

This midweek study will explore the biblical doctrine of worship. Use the following main points, Scriptures, teaching/discussion ideas, and questions to help students gain a better understanding of the essential doctrine for this session.

Essential Doctrine: Worship

While many reduce worship to an event or the singing of worship songs, worship is first and foremost something of the heart and extends to all areas of life. The aim and focus of worship is God, giving Him the exact due of praise and adoration that He deserves. Worship should be carried out not only at a personal level within a Christian's life but also in joining with other Christians in the corporate act of worship and stewarding our gifts for the glory of God. Corporate worship not only serves to edify and strengthen other Christians, but it also serves as a witness to non-believers of the greatness of God.

1 Worship involves the entirety of our being, not merely musical or music-related expressions

(Ps. 34:1-2; 86:12).

- ▶ How would you define worship?
- ▶ What do we mean when we say "worship music"?
- ▶ If you were deaf, how do you think you would worship?

Read Psalm 34:1-2.

- ▶ According to this Psalm, when would David bless (or praise) the Lord? Does David sing all the time? Then how can he worship God all the time?
- ▶ Using just these two verses, how would you explain that worship is more than music?

Read Psalm 86:12.

- ▶ With what did David say he would give thanks to God? For how long?
- ▶ How does this verse fit with the idea that worship is more than music?

2 Worship delights in who God is and invites others to join in that delight (Ps. 9:1-2; 138:1-6).

Read Psalm 9:1-2.

- ▶ What elements of worship from point 1 do you see in this passage?
- ▶ What made up the content of David's worship (v. 1)? What attitude comes in worship (v. 2)? Based on this, how would you define worship?

Read Psalm 138:1-6.

- ▶ In Psalm 9 David sang of God's wonders. What does this passage say about who God is and what He does?
- ▶ In what way did David express joy in this Psalm?
- ▶ In verse 4, who joined David in worship? Why is their inclusion significant?
- ▶ According to verses 4-6, why did the kings join in worship?
There are several different answers found in verses 4-6.

- ▶ What attitude did the kings demonstrate?

They give thanks in verse 4 and sing in verse 5.

- ▶ At this point in our study, how would you define worship?

3 Worship includes a strong corporate element, not merely an individual one (Rom. 14:17-19; Col. 3:16-17).

We just saw how worship is not merely a genre of music. Now we'll see how it's not merely an individual thing.

Read Colossians 3:16-17.

- ▶ The word worship was not mentioned in this text. What elements do you see in the text that indicate worship?
- ▶ According to verse 16, who is involved in the worship? When they sing, to whom are they speaking besides God? What are they saying to one another?
- ▶ How should true worship be more than a bunch of Christians individually praising God? What can we miss if we worship alone?
- ▶ How might we teach one another in our worship? How might we admonish one another?
- ▶ How does verse 17 remind us that worship extends beyond music and the scheduled service?

Read Romans 14:17-19.

- ▶ According to verse 17, what is the kingdom of God? How are each of these three nouns significant?
- ▶ What connections can you make between righteousness, peace, and joy with teaching and admonishing one another in Colossians 3:16?
- ▶ According to verse 19, what are the implications of our togetherness for worship? What might it look like to pursue peacemaking and build up one another look like in this group?

WRAP IT UP

- ▶ If you were to draw the entry for the word worship in the *The Visual Dictionary of Christian Terminology* now, what would your picture look like?