



HERE WE ARE TO WORSHIP
Growing as Worshippers
Small Group Study, week commencing 27th February 2023

For starters

Spend time in your group sharing and celebrating favourite worship songs that have been particularly significant and meaningful in your lives.

Study

Read and look together at [Psalm 95](#) and [Revelation 5](#).

1. What might we observe about the descriptions of worship in these passages?

Consider the progression we see in Psalm 95 from thanksgiving and praise to reverence and surrendered worship. There is a clear sense of movement from the outside to the inside, moving closer to deeper encounter with God and a place where God speaks.

2. Look at [Isaiah 6:1-8](#). What might we observe and learn about worship in this passage?

Try and encourage picturing the scene in your imagination. It gives a striking concept of the relationship between worship and praise and service. Praise is an utterance, and the seraphs were praising the Lord and declaring His holiness. Isaiah's first observation, however, was not of the seraphs praising. The first thing he noticed was their attitude of worship. Those seraphs each had six wings. With the first pair they covered their face and with the second pair they covered their feet, the face and the body covered in reverence before God. This scene of worship then progresses to calling and service, but worship precedes service. In Luke 4:8 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'" Can we get this the wrong way around?

3. Read [John 4:19-26](#). What do you think Jesus meant by worshipping *in spirit* and *truth*.

Jesus says "worship...in spirit and truth," tethering our worship to the core of our being, our souls. Worship doesn't happen at a certain geographic location (John 4:21); worship happens from the spirit, the truest part of us. Worship in the new



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covenant is primarily an internal disposition of the heart rather than a physical position of the feet. Have a heart of worship, and you can worship from anywhere (B. Spencer).

4. Give your mind. Give your heart. Give to each other. Give to God. Why do we so easily lose an attitude of giving and become consumers in worship? How can we stay on track? How can we help ourselves and our church community guard against this?

Prayer

Share what you find difficult and the struggles you face in congregational worship and pray for one another.

Share what you find most positive and helpful in sung worship and give thanks in prayer.

Note for leaders: try not to let these last questions and prayers become a time of airing everyone's pet grievances about worship. Try and help it be a positive and constructive prayer time. Consider the talk title: ***Growing (not shrinking) as Worshippers.***