

Core Plan: Worship

Goal: The goal of this core plan is assist your core in thinking biblically and objectively about worship while still understanding the reverent submission, lifestyle, and posture we, as Gods people, should have in worship.

Before your core:

- Your core environment should be always warm and welcoming. Consider having snacks, or some kind of refreshments. Make sure there is plenty of room to sit and that the seats are arranged in a circle. Always be early, welcoming, and prepared for core to start. It would be good to consider notifying your core a week ahead of time that a discussion on biblical worship would be happening so they can prepare.

Intro: If you feel comfortable leading 2-3 worship songs when core begins I would encourage you to do so. If not, discuss with your co-facilitator students in your core that you think would be interested in serving in this way.

Tip: Watch your time on these "getting personal" questions!

Getting personal (every person in core should answer these)

- We often think of worship as something that happens at a given events point and time (Sunday mornings, Friday nights, etc.) and then ends when the event is over. But if someone were looking into your life (sort of like a super-intensive reality TV show) and monitoring your thoughts and actions - what is something that they would conclude you spend a large amount of time thinking about, pursuing, stressing over and/or trying to figure out? (Let them think about this for a few minutes if they need to)

Study and Discussion (Read these scriptures first and then discuss)

Matthew 22: 34-38

"Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment..."

Romans 12:1-2

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Psalms 100: 1-5

"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."

Psalm 86: 9-10

"All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, O Lord; they will bring glory to your name. For you are great and do marvelous deeds; you alone are God."

Think out loud:

- What do we learn, here about Worship?
- How do our earlier answers regarding what we spend a lot of our time/energy thinking and worrying about tell us about our personal worship?
- What does it look like to offer our body as a 'living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God'? Be specific.

Moving Forward:

Biblical worship is a very complex topic to just cover in one night. I would encourage you all to plan combined worship nights with other cores, spend time in the psalms, and consistently add worship activities throughout the year so that your students become more familiar with the discipline of worship.

Prayer

- Break up into pairs. Ask what was most challenging about this discussion. Read through Psalm 139 in your pairs and ask the Lord to show you the areas of your life that you need to hand over as an act of worship to him.

Go

- Invite everyone in the group to exchange contact info with the person they paired to pray with and get coffee (or spend time) with them this week. Ask them to simply focus on getting to know one another.
- *Make sure to follow-up on this "Go" section during your next core. The more time you take to talk about this, the more likely people are to do it.