

**Worship God**

**GROW Together**

**SERVE Others**

# **WORSHIP God**

**13<sup>th</sup> October 2020**



## **Introduction**

Worship is central to our moving forward in our spiritual growth as disciples of Jesus because worship is about the dynamic that takes our gaze off ourselves and ensures that we look towards and focus on God. It helps us grow spiritually, because in our worship God reveals himself to us. A consequence of us discovering more about God is that our love for God will grow and deepen.

There are two sides to worship. Firstly, there is what we do individually in our day to day lives. For example - This is may be the way that we respond to the beauty of nature around us, and so we lift our eyes towards God with thankfulness and awe at his creation. It might be the moment in the day that we take to pray to God, bringing to him our needs and concerns for either our own lives and situations or those of others. It could be the time that we spend reading the bible, approaching the text praying for God to reveal himself to us in what we are reading, and then responding as the Holy Spirit opens our spiritual eyes or places a conviction in our hearts that means we respond and act upon Gods voice. Or it could be in the stillness and silence as we pause asking God to speak into our minds, our hearts and our lives as we take time to focus on God despite the noise of life going on about us.

Secondly, worship is also about our shared or corporate experience as we come together either online or face to face. Our gathering for worship (remotely or together) at the same time is important for our spiritual lives. Because our worship together creates a synergy. Synergy is when the whole is greater than just the sum of its individual parts. And so, when we pray together, it's not just you praying, but you also hear the prayers of others. When we read scripture, others are reading the same passage, and we are together listening to God, and interpreting and discerning together what he wants to say into our lives. When we sing or listen to songs of worship, others are in that moment with you – expressing a blessing to God using the same words and the same rhythm.

In both aspects of Worship, God is honoured, and we are blessed. But Spiritual growth does not happen by osmosis (the view that by just attending church all I need for my christian living will be absorbed into my life) because Christian maturity is dependent on two elements: 1. our spiritual diet and 2. our spiritual exercise. If I attend the library every day to read books, I will acquire some knowledge, but would it not be better if I also took books home to read. But even then, acquired knowledge is of no use if I don't use that knowledge or apply it to my daily living.

## Opening Devotion

### Luke 10:40-42 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

<sup>40</sup>But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, 'Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!'

<sup>41</sup>'Martha, Martha,' the Lord answered, 'you are worried and upset about many things, <sup>42</sup>but few things are needed – or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.'

Mary and Martha both loved Jesus, but both expressed that love in different ways. Mary sat at Jesus feet, whilst Martha worked hard in the kitchen doing all the preparations.

I wonder how often have we made ourselves so busy, how often have we been so active doing what we think Jesus wants or what needs to be done, that we actually miss the opportunity of just being with Jesus?

As we think about worship, may we be challenged to think outside or normal boundaries as we explore what it means to live a life of WORSHIP as a disciple of Jesus.

*An Opening Prayer*

## QUESTIONS:

**As a Larger Group:**

1. Individually write in one sentence your definition of WORSHIP.

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If willing share your answer with the group?

**In Rooms or smaller groups discuss the following and share your groups answers when we come back:**

2. Is WORSHIP an activity or an attitude?
  - a. *How might this change how we live our lives?*
  - b. *How important is worship to your daily living?*
3. Read Romans 12:1 What does it mean to offer ourselves completely to God?
  - a) How does this link to Deuteronomy 6:5?
  - b) How does this passage help us define worship for our discipleship?

**12** Therefore, 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.

### **Romans 12:1**

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5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength

### **Deuteronomy 6:5**

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4. Acts 2:42 – some translations say that they ‘continually devoted themselves...’

Why did the Church need to **continually** devote themselves to the apostles teaching, breaking bread, fellowship, and prayer?

Do we need to do the same? Why?

**New American Standard Bible**

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

**King James Bible**

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

**Darby Bible Translation**

And they persevered in the teaching and fellowship of the apostles, in breaking of bread and prayers.

**World English Bible**

They continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and prayer.

**Young's Literal Translation**

and they were continuing steadfastly in the teaching of the apostles, and the fellowship, and the breaking of the bread, and the prayers.

5. In what ways has this period of the pandemic caused you to redefine your understanding of worship?
6. What is the best way to measure growth in worship?
7. Reading the introduction at the start of the sheet – is there anything that you agree with, disagree with or would like to discuss further?

When gathered back together (after sharing):

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8. After hearing the answers to the questions. How does worship connect with GROW and SERVE?

**CLOSE:**

As you close take a moment to pray for one another and to give thanks to God for one another.

(Unless shown )All scriptures  
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