

STUDY GUIDE

DUTCHTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH

AUTHENTIC

THE DISCIPLINE OF WORSHIP

PSALM 19:1-3

06/26/2016

MAIN POINT

Worship is the most powerful, joy-producing, hope-sustaining, life-altering act that we do.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

The previous session's application activity challenged you to have a conversation with an individual who has faithfully served God in your community. What did you enjoy most about that conversation?

What surprised you about that conversation?

Were there any specific opportunities you had this week to serve God and others? What did you experience? What did you learn?

How will you fulfill your obligation to serve God in the coming weeks?

What ideas or images come to mind when you hear the word "worship"?

There is power in Spirit-filled worship. Something transformational happens when God's people come together in unity of purpose and lift their hearts toward heaven in a vertical expression of worship. James MacDonald will show us that the discipline of worship energizes all the other spiritual disciplines we've studied. Not only that, but vibrant worship is the reason we undertake other disciplines in the first place. Worship is the most powerful, joy-producing, hope-sustaining, life-altering act that we do.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ PSALM 19:1-3.

What aspects or principles of worship can you find in these verses?

What about you? How has your experience of worship changed you over the course of your Christian life?

Psalm 19, written by David, contains wonderful expressions of praise to God in addition to David's own thoughts and reflections about God and himself. It's a great example of what it means to worship both in spirit and in truth. As James MacDonald will help us see, true worship is the conscious, direct, specific adoration of God.

WATCH THE TEACHING SEGMENT FOR SESSION 7 FEATURING JAMES MACDONALD.

What did you like best about James's teaching?

Respond to James's primary point in the message: "Worship is the most powerful, joy-producing, hope-sustaining, life-altering thing we do."

This kind of true worship was the first thing God had in mind when He gave Moses the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai, and it's still what He has in mind for His people today. Such worship is only reserved for God, and that's why idolatry sucks the joy out of our lives. Idolatry is wrong not only because it insults God, but also because it insulates our hearts from the kind of delight and purpose we were created to experience.

How have you seen idolatry reflected in today's society?

How have you seen idolatry reflected in your own life?

If worship is the highest and most powerful human experience, then the worst thing we can do is direct our adoration toward something that's unworthy of worship—which is everything in the universe except God. Unfortunately, our culture specializes in idolatry. We love worshiping people, places, activities, and ideas—all unworthy of our adoration. In the discipline of worship, we turn our adoration to its rightful focus.

What emotions do you experience in typical moments of corporate worship? What about in personal worship?

What would you like to experience when you practice the discipline of worship?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

How can we as a group support and encourage one another in our efforts to practice the discipline of worship?

Sit together as a group during the next corporate worship gathering at your church. When the service is over, briefly gather as a group to discuss what you experienced, what helped you to connect with God, and how you hope to continue growing as a worshiper of God.

PRAY

To close your group, thank God that He is worthy of our worship. Ask Him to help you and your group draw closer to Him through the discipline of worship.

Visit LifeWay.com/JamesMacDonald to purchase the study guide for more in-depth personal and group study.

COMMENTARY

PSALM 19:1-3

19:1. Although the heavens can refer to God's dwelling place, here it is clarified by sky, which is what can be seen from the perspective of those who live on the earth. The "sky" is the same Hebrew word as the expanse that separated water from water in Gen 1:6-8. Creation is sometimes personified as a witness to God's work among His people, particularly in the covenant relationship He has with them (Dt 4:26; 30:19; Isa 1:2). In this context one specific part of creation is personified as declaring and proclaiming a message. The parallelism between the glory of God and the work of His hands indicates that the objects of creation are demonstrations (or evidence) of God's glory (50:6; 89:5-8; 97:6; Rm 1:19-20).

19:2-3. Pour out is literally "gush" or "bubble up." This phrase is most often used for springs or fountains of water. The significance of the term here seems to be that speech never ceases. The concept is intensified by the doubling of the terms day and night. The message goes out all the time without ceasing. The paradox is that there is speech in verse 2, but there is no speech in verse 3. Although the same Hebrew term ('omer) appears in both verses, it is used differently. In the first instance it is equivalent to the message in verse 1; in the second instance it means "words." Therefore, it is a message with clearly defined content, but it is not communicated with the words of human language.