

ELEVATE: Worship – The Most Noble Thing

Session #2: What Happens When We Worship?

Session Objectives:

Our goal in this session is to assist students in understanding the **WHY** behind our call to worship God. In the context of worship services, many students will see some people bow, some people draw, some people raise hands, some sit quietly and have no clue why this is happening. In the context of everyday life, students will see Christians seek to honour God with their lives, but have no clue why this is being done. This session will aim to bring to the surface three main things that happen when we worship God:

1. It brings Glory To God (Revelation 5:11)
2. The worshipper encounters God (2 Chronicles 5)
3. It builds up the body of Christ (Corinthians 12-14)

Minimum Prep:

- Copy Handouts and get pens/pencils for each student
- Read over all the Scripture references so you are familiar with the large context from which they are taken

Extended Prep:

- Cue Video: [Toy Story](#)

Session Outline

Leader Preamble:

(This session is not going to focus on this specific response of what happens when people worship God, instead it is going to a more birds eye view. Through this angle it may be easier to focus the students around this session being about why we worship and rather than looking at specifically what happens in spiritual and physical realm.)

Last week we asked the question what is worship? The challenge for this week is that we take the renewed and expanded understanding we have of what worship is as it pertains to a worship service and our lifestyle, and go a little deeper to discover just what happens when we worship. Too many times we have just been told to worship God, but have never been exposed to the motivation behind that calling. Tonight it is possible that we will worship in “spirit and in truth” as we grasp the reality behind why we actually worship.

Before we start discussing what happens when we worship God, let’s check out this video clip from Toy Story.

Play Clip:

CLIP DESCRIPTION: Buzz Lightyear had arrived at a pizza parlour in a search for their boy. Buzz enters a rocket-shaped toy filled with three-eyed green alien toys. Buzz, believing he's on an intergalactic mission, asks who's in charge. The whole group answers in unison, "The Claw!" They look above at a gleaming metallic claw hanging above them. "The claw chooses who will go and who will stay."

Soon a child puts a quarter in the machine, and the claw begins to move. One alien calls out, "It moves!" The claw descends and grabs one of the alien toys. The alien says, "I have been chosen! Farewell, my friends. I go to a better place."

Very clearly the aliens had great respect (reverence) for the Claw, and in a very real sense, actually worshipped the Claw.

This is why worshipping "in truth" is so important – mindless worship can be a dangerous thing. We need to know WHO we're worshipping, and WHY we're worshipping Him.

Small Group Questions:

1. The reality is that we all worship something or someone. From the video clip, how did the aliens view the Claw? And what were some of the outcomes from the aliens worshipping the Claw?

The Claw was superior, powerful, and greater than they were. They gave respect to the Claw. Etc. Some of the Outcomes: 1. They developed a culture around their assumptions of how the Claw worked. 2. They interacted with the Claw and saw its' movement as Divine. 3. It unified the aliens, but it wasn't 'reality'.

2. How could the outcomes from the aliens worshipping the Claw be similar to Christians worshipping God?

1. See God as Majestic and King. 2. That in their worship they can interact with God. 3. That they can be unified together (but in reality). 4. They bring about the truth so others can understand etc.

3. Before we check out the Scripture, what have you experienced or heard of happening when we worship God? (Or rephrased with a more personal angle: Why do you worship God?)

Leader Note: (Students might bring up aspects of people falling on the ground or speaking in tongues – in this case guide the students towards the big picture of "why is this happening". A possible direction could be taken that this is the presence of God interacting with his people.)

There are three areas that stand out as central to what happens in the worship of God. To make this clear we are going to look at vision that Isaiah receive in Isaiah 6:1-8.

Read Isaiah 6:1-8

4. Isaiah 6:1-8

- a. **How was God perceived?** (Holy and Exalted)
- b. **What was Isaiah's role?** (Encountering God's Grace)
- c. **What was the outcome of the time of worshipping God?** (hint look at verse 8) (Receive purpose from God)

5. In Isaiah 6 and in Revelation 5:11-13, it is evident that the central outcome of worshipping God is that He is honoured and glorified – basically God is the audience and the worshippers are His performers. If this is the main thing that happens when we worship, what needs to change in our own motivation for how we come to worship?

Leader Note: *In the midst of worshipping, Isaiah encountered God. One of the unique aspects of worship is that though the purpose is for God's glory, as worshippers, God draws near to us, allows us to see a glimpse of which He is, and puts everything into perspective.*

6. in looking at Isaiah 6 & 2 Chronicles 5:11-14, how have to allow God to interact with you in times of worship? Share with others in the group how you have experienced the presence of God or interacted with God *(remember experiencing God is not all about a feeling, although feelings are also legitimately part of worship)*

Leader Note: *When Isaiah had encountered God it became clear that he was inspired to serve. Through worship, we are able to see how God has called as individuals as part of the Body of Christ to serve this world for Him. When we meet God and give Him glory, He brings us together and can change our lives as we see who we are to be in Christ. So worship is something that unites the Body of Christ, as they encounter God.*

7. In reading through 1 Corinthians 12:5- 12, 27-28, it is made clear that in worshipping God, we approach Him in our own unique ways. As you worship God, how is your presence and gifting a benefit to the whole group in worship God and how through worship have you been united with other believers?

(Have each of the small group members point out gifting that the other members have).

8. In terms of what happens when we worship, is there any difference whether you are worshipping “in spirit and in truth” or just going through the “religious” motions because you have to?

Final Leader Thoughts

When we worship, we recognize who we are and who God is. It brings everything in our lives back into proper alignment. We are able to acknowledge the splendour of God. So easily in our everyday busyness, we step into the realm where we lose track of who God is in our lives. We let God know what we want, when we want things to happen, and what we are going to do, but in doing that we move away from seeing God as our Creator, Lord and King. Through worshipping God, we once again come humbly before Him to recognize His glory, through which we are able to be filled with His presence and join in unity with other believers.

Prayer

Leader Note: Contact Rob McAlpine at compass@baptist.ca or author Matt Wilkinson – missionbeyond@yahoo.com with any thoughts, questions or suggestions.

Comments and Feedback:

Leader Note: This is your place each week to record significant sharing or growth in the lives of your students for subsequent follow up. You can also use this space to provide feedback on the material. All suggestions are welcome.

Please see the following handout. You have permission to reproduce these handouts for your group.