

## **WORSHIP: STUDY MATERIAL**

### **HOLY HABITS: Worship**

Title: 'Worshipping God and walking His way'

Aim: To discover the many ways for us to worship our Lord through music, prayer, silence, service and obedience to his word.

Means: By reading the suggested passages from scripture, discovering God's creation and being filled with awe in his presence. By realising that God has given his Son to save us which makes us want to fall to our knees in our worship of him.

Passages: Psalm 96: 1-9

Romans 12:1-8

### **Introduction**

Worship of God can be done in so many ways and yet if we are not careful, we limit our worship of Almighty God with tradition which includes our favourite hymns, liturgy, prayers and a reluctance to change anything.

But worship of Father, Son and Holy Spirit should be filled with a creativity and a sense of awe and thanksgiving. This can be achieved by an almost endless variety of ways which can include loud exuberance, heart breaking passion, gentleness and silence. There is almost no limit to worship as long as it glorifies our Lord and places Him at the heart of everything we do.

Start by asking the group what their idea of worship is and ask them to become creative as they discover how wide worship of God can be.

Ask the group if they can share a particular moving time of worship that they have experienced and don't be surprised if the experiences they tell about are wide ranging.

Note down the responses and ask for comments from the rest of the group and then read the first passage of scripture from Psalm 96: 1-9

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Psalm 96 begins by saying, ‘Sing a new song to the Lord.’ This one line might divide the group immediately as many people will tell you that they don’t like new songs and the same number will tell you that they love them! But of course this is not all about songs new or old because the psalm goes on straight away to talk about salvation and evangelism. ‘Proclaim every day the good news that he has saved us. Proclaim his glory to the nations, his mighty deeds to all nations.’

The new song is the change in your life as you realise how awesome our God is and how much you now want to serve him and tell everyone about his unconditional love.

Perhaps some people in the group might want to share their testimony as this point to underline the words of the psalmist.

Following on from these verses 4-9 are all about the omnipotence and uniqueness of God who is the only God to be worshipped. ‘Praise the Lord all people on earth; praise his glory and might. Praise the Lord’s glorious name.’

This then brings us back to the issue of worship and the fact that God has given each of his children their own gifts that can equip them to worship him but also to help others to enrich their worship as well.

Read Romans 12:1-8

We now move onto Paul’s teaching about God’s mercy and how important it is that we become living sacrifices to God, serving and pleasing him as this is the true worship that we should offer.

At this point it would be helpful to ask the people in the group what they consider their God given gifts to be. What are their strengths that can be used in the service of God and help them to realise that by using their gifts which might include preaching and teaching, encouraging, pastoral care and nurturing, practical skills within the church, and using gifts of evangelism and prayer.

All of these things are part of worshipping our Lord and helping others to walk the way.

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