. Redemption restores the WHO and WHY.

THE QUESTION: What created thing most easily receives the devotion God deserves?

WHAT HAS SIN DONE TO WORSHIP?

Romans 1:18–25; Genesis 3:1–7

OBSERVE THE TEXT (Romans 1:18–25)

1. What can creation reveal about God?
2. What did humanity refuse to give God in verse 21?
3. What “exchange” is repeated in verses 23 and 25?

THINK DEEPER

4. Why does rejecting God not eliminate worship? (What is worship?)
5. How can a good created gift become a rival god? (Why does this happen?)
6. What led Eve and Adam to use their bodies (to act) in a way that dishonored God?

EXAMINE YOURSELF

7. What most often captures my imagination, hope, or fear, even more than God?
8. When do I enjoy God’s gifts without honoring the Giver?
9. How can I be sure that I only enjoy created things in a way that glorifies the Creator?

THIS WEEK

Notice what repeatedly receives your attention and emotional energy. Thank God for every good gift, then deliberately let that gift point you back to the Giver.

**WEEK 1: WE WERE MADE TO WORSHIP THE
CREATOR, NOT THE CREATION.**

CAN WE WORSHIP GOD ANYWHERE?

John 4:19–24

BIG IDEA

Jesus moves the discussion beyond competing sacred places. True worship is defined by the Father we approach, the truth He has revealed, and the spirit with which we respond.

1. WORSHIP IS NOT CONTROLLED BY LOCATION

The woman asks which mountain is correct. Jesus announces an hour when worship will no longer be centered in either Gerizim or Jerusalem.

2. TRUE WORSHIP STILL HAS AN OBJECT

Jesus does not say sincerity makes every worship acceptable. The Father seeks worshipers who know whom they worship.

3. WORSHIP MUST BE “IN SPIRIT”

Worship involves the inner person—not merely bodily presence, outward form, or inherited habit. The heart must bow with the words.

4. WORSHIP MUST BE “IN TRUTH”

The God we worship is not invented by preference. We respond to the Father as He has made Himself known, supremely through Christ.

EMPHASIS

The paths to worship may begin through creation, Scripture, prayer, song, or quietness, but they must lead beyond the means to God Himself, from hearts that love Him and in the name of Jesus Christ. He is the truth.

THE QUESTION: Is worship confined to a building? If not, why must I continue to prioritize collective worship in spirit and truth?

CAN WE WORSHIP GOD ANYWHERE?

John 4:19–24

OBSERVE THE TEXT (John 4:19-24)

1. What question about worship does the woman bring to Jesus?
2. What changes with the “hour” Jesus says is coming?
3. Define the “spirit” and “truth” that must be present for worship to be accepted.

THINK DEEPER.

4. Why can't proper form and location suffice, even if the spirit is not in it?
5. Why can't sincerity and passion validate all forms of worship, even man's invention?
6. What does it mean that the Father is seeking worshipers? How will He find you?

EXAMINE YOURSELF

7. If “spirit” is the right heart and desire, how do I properly prepare for assembled worship?
8. If “truth” is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, how do I ensure that worship is “in truth”?
9. How do these concepts go beyond Sunday and into the week? (Romans 12:1-2)

PRAYER

Father, make me a true worshiper. Draw my heart beyond routine, and anchor my worship in the truth You have revealed through Your Son.

**TAKE IT WITH YOU: THE FATHER SEEKS TRUE
WORSHIPERS. — JOHN 4:23**

IS RELIGION THE SAME AS WORSHIP?

Isaiah 1:10–17 • Mark 7:6–8

FROM LAST TIME

True worship is in spirit and truth. Scripture also warns that religious activity can continue while the heart remains distant and the life resists God.

1. GOD CAN REJECT COMMANDED RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY (Isaiah 1:10-17)

Isaiah describes sacrifices, assemblies, prayers, and appointed feasts - activities God had commanded. Yet He rejected them when worshipers persisted in evil.

2. THE FORMAL EFFORT IS INVALIDATED BY HEARTLESS LIVING

Israel's worship was rejected because they were not living lives of faithfulness or love for others, as a people who belonged to God. Formal worship was detestable to God.

3. HUMAN TRADITION CAN DISPLACE GOD'S WORD (Mark 7:6-8)

Religion becomes dangerous when inherited practices are treated as the authority while clear commands of God are neglected. This, too, represents a heart that is far from God.

4. TRUE WORSHIP PRODUCES AN OBEDIENT LIFE FROM A HUMBLE HEART

Spiritual faculties can become dull through neglect. As we turn our attention toward God in faith, Scripture, prayer, obedience, and worship, we have real internal work to do. (I Corinthians 2:14-16; Hebrews 5:11-14)

EMPHASIS

Religion (outward ceremony) can take what is in the heart and share it with God and others, but it is only valuable when proper purpose and affection are with it.

THE QUESTION: What must be true about my efforts and life for God to accept my worship, in the assembly and beyond?

IS RELIGION THE SAME AS WORSHIP?

Isaiah 1:10–17 · Mark 7:6–8

OBSERVE THE TEXT (Isaiah 1:10-17)

1. Which religious activities were the people still practicing?
2. Why did God refuse to accept them?
3. Why was God linking these concepts together as mutually necessary?

THINK DEEPER

4. How can biblical practices become an empty routine?
5. Why is emotional intensity not the same as spiritual reality?
6. How do obedience and mercy reveal whether worship is genuine?

EXAMINE YOURSELF

7. Where am I tempted to appear devoted without actually drawing near? How do I combat this?
8. If tradition in worship matters more than the heart I bring to it, is that a problem?
9. Why will true faithfulness be deeply concerned to worship God His way?

THIS WEEK

Before worship, ask God to unite your lips, heart, and life. Commit to some act of faithfulness or mercy to demonstrate that your worship is not vain.

TAKE IT WITH YOU: GIVE GOD MORE THAN RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY.

HAVE YOU COME TO MOUNT ZION?

Hebrews 12:18–29

FROM LAST TIME

Worship begins with attention to God. Hebrews shows the heart it produces: gratitude, reverence, awe, and obedience before the God whose kingdom cannot be shaken.

1. WE HAVE COME TO A BETTER MOUNTAIN

Believers approach Mount Zion through Jesus. Worship is shaped by grace, access, joyful assembly, and the blood that speaks better than Abel.

2. GRACE DOES NOT MAKE GOD CASUAL

The same passage that celebrates access warns us not to refuse the One who speaks. Nearness deepens reverence; it does not erase it. Awe for God humbles; it does not entitle.

3. GRATITUDE BECOMES ACCEPTABLE SERVICE

Because we receive an unshakable kingdom, gratitude should move us to offer God worship that pleases Him. What we are a part of must overwhelm us with a life of service.

4. REVERENCE AND AWE RECOGNIZE GOD’S HOLINESS

“Our God is a consuming fire.” True worship holds joy and holy fear together because it sees God as He truly is. Fear of God’s wrath is not unhealthy, so long as we live free of it.

EMPHASIS

True worship includes wonder, admiration, humility, love, gratitude, and awe. It is the heart’s fitting response to the revealed worth of God.

THE QUESTION: Does my worship reflect both the nearness and holiness of God?

HAVE YOU COME TO MOUNT ZION?

Hebrews 12:18–29

OBSERVE THE TEXT

1. What realities have believers come to through Jesus?
2. What warning follows this description of grace and access?
3. What responses belong to people receiving an unshakable kingdom?

THINK DEEPER

4. Why should intimacy with God increase rather than decrease reverence?
5. What is the difference between fear that hides from God and awe that runs to Him?
6. How do gratitude and obedience become forms of worship?

EXAMINE YOURSELF

7. Is my view of God and His Zion large enough to awaken wonder?
8. Has familiarity with worship made me casual toward holiness?
9. What truth about God most moves me to gratitude and awe?

THIS WEEK

Read Hebrews 12:22–29 before prayer. Name the grace you have received, listen to the One who speaks, and tell Him exactly what you are going to do to reflect your grateful heart.

WEEK 3: WORSHIP WITH GRATITUDE, REVERENCE, AND AWE.

WHY IS JESUS WORTHY?

Revelation 5:6–14; Philippians 2:5–11

FROM LAST TIME

True worship responds to God with gratitude, reverence, and awe. Revelation 5 centers that response on Jesus: the slain Lamb who conquered and redeemed a people for God.

1. THE LAMB STANDS AS SLAIN

Jesus' worth is revealed in sacrificial victory. The One who bears the marks of death now stands at the center of heaven's worship. He has earned the right to be glorified.

2. THE LAMB ALONE CAN OPEN THE SCROLL

No created being is worthy to unfold God's purposes. Jesus has unique authority because He conquered through faithful sacrifice.

3. THE LAMB PURCHASED A PEOPLE FOR GOD

His blood redeems people from every tribe, language, people, and nation. Worship answers grace with grateful belonging and, more than that, acknowledges Christ's ownership.

4. ALL CREATION CONFESSES HIS WORTH

Heaven moves from the elders to countless angels to every created thing. The Lamb receives blessing, honor, glory, and dominion. All that lives owes Him honor, certainly including us.

EMPHASIS

Worship is “worth-ship” - the delighted recognition of absolute worth. Christ is not merely helpful to us; He is infinitely worthy in Himself.

**THE QUESTION: Do I praise Jesus mainly for what
He gives me - or because of who He is?**

WHY IS JESUS WORTHY?

Revelation 5:6–14; Philippians 2:5–11

OBSERVE THE TEXT

1. What does John see at the center of the throne?
2. Why do the living creatures and elders say the Lamb is worthy?
3. Who do the elders and creatures represent?

THINK DEEPER

4. What does the image of a standing, slain Lamb reveal about Jesus?
5. Why must worship move beyond gratitude for personal benefits?
6. What is Jesus worthy to receive, and how would people give it to Him today?

EXAMINE YOURSELF

7. Which quality of Jesus most awakens my admiration?
8. How do I give Him “honor and glory and dominion”?
9. What part of my life still resists His rightful ownership?

THIS WEEK

Use Revelation 5:9–14 as the beginning of prayer each day. Praise Jesus for who He is before thanking Him for anything He has done for you.

WEEK 4: THE LAMB IS WORTHY OF MY PRAISE AND MY LIFE.

CAN WORSHIP BECOME A WAY OF LIFE?

Romans 12:1–2 • Colossians 3:16–17

BIG IDEA

The worship of Christ cannot remain inside an assembly. Because we belong to Him, the body, mind, words, work, relationships, and ordinary moments become an offering.

1. PRESENT YOUR BODY TO GOD

Romans 12 calls for a living and holy sacrifice. Worship includes the actual embodied life we place at God's disposal; therefore, every part of how we use the body is subject to Him.

2. LET GOD TRANSFORM YOUR MIND

A worshipping life refuses the world's pattern and learns to see every choice through the renewing truth and will of God. A reshaped mind must occur to live right in the body.

3. LET CHRIST'S WORD FILL THE COMMUNITY

Colossians joins teaching, singing, gratitude, and shared life. Worship is nourished when the word of Christ richly dwells among us. Our bodies are directed by Christ's authority.

4. DO EVERYTHING IN JESUS' NAME

Whatever we say or do can come under His authority and be offered with thanksgiving. Worship becomes the atmosphere of life.

EMPHASIS

A vibrant worship lifestyle must be maintained daily. Once-a-week worship cannot carry first priority unless ordinary life also belongs to God.

THE QUESTION: What ordinary part of my life most needs to become worship?

CAN WORSHIP BECOME A WAY OF LIFE?

Romans 12:1–2 · Colossians 3:16–17

OBSERVE THE TEXT (Romans 12:1-2)

1. What does Paul ask believers to present to God? How does that happen in actuality?
2. What must no longer shape the Christian's life? Why not?
3. What makes discernment and transformation possible?

THINK DEEPER

4. How can work, rest, meals, family life, and service become worship?
5. Why is the body essential to a worshiping life?
6. What does doing something “in the name of Jesus” require?

EXAMINE YOURSELF

7. Which daily routine feels least connected to God? What can I do about that?
8. Where do my words or habits contradict the praise I offer? (James 3:8-12)
9. What practice could help me remain grateful and God-conscious every day?

PRAYER

Father, let the worship of my lips become the direction of my life. Renew my mind, repurpose my body, and bring every ordinary word and action under the worthy name of Jesus.

TAKE IT WITH YOU: WHATEVER YOU DO, DO IT IN JESUS' NAME.

HAVE I BEEN RAISED WITH CHRIST?

Colossians 3:1–4

BIG IDEA

The resurrection is not only an event we believe happened to Jesus. Those who belong to Him have been raised with Him and now receive a new identity, direction, and hope.

1. WE HAVE BEEN RAISED WITH CHRIST (3:1)

Paul speaks of resurrection as a present spiritual reality. Our union with Christ means that His victory has already begun to reshape our lives and has subjected us to His leadership.

2. WE SEEK WHAT IS ABOVE (3:1-2)

New life produces a new pursuit. We learn to measure everything by the reign, character, and priorities of the risen Christ. Our goal is to replicate heaven's will on earth.

3. WE HAVE DIED AND OUR LIVES ARE HIDDEN WITH CHRIST IN GOD (3:3)

The non-Christ life is buried. A new life emerges, protected by the power and grace of Jesus, but also entirely subjected to that which pleases Him.

4. WE LIVE WITH ANTICIPATION OF CHRIST'S RETURN (3:4)

If we are hidden with Christ now, we will be revealed with Him when He returns. The two facets operate together. With Him now – with Him forever.

EMPHASIS

Christianity is more than accepting forgiveness while continuing under the old center of life. The risen Christ becomes the believer's present life and governing reality. We imitate His death and resurrection in our present lives.

THE QUESTION: What is different because Christ is now my life?

HAVE I BEEN RAISED WITH CHRIST?

Colossians 3:1–4

OBSERVE THE TEXT

1. What does Paul say has already happened to believers? (v1) What does this mean?
2. What two commands follow that reality?
3. Where is the believer's life now hidden? What does that mean?

THINK DEEPER

4. How is being raised with Christ more than self-improvement?
5. What is the difference between neglecting earthly duties and refusing earthly control?
6. What is the fruit of a life that has been raised with Christ? See Colossians 3:5-17

EXAMINE YOURSELF

7. What earthly concern most often governs my thoughts?
8. What would it mean to seek Christ's reign in that concern?
9. Where should my new identity create a visible change?

PRAYER

Father, thank You for joining me to the risen Christ. Lift my mind above the old life and teach me to live from the identity and hope You have given me.

TAKE IT WITH YOU: "CHRIST, WHO IS OUR LIFE." — COLOSSIANS 3:4

WHAT MUST DIE FOR NEW LIFE TO APPEAR?

Romans 6:3–14

FROM LAST TIME

Because we have been raised with Christ, we cannot treat the old mastery of sin as normal. Resurrection life requires a decisive break with sin's rule.

1. WE WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE (6:4)

Baptism joins the believer to Christ's death and resurrection. The intended result is a genuinely new way of living.

2. THE OLD SELF WAS CRUCIFIED (6:6)

The person ruled by sin has been put to death with Christ. Sin remains a temptation, but it is no longer our rightful master.

3. WE CONSIDER OURSELVES ALIVE TO GOD (6:11)

Faith learns to agree with what God has done: dead to sin's dominion and alive for fellowship, obedience, and usefulness to God.

4. WE PRESENT OURSELVES TO GOD (6:12–14)

New life becomes concrete through the body. Our choices and abilities are offered to God as instruments of righteousness.

EMPHASIS

Resurrection cannot be separated from the cross. The new life flourishes where self-rule and sin are refused, and the whole person is yielded to God.

THE QUESTION: What am I still allowing to act like my master?

WHAT MUST DIE FOR NEW LIFE TO APPEAR?

Romans 6:3–14

OBSERVE THE TEXT

1. What purpose follows burial with Christ in verse 4?
2. What happened to the old self in verse 6?
3. What repeated command appears in verses 11–13?

THINK DEEPER

4. Why does grace oppose sin's rule rather than excuse it?
5. How does baptism give us a new story about who we are? What is that story?
6. What are things we absolutely must no longer do with regard to sin? Why not?

EXAMINE YOURSELF

7. Where does it feel like sin reigns in my life?
8. How does being under grace give help to break free from sin?
9. Am I now an instrument of righteousness? What does that mean?

THIS WEEK

Each morning read Romans 6:11–14. Name one old pattern you are refusing and one concrete way you will offer yourself to God.

WEEK 1: COUNT YOURSELF ALIVE TO GOD, AND LIVE LIKE IT.

WHO GIVES POWER TO THE RESURRECTED LIFE?

Romans 8:9–17

BIG IDEA

The Spirit who raised Jesus dwells in God's people. He does not make struggle disappear, but He supplies a new power, direction, and belonging.

1. THE SPIRIT MARKS OUR BELONGING

To belong to Christ is to receive His Spirit. Christianity is not merely imitation from a distance; God is at work within His people. (Philippians 2:14)

2. THE SPIRIT GIVES LIFE (8:10–11)

The power that raised Jesus is the pledge of bodily resurrection and the present source of spiritual vitality. (Ephesians 1:13-14)

3. WE PUT SIN TO DEATH BY THE SPIRIT (8:13)

Holiness is active dependence: we act against sin, but we do so through the strength and truth the Spirit supplies. And we do so because we house the Spirit. (I Corinthians 6:19-20)

4. THE SPIRIT LEADS GOD'S CHILDREN (8:14)

The new life is relational. We are not driven by fear or impulse but led as sons and daughters who belong to the Father. (Galatians 5:17-25)

EMPHASIS

The resurrected life is supernatural. Human discipline matters, but only the indwelling Spirit can make the life of Christ increasingly visible within us.

THE QUESTION: Am I relying on my strength - or depending on the Spirit?

WHO GIVES POWER TO THE RESURRECTED LIFE?

Romans 8:9–17

OBSERVE THE TEXT

1. What distinguishes those who belong to Christ?
2. What resurrection promise appears in verse 11?
3. What are believers obligated to do - and not do?

THINK DEEPER

4. How do effort and dependence work together in verse 13?
5. How does the Spirit lead us in our walk of faith?
6. What practices help us remain receptive to the Spirit's revealed will?

EXAMINE YOURSELF

7. Where am I attempting spiritual change by willpower alone?
8. What truth from the Spirit's word do I need to trust?
9. What action would cooperate with His work today?

PRAYER

Father, let the Spirit who raised Jesus strengthen me. Teach me to depend on His power, put sin to death, and walk as Your child. Empower Him to help me live faithfully, and give me the discipline to apply His teachings.

TAKE IT WITH YOU: HIS SPIRIT DWELLS IN YOU. — ROMANS 8:11

WHAT DOES NEW LIFE LOOK LIKE?

Galatians 5:13–26

FROM LAST TIME

The Spirit supplies power for the risen life. Galatians shows the recognizable result: the character of Christ grows where the flesh no longer controls us.

1. THE SPIRIT PRODUCES A UNIFIED FRUIT

Paul describes one fruit with many expressions. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control belong together.

2. FRUIT REVEALS THE SOURCE OF LIFE

Fruit is not attached from the outside. It grows from the inner source. The Spirit changes desires, reactions, relationships, and habits.

3. THE FLESH HAS BEEN CRUCIFIED (5:24)

Those who belong to Christ reject the passions and desires that demand independence from God. The cross marks a transfer of rule and a severing from fleshly sin.

4. WE KEEP IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT (5:25)

New life requires daily responsiveness. We follow the direction the Spirit has revealed rather than returning to old impulses.

EMPHASIS

Spiritual life is measured less by excitement or claims than by increasing Christlikeness. Resurrection power becomes credible when it produces holy character.

THE QUESTION: Which fruit of the Spirit most needs room to grow in me?

WHAT DOES NEW LIFE LOOK LIKE?

Galatians 5:13–26

OBSERVE THE TEXT

1. Why might Paul call these qualities one “fruit”?
2. How might you order these in terms of priority or emphasis? Where should you start?
3. What has happened to the flesh in verse 24? What does that mean?

THINK DEEPER

4. Are these qualities each binary, or can they be at different levels of development?
5. If the flesh and Spirit oppose one another, can one be used to defeat the other?
6. What does it mean to you to “live” and “walk by the Spirit”? (5:25)

EXAMINE YOURSELF

7. Which deeds of the flesh have proven hardest to keep buried? What can I do about that?
8. Which quality of the Spirit, if nurtured, would change my life the most?
9. How important is the way I see and treat people as I seek to live the new life?

THIS WEEK

Choose one fruit of the Spirit. Pray for it, study how Jesus displayed it, and practice it intentionally in one difficult relationship.

TAKE IT WITH YOU: LIVE BY THE SPIRIT. KEEP IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT.

HOW DOES JESUS BECOME VISIBLE IN US?

2 Corinthians 4:7–12

BIG IDEA

God places resurrection treasure in fragile people so that the power is clearly His. The life of Jesus appears through faithful endurance, sacrifice, and hope.

1. THE TREASURE IS IN EARTHEN VESSELS

Our weakness does not disqualify us. It keeps the source of spiritual power clear: the surpassing power belongs to God.

2. PRESSURE DOES NOT HAVE THE FINAL WORD

Afflicted, perplexed, persecuted, and struck down do not become destroyed, despairing, abandoned, or defeated.

3. THE CROSS SHAPES DAILY LIFE

Paul carries the dying of Jesus so that Jesus' life may be revealed. Resurrection power often appears through costly faithfulness.

4. LIFE REACHES OTHERS THROUGH SACRIFICE

Paul's surrender became life for the Corinthians. The risen life turns suffering from mere loss into a place where Christ can serve others.

EMPHASIS

The life of Christ is not displayed by protecting the self at all costs. It appears as the believer accepts weakness, depends on God, and lets Jesus be seen.

THE QUESTION: What might Jesus reveal through my present weakness?

HOW DOES JESUS BECOME VISIBLE IN US?

2 Corinthians 4:7–12; II Timothy 2:20–26

OBSERVE THE TEXT (II Cor. 4:7–12)

1. Why does God place treasure in earthen vessels?
2. What four pressures does Paul name?
3. What purpose is repeated in verses 10–11?

THINK DEEPER

4. Why can weakness make God's power more visible?
5. How is Christian endurance different from pretending not to hurt?
6. When can sacrifice, even death, become life for someone else?

EXAMINE YOURSELF

7. Where am I tempted to interpret weakness as uselessness?
8. How is my best work for God done under pressure or difficulty?
9. Who might receive life through my faithfulness?

THIS WEEK

Name one present pressure. Pray over Paul's four contrasts, then choose one response that displays the character and hope of Jesus.

TAKE IT WITH YOU: THE LIFE OF JESUS CAN BE REVEALED IN US.

WHAT DOES RESURRECTION LOVE DO?

1 John 3:14–18; Hebrews 13:1–19

FROM LAST TIME

The life of Jesus becomes visible in ordinary bodies. John gives a direct test of that life: we have passed from death to life because we love the brethren.

1. LOVE IS EVIDENCE OF LIFE (1 John 3:14)

Love does not earn resurrection life, but it reveals that God's life is active within us. Hatred still belongs to the realm of death.

2. JESUS DEFINES LOVE (3:16)

We know love because Jesus laid down His life for us. Resurrection love takes its shape from the cross.

3. LOVE MOVES TOWARD NEED (3:17)

A closed heart contradicts the life we confess. God's love notices actual need and opens resources, time, attention, and compassion.

4. LOVE ACTS IN DEED AND TRUTH (3:18)

New life is not satisfied with warm words. It becomes visible through truthful, concrete, self-giving action.

EMPHASIS

The risen life is not private spiritual enrichment. Christ's life within us moves outward in holy love that costs something and gives life to others.

THE QUESTION: Where must my love move from words into action, especially among God's people? (Heb. 13:1–19)

WHAT DOES RESURRECTION LOVE DO?

1 John 3:14–18; Hebrews 13:1–19

OBSERVE THE TEXT (1 John 3:14–18)

1. What evidence shows we have passed from death to life?
2. How does John define love in verse 16?
3. What exposes a closed heart in verse 17?

THINK DEEPER

4. Why is love an especially fitting sign of resurrection life?
5. How do truth and sacrifice keep love from sentimentality or shallowness?
6. Why are words insufficient when a need can be met?

EXAMINE YOURSELF (Heb. 13:1–19)

7. Whose need am I tempted not to see?
8. What resource am I reluctant to open?
9. What specific deed would imitate Jesus this week?

PRAYER

Father, let the life of Your Son become visible in my love. Open my eyes, my heart, and my hands so that I love in deed and truth.

TAKE IT WITH YOU: WE HAVE PASSED OUT OF DEATH INTO LIFE.

WHAT WILL GOD FINALLY MAKE NEW?

1 Corinthians 15:50–58 • Revelation 21:1–5

BIG IDEA

The resurrected life reaches its completion when mortality puts on immortality and God makes all things new. Future victory makes present faithfulness meaningful.

1. MORTALITY WILL PUT ON IMMORTALITY

Resurrection is not the abandonment of the body but its transformation. What is perishable will be raised imperishable.

2. DEATH WILL BE SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY

Death is still an enemy, but it is a defeated enemy. Jesus' resurrection guarantees that death will not speak the final word.

3. GOD WILL DWELL WITH HIS PEOPLE

Revelation's hope is personal and relational: God with humanity, wiping away tears and removing death, mourning, crying, and pain.

4. OUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN (15:58)

The future resurrection gives weight to present obedience. Steadfast work in the Lord is never wasted, even when results remain unseen.

EMPHASIS

The resurrected life looks beyond temporary success to the coming world of God. Eternal hope makes believers steady, joyful, holy, and useful today.

THE QUESTION: If God will make all things new, how should I prepare for this change?

WHAT WILL GOD FINALLY MAKE NEW?

1 Corinthians 15:50–58 • Revelation 21:1–5

OBSERVE THE TEXT (1 Corinthians 15:50–58)

1. What transformation must occur for us to inherit God's eternal kingdom?
2. What victory has Christ secured over death to build our hope?
3. What command follows the resurrection promise? What does that look like?

THINK DEEPER

4. Why is bodily resurrection better hope than merely escaping earth?
5. How does Revelation 21 complete the promise of new life?
6. Why can no work "in the Lord" be wasteful or unimportant?

EXAMINE YOURSELF

7. Where am I weary of doing good?
8. What grief needs the promise that God will wipe away every tear?
9. What steadfast work should I carry into the new year that I have neglected?

PRAYER

Father, thank You for the victory of Jesus. Keep me steadfast, hopeful, and useful until mortality puts on immortality and You make all things new.

TAKE IT WITH YOU: YOUR TOIL IS NOT IN VAIN IN THE LORD.