

*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 is joyfully giving God His proper place: the centerpiece of all things (Hos. 6:6; Rom. 11:36).

- ▶ How would you explain worship to a five-year-old?

#### Read Romans 11:36.

- ▶ What is God's place in the universe, according to Romans 11:36?

#### Read Hosea 6:6.

- ▶ According to Hosea, what is God's main concern when it comes to our worship? What makes our worship acceptable or unacceptable?
- ▶ Romans 11:36 said that all things were for God. How can a peanut butter and jelly sandwich be for God? How can your soccer game be for God? If they need help answering, suggest to them that all things exist to show how great God is. So their soccer game should show God's greatness and be done to magnify God. Same with peanut butter and jelly (and the gratitude we show when we eat it, or the way we share our sandwich with someone else who is hungry).
- ▶ So how can eating a sandwich be worship? Playing a sport? Playing an instrument?
- ▶ If everything we do can be worship, is it still important to have dedicated times of prayer and singing to Jesus and teaching about Jesus? Why?

### 2 Worship is both a personal and a communal activity (Ps. 22:22-23,25; 135:1-2).

- ▶ What's something you like that a friend of yours also likes? Does your mutual love of whatever-it-is cause you to be closer friends? Does your friend's love for whatever-it-is make you love whatever-it-is more or less?

#### Read Psalm 22:22-24,25; 135:1-2.

- ▶ How are these verses inviting others?
- ▶ Based on your mutual loves with your friend, and the calls to worship of Psalm 22 and Psalm 135, should worship be individual or communal?
- ▶ How does this understanding (that worship should include helping other people treasure Jesus) affect your attitude to church?

### 3 Joyful worship is also a wondrous witness (Ps. 117; 1 Cor. 14:24-25).

- ▶ When did you have an experience where you didn't want to do something at first, but someone convinced you it would be fun, and it turned out to be a blast? Be ready to share your own story, if possible. For me, it was go-karting as a kid. It looked so scary, but then when I did it, I enjoyed it!
- ▶ If you knew someone else enjoying the activity, were you more likely to try it yourself?

#### Read Psalm 117 and 1 Corinthians 14:24-25.

- ▶ According to 1 Corinthians 14, what could happen if a non-believer comes into a Christian corporate worship service? Why would the non-believer have this reaction?
- ▶ To whom is Psalm 117 addressed? (The nations.) Why would that audience be surprising and important in a psalm? (Most psalms were written for the Israelites; Gentiles and nations were outside God's covenant people).
- ▶ According to Psalm 117, why would the nations join in praising God? Answer: Because they see how great His lovingkindness is to Israel (see the word *for* at the beginning of verse 2. **How would the nations know about God's lovingkindness?** Answer: They would see the Israelites rejoicing in it).
- ▶ What should 1 Corinthians 14 and Psalm 117 look like today? In other words, how should non-Christians, by looking at our joyful worship, be drawn to the Lord? How is this like the activity you decided to try earlier?

### WRAP IT UP

If you were to do a diagram instruction sheet for worship now (see the Opening Activity), what would you draw on it?