



HERE WE ARE TO WORSHIP
Small Group Study, week commencing 9th January 2023

For starters

“The measure of the true worshipper that the Father seeks is not the length of his historical tradition or the height of his hands above his head, but the depths of love in his heart for the Father.” Discuss!

Introduction

As the quote from Graham Kendrick above suggests, worship cannot be separated from everyday, ordinary life, and we will come back to this point at the end of the study. But for most of this session, our focus is going to be on corporate worship: bringing our devoted hearts and minds together with others, in small group or large congregational settings, to declare God’s worth.

Read

[Psalm 145.](#)

Turn some of the thoughts expressed in this psalm into short prayers of praise and adoration.

Study

1. What would you imagine if someone came back from a church service or meeting and said they had had a great time of worship?
2. Pete Greig has written in *How to Hear God*, “Today, when someone refers to ‘a good time of worship’, we know perfectly well that they’re referring to an emotional time of singing.” What is he getting at? What is the difference between an emotional time of singing and an authentic time of worship?
3. We can have strong personal preferences about the forms that sung worship takes. What preferences do you identify in yourself and in others? How do you react when a time of worship is not in the style you prefer?



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4. Consider the four words below used for worship (two from the Old Testament, and two from the New). Look up the associated verses. What do they teach us about the nature of worship?

- abad (e.g. Exodus 7:16): to minister, to serve, to work
- shachah (e.g. Genesis 22:5): to bow down or prostrate oneself
- sebomai (e.g. Mark 7:67): to worship, be devout, be God-fearing, even to feel dread towards
- proskuneō (e.g. Matthew 2:2): to worship, pay homage, show reverence; to kneel down (before), to kiss

5. Read 2 Samuel 24:18-25. David says, “I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.” How does David’s attitude add to our understanding of worship?

6. “I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your true and proper worship” (Roman 12:1). How do Paul’s words complement David’s? What does it mean in our contexts to bring to the Lord ‘costly worship’?

7. Romans 12:1 has something to say to us about our attitude to corporate worship, but also about our attitude to life in general. How can we take a ‘worship attitude’ into our everyday lives?

Prayer

Turn some of the thoughts from this study into further worship and praise.

Pray for the coming series - on Sundays and in midweek groups - that it will be helpful, and that we will grow as worshippers.