

Time in God's Word

A Heart that Worships
Week 5: Heart Track
Bible Study

1. Gazing on God

What do you learn about God from this passage?

*Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?" For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen. **Romans 11:33-36** (ESV)*

Draw a quick picture to illustrate what stands out to you as you ponder this.

2. What does it mean to Worship?

Note the passage above precedes Romans 12:1-2. What do you learn about worship from this passage?

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. **2** Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (NIV)

What is the connection between taking time to consider who God is and worship?

The very first mention of worship is found in Genesis 12:1-5. What do you learn about worship from this passage?

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

2 Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."

3 Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about.

*4 On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. 5 He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."
Genesis 12:1-5 (NIV)*

The same Hebrew word for worship in the Genesis passage above is also found here:

*"Come let us bow down in worship. Let us kneel before the Lord our maker."
Psalm 95:6 (NIV)*

What does this reveal about worship?

Have you ever physically bowed down before the Lord with your head on the ground?

IT CAN BE A WONDERFUL WAY TO START THE DAY LITERALLY PUTTLING YOUR HEAD ON THE GROUND AS YOU GO TO THE LORD IN PRAYER.

I FIND THIS PUTS MY HEART AND MIND IN PERSPECTIVE WHEN I TAKE TIME TO CONSIDER, "I AM..., YOU ARE..."

I DON'T RISE FAR FROM THE GROUND, YOU ARE THE HIGH KING OF HEAVEN
I ONLY KNOW IN PART, YOUR THOUGHTS ARE AS HIGH AS THE HEAVENS ABOVE THE EARTH.
I AM LIMITED IN WHAT I CAN DO, YOU ARE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING.
APART FROM YOU I CAN DO NOTHING, NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU.
I CAN ONLY BE IN ONE PLACE AT A TIME, YOU ARE EVERYWHERE...

Read Exodus 9:1 in the NIV and ESV. What new insights do you gain about what it means to worship from these different translations of the same Greek word?

In his Expository Dictionary Bill Mounce says, "WORSHIP IS THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE OF A HEART THAT ADORES GOD." If someone asked you, "What is worship?" how would you describe it?

3. The Danger of Worship

What do you learn about the danger of worship from the following verses?

Not to us, LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness. **2** Why do the nations say, "Where is their God?" **3** Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him. **4** But their idols are silver and gold, made by human hands. **5** They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but cannot see. **6** They have ears, but cannot hear, noses, but cannot smell. **7** They have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but cannot walk, nor can they utter a sound with their throats. **8** Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them.

Psalm 115: 1-8 (NIV)

The Lord says: “These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught. **Isaiah 29:13** (NIV)

All who fashion idols are nothing, and the things they delight in do not profit. Their witnesses neither see nor know, that they may be put to shame. Who fashions a god or casts an idol that is profitable for nothing? Behold, all his companions shall be put to shame, and the craftsmen are only human. Let them all assemble, let them stand forth. They shall be terrified; they shall be put to shame together. The ironsmith takes a cutting tool and works it over the coals. He fashions it with hammers and works it with his strong arm. He becomes hungry, and his strength fails; he drinks no water and is faint. The carpenter stretches a line; he marks it out with a pencil. He shapes it with planes and marks it with a compass. He shapes it into the figure of a man, with the beauty of a man, to dwell in a house. He cuts down cedars, or he chooses a cypress tree or an oak and lets it grow strong among the trees of the forest. He plants a cedar and the rain nourishes it. Then it becomes fuel for a man. He takes a part of it and warms himself; he kindles a fire and bakes bread. Also he makes a god and worships it; he makes it an idol and falls down before it. **Isaiah 44:9-15** (ESV)

“I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me. **Amos 5:21** (NIV)

“These people honor me with their lips but their hearts are far from me.”

Isaiah 29:13, Ezekiel 33:31, Matthew 15:7-9 (NIV)

What thoughts come to mind as you consider this is mentioned three times in the Bible?

What do you learn about the danger of worship from these verses?

4. How can wrong worship occur in discipleship?

What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul? **1 Corinthians 1:12-13** (NRSV)

He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. **John 12:6** (NIV)

Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest. **Luke 22:24** (NKJV)

What other examples can you think of that relate to this?

5. Honoring God In Worship

Consider the following verses. What can help us worship God in a way that honors him? Jesus answered, "It is written: Worship the Lord your God and serve him only."

Matthew 4:10 (NIV)

How can this help us worship God in a way that honors him?"

Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." **Luke 7:47** (ESV)

How can remembering what Jesus said in Luke 7:47 help us worship God in a way that honors him?

1 Samuel 12:24 But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you. (NIV)

Read Psalm 73. How important is worship for continuing to follow Jesus and finishing life strong as his disciple?

5. Worship & Discipling Women

How does what you've learned in this study apply to discipling women?

6. Growing A Heart That Worships

When you think about worship as an act of submission, serving, and humbling acknowledging who God is and who we are in relation to Him what thoughts come to mind? What does it look like for you to Worship?

Think of a time when the Lord asked you to do something difficult, in what way was that worship? Are you currently facing struggles to do what the Lord is calling you to do? What difference can it make realizing this is an opportunity to worship?

How can a heart that worships help keep Christ at the center of your life? What can that practically look like for you?

How does what you've learned in this short Bible study connect with your life?

What do you sense the Lord is inviting you to do in response?

What can it look like for you to listen to the Lord and practically do this?