

# What Does God Want From Us?

## Signing The Contract:

Exodus 24:1-8   Matthew 26:26-30   Hebrews 13:20-21

## Seeing God?

Exodus 24:9-18   Exodus 33:11-20   Isaiah 6:1-4   Ezekiel 1:1-27   Revelation 4:1-5:14  
Exodus 33:20   John 1:18   4:24, 5:37 & 6:46   1Timothy 6:15-16

## What To Do Next?

Romans 12:1-2   Matthew 16:24-27   1 Corinthians 6:18-20

## **WORSHIP:**

God gets to **decide how**, and it is **very important** to him.

✓ **Obedience**

✓ **Surrender**

✓ **Sacrifice**

✓ **Giving**

✓ **Protecting**

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 22, 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 a couple of awkward experiences he had with worship. Have you ever had an awkward worship experience? If so, explain.

**2.** We heard this weekend that the most important act of worship we can do is to be a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1). Can you think of any ways that consistently being a living sacrifice could impact your life?

## DIGGING DEEPER

**1.** A significant part of the Israelites' worship involved animal sacrifices and offerings of crops. In contrast, this weekend Chris talked about five elements that are involved in worship for us today (obedience, surrender, sacrifice, giving and protecting). In the passages below, where do you see the five elements showing up?

**Psalms 40:6-8** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>6</sup> Sacrifice and offering you did not desire—  
but my ears you have opened—  
burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require.  
<sup>7</sup> Then I said, "Here I am, I have come—  
it is written about me in the scroll.  
<sup>8</sup> I desire to do your will, my God;  
your law is within my heart."

**1 Samuel 15:22-23** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>22</sup> But Samuel replied:  
"Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices  
as much as in obeying the LORD?  
To obey is better than sacrifice,  
and to heed is better than the fat of rams.  
<sup>23</sup> For rebellion is like the sin of divination,  
and arrogance like the evil of idolatry.  
Because you have rejected the word of the LORD,  
he has rejected you as king."

**Isaiah 1:11-17** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>11</sup> "The multitude of your sacrifices—  
what are they to me?" says the LORD.  
"I have more than enough of burnt offerings,

of rams and the fat of fattened animals;  
 I have no pleasure  
 in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats.  
<sup>12</sup> When you come to appear before me,  
 who has asked this of you,  
 this trampling of my courts?  
<sup>13</sup> Stop bringing meaningless offerings!  
 Your incense is detestable to me.  
 New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations—  
 I cannot bear your worthless assemblies.  
<sup>14</sup> Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals  
 I hate with all my being.  
 They have become a burden to me;  
 I am weary of bearing them.  
<sup>15</sup> When you spread out your hands in prayer,  
 I hide my eyes from you;  
 even when you offer many prayers,  
 I am not listening.  
 Your hands are full of blood!  
<sup>16</sup> Wash and make yourselves clean.  
 Take your evil deeds out of my sight;  
 stop doing wrong.  
<sup>17</sup> Learn to do right; seek justice.  
 Defend the oppressed.  
 Take up the cause of the fatherless;  
 plead the case of the widow.

On a scale of 1-5 (1 being lowest), rate how well you're doing practicing each of the elements in your life?

\_\_\_ obedience \_\_\_ surrender \_\_\_ sacrifice \_\_\_ giving  
 \_\_\_ protecting

**2.** The book of Hebrews contains an in-depth look at how Jesus relates to the Old Testament sacrificial system of animal sacrifices, the Tabernacle and the high priest. As you read the following passages, jot down what Jesus did that accomplished far more for us than what the Old Testament sacrifices were designed to do for the Israelites.

**Hebrews 7:23-27** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>23</sup> Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; <sup>24</sup> but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. <sup>25</sup> Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

<sup>26</sup> Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. <sup>27</sup> Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.

**Hebrews 9:13-15** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>13</sup> The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. <sup>14</sup> How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

<sup>15</sup> For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

**Hebrews 9:24-28** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>24</sup> For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. <sup>25</sup> Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. <sup>26</sup> Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. <sup>27</sup> Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, <sup>28</sup> so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Which of the things you read about Jesus doing in these passages are you most thankful for?

**3.** Some of the greatest expressions of worship in the Bible were written after great loss or failure. In the first chapter of the book of Job, we read about all the tragedy that happened to Job and his family. Despite all the terrible experiences, how do you think Job was able to have the attitude he expressed in Job 1:20-22?

**Job 1:20-22** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>20</sup> At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship <sup>21</sup> and said:

"Naked I came from my mother's womb,  
and naked I will depart.

The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away;  
may the name of the LORD be praised."

<sup>22</sup> In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

Job's response to tragedy seems very different from David's response in the Psalms (see Psalm 13) where he freely expresses his sadness, pain, and anguish. How might you make sense of these two different responses to tragedy?

Can you recall a time when you did not feel like worshiping or praising God and you went ahead and did it anyway? What was that experience like?

### TAKING IT HOME

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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