

## WORSHIP: THE WAR OF GODS

### The Great Equalizer

- ✓ Religion – The process of ascribing supreme importance to something.
- ✓ Often **GOOD** things become **GOD** things and therefore **BAD** things.

### What Is God?

Romans 1:25 Ezekiel 14:1-6

- ✓ What gets **FINAL SAY**?
- ✓ What do I **CHECK** with before I **SAY YES** to God?
- ✓ Follow the **TREASURE** trail.

### What Is Worship?

Romans 12:1-3 Deuteronomy 6:5

- ✓ Giving **ULTIMATE VALUE** to something.
- ✓ Set of **SACRIFICES** I make to become like my god.

### How Do We Worship?

PARTS (Not styles)	SACRIFICE
<b>OBEDIENCE</b>	Flesh Desires (Rom. 12)
<b>GIVING</b>	Temporal (Mat. 6:21)
<b>HEARING FROM GOD</b>	False Doctrine (Psa. 1)
<b>PRAYER</b>	Control (Mat. 6:9-10)
<b>CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY</b>	Autonomy (Gal. 6:1-10)
<b>SINGING</b>	Egocentrism (Deu. 31, Eph. 5:15-20, Zep. 3:17, Psa. 22)

### Why Do We Worship?

Slavery > Sacrifice > Deliverance > Water > Promised Land

- ✓ When our present is **UNSURE**, the **CROSS** is unchanging and our future is **SECURE**.
- ✓ If you looked at my life, you'd be convinced my God was \_\_\_\_\_.

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of March 6, 2016

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## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## MY STORY

**1.** Chris talked about the six parts involved in worship. Which one do you find the easiest to engage in?

Which of those do you find the hardest to engage in?

**2.** Chris mentioned that good things can become God things and therefore bad things. Looking back on your life, can you think of any good thing that became God for you?

If so, how did you handle it after you realized it had become a God thing?

## DIGGING DEEPER

**1.** This weekend we heard about how to worship and why we should worship. In 1 Chronicles 16:7-36, King David gives instructions to the worship leaders of Israel on both of these topics. Read this passage and jot down the insights you see about the how and the why of worship.

**1 Chronicles 16:7-36** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>7</sup> That day David first appointed Asaph and his associates to give praise to the LORD in this manner:

<sup>8</sup> Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name;  
make known among the nations what he has done.

<sup>9</sup> Sing to him, sing praise to him;  
tell of all his wonderful acts.

<sup>10</sup> Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

<sup>11</sup> Look to the LORD and his strength;  
seek his face always.

<sup>12</sup> Remember the wonders he has done,  
his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced,

<sup>13</sup> you his servants, the descendants of Israel,  
his chosen ones, the children of Jacob.

<sup>14</sup> He is the LORD our God;  
his judgments are in all the earth.

<sup>15</sup> He remembers his covenant forever,  
the promise he made, for a thousand generations,

<sup>16</sup> the covenant he made with Abraham,  
the oath he swore to Isaac.

<sup>17</sup> He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree,  
to Israel as an everlasting covenant:  
<sup>18</sup> "To you I will give the land of Canaan  
as the portion you will inherit."  
<sup>19</sup> When they were but few in number,  
few indeed, and strangers in it,  
<sup>20</sup> they wandered from nation to nation,  
from one kingdom to another.  
<sup>21</sup> He allowed no one to oppress them;  
for their sake he rebuked kings:  
<sup>22</sup> "Do not touch my anointed ones;  
do my prophets no harm."  
<sup>23</sup> Sing to the LORD, all the earth;  
proclaim his salvation day after day.  
<sup>24</sup> Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.  
<sup>25</sup> For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;  
he is to be feared above all gods.  
<sup>26</sup> For all the gods of the nations are idols,  
but the LORD made the heavens.  
<sup>27</sup> Splendor and majesty are before him;  
strength and joy are in his dwelling place.  
<sup>28</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, all you families of nations,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.  
<sup>29</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
bring an offering and come before him.  
Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.  
<sup>30</sup> Tremble before him, all the earth!  
The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved.  
<sup>31</sup> Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;  
let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!"  
<sup>32</sup> Let the sea resound, and all that is in it;  
let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them!  
<sup>33</sup> Let the trees of the forest sing,  
let them sing for joy before the LORD,  
for he comes to judge the earth.  
<sup>34</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.  
<sup>35</sup> Cry out, "Save us, God our Savior;  
gather us and deliver us from the nations,  
that we may give thanks to your holy name,  
and glory in your praise."  
<sup>36</sup> Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel,  
from everlasting to everlasting.  
Then all the people said "Amen" and "Praise the LORD."

What stands out to you the most about worship from this passage?

If our God is good and his love endures forever (verse 34), why would fear and trembling before him be appropriate (verses 25 and 30)?

Based on this weekend's sermon, what would you say to an unchurched friend who asked you why Christians sing worship songs at church?

**2.** When things got difficult for them, Chris pointed out that the Israelites could praise God for the Red Sea experience in their past and the Promised Land in their future. As Christians, he said when we're in tough times we can praise God for the cross in the past and the Kingdom of God in the future. How do you see these truths about the sea and the Promised Land and the cross and the kingdom reinforced in the passages below?

**Habakkuk 3:16-19** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>16</sup> I heard and my heart pounded,  
my lips quivered at the sound;  
decay crept into my bones,  
and my legs trembled.

Yet I will wait patiently for the day of calamity  
to come on the nation invading us.

<sup>17</sup> Though the fig tree does not bud  
and there are no grapes on the vines,  
though the olive crop fails  
and the fields produce no food,  
though there are no sheep in the pen  
and no cattle in the stalls,

<sup>18</sup> yet I will rejoice in the LORD,  
I will be joyful in God my Savior.

<sup>19</sup> The Sovereign LORD is my strength;  
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,  
he enables me to tread on the heights.

For the director of music. On my stringed instruments.

**1 Peter 1:3-9** *New International Version (NIV)*

*Praise to God for a Living Hope*

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup> These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an

inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

How could these passages be of help to someone going through a difficult time?

**3.** During the Last Supper, Jesus was aware of how difficult the next few days would be for his disciples as they struggled with fear, doubt and anxiety. He spent most of this last conversation with them before his death preparing them for the challenges to come. In the following passages from that dinner conversation, write down the statements and promises Jesus makes that could provide us with comfort and encouragement to praise and worship as we face challenging times.

**John 14:1-3** *New International Version (NIV)*

*Jesus Comforts His Disciples*

<sup>1</sup> "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?<sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

**John 14:15-20** *New International Version (NIV)*

*Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit*

<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, keep my commands. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—<sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

**John 14:27** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

**John 15:9-11** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>9</sup> "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

Which of Jesus' statements is most helpful to you as you face difficult circumstances in your life?

## TAKING IT HOME

**1.** People worship God in a variety of ways. Below are some examples of various paths of worship. Read the statements below and mark any of the descriptions that seem to fit you.

- I worship God best outside in the middle of his creation. Everything he made points me to him.
- I worship God creatively. I appreciate a worship service that involves all of my senses.
- I worship God by engaging my mind, studying and being stretched intellectually.

- I worship God best in a more traditional setting. I love the rich meaning behind religious ceremony, symbols and unchanging structures.
- I worship God best in solitude and simplicity. I like to draw away by myself.
- I worship God by working hard to make the world a better place. Worship and service go hand in hand.
- I worship God while I am caring for others and meeting needs.
- I worship God in quiet moments where I can ponder things in my heart and just be still.
- I worship God best while I am celebrating with others what he has done. There is nothing better than his church singing his praises.

Can you think of any ways you could incorporate the parts of worship Chris listed with your preferred paths?

**2.** Looking back on this week's teaching and homework, what's most important for you to remember?

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Prayer Requests:

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