

**AS DISCIPLES, WE WORSHIP, AND WE ARE KNOWN AS WORSHIPPERS.**

**Matthew 4:19** (NIV84) “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”

- o We are committed to following Christ, being changed by Christ, and we’re committed to the mission of Christ.
- o We are all disciples if we are believers. We are growing as we understand God’s perspective and surrender to it.

**THIS SERIES IS ABOUT WORSHIP.**

- The scriptures talk a lot about worship. Jesus was worshipped often, as observed by the disciples and others.
- I think many believers/Christians/Disciples would say they worship.
- We will be looking at the different aspects of worship.
- If I were to ask people, “What is worship and give me an example of it?” what would they say?

**WHAT IS WORSHIP? AS DEFINED BY...****MERRIAM-WEBSTER:**

- *Worship*: extravagant respect or admiration for or devotion to an object of esteem; reverence offered a divine being or supernatural power<sup>1</sup>

**THE GREEK USED IN THE BIBLE:**

- *Proskuneó* is the Greek word most often translated “worship.” It means “to fall down before” or “bow down before.”<sup>2</sup>

**THE LETTER PAUL WROTE TO THE ROMANS PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL/GOOD NEWS:**

- **Note:** faith in Christ makes us right with God. This implies that we were not right with Him. (See **Romans 1:16-17** and **Romans 3:10**)

**PAUL GIVES THE BAD NEWS FIRST.**

**Romans 1:18–31** (NLT) <sup>18</sup>But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. <sup>19</sup>They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. <sup>20</sup>For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

<sup>21</sup>Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn’t worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. <sup>22</sup>Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. <sup>23</sup>And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.

<sup>24</sup>So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other’s bodies. <sup>25</sup>They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen. <sup>26</sup>That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. <sup>27</sup>And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved.

<sup>28</sup>Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done. <sup>29</sup>Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip. <sup>30</sup>They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning, and they disobey their parents. <sup>31</sup>They refuse to understand, break their promises, are heartless, and have no mercy.

- o Notice the condition of the people in verse 28.

**HOW DID IT GET THIS WAY? THERE WAS NO WORSHIP.**

- They would not **acknowledge** the presence and work of God. (verse 20)
- They would not worship (bow before) the real God; they wouldn’t praise Him. (verse 21)
- They exchanged false gods for the real one. This created the downward spiral: wickedness suppresses truth which leads to darkness, spiritually.
- God’s response? He abandoned them; He gave them over to themselves, though not permanently. (verse 28)

**Romans 5:6–10** (NLT) <sup>6</sup>When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. <sup>7</sup>Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. <sup>8</sup>But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. <sup>9</sup>And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation. <sup>10</sup>For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son.

## **WORSHIP IS THE RESULT OF FAITH—OF BELIEVING.**

- God is righteous, and He will destroy both sin and those who refuse to worship.
- God wants to save us. He is merciful to those who accept who He is and what He is doing.

## **JESUS, GOD THE SON, REVEALS THAT GOD DESIRES WORSHIP.**

**John 4:19–24** (NIV) <sup>19</sup>“Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup>Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.” <sup>21</sup>“Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup>You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. <sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

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## **WE ARE CALLED TO WORSHIP IN THREE WAYS:**

### **1. IN SPIRIT—IN OUR HEARTS AND IN OUR VERY SOULS. (See Isaiah 29:13, John 14:15, John 14:21)**

- It's not a feeling. We choose Him and to obey Him. It's a commitment, demonstrating loyalty in every part of our lives.

### **2. IN TRUTH—SINCERITY ISN'T ENOUGH. WE WORSHIP THE TRUE GOD!**

- The truth comes from the Jews; the Jewish Scriptures are true.

### **3. WHEN WE UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH, IT CHANGES US. WE ARE CALLED OUT. (See Isaiah 6:1-8 and 1 Peter 2:9)**

- Reverse engineering the Romans 1 passage: We acknowledge the truth that the world is His. We worship—surrender, bow down. We thank Him for what He has done. We walk in the light.
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## **QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS IN LIFE GROUP AND WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:**

**Passages to consider:** Psalm 148, 146, & 19; Isaiah 6:1-8

- *What from the sermon was meaningful to you?*
  1. Read Isaiah 6:1-8. Describe what you see about God and Isaiah's response in this passage. What does that show you about worship?
  2. Worship can be defined as giving worth. What worth does God hold for you? A) What helps you recognize/remember who God is and His worth? In what ways do you express that?
  3. Read Romans 12:1-2 and Mark 12:29-31. What do these passages show you about worship?
  4. What do you think is at the heart of worship?
  5. How would/could/do you involve each part of heart, soul, mind, and strength in worship of God? A) Which comes easy or the most naturally? Which is the most difficult or challenging?
  6. What is God showing you about worship? How will you respond to Him?

## **Next week: Called Out to Worship in Real Life (Week 2): Personal Worship**

**Passages to prepare:** 1 Peter 2:9-10; Luke 7:36-47; 2 Samuel 6:12-22

<sup>1</sup>Merriam-Webster definition of *worship* found at [Merriam-Webster.com/dictionary/worship](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/worship)

<sup>2</sup>Greek definition of *proskuneó* found in Strong's Concordance, accessed at [BibleHub.com/greek/4352.htm](https://www.biblehub.com/greek/4352.htm). Occurrence of Greek words translated as “worship” can also be found at [BibleHub.com](https://www.biblehub.com) in one of many concordances.

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