

Worship Series Worksheet

Session 1 – Week 1 (Toby Lee) & Week 2 (Jill Duke)

Leaders: Please encourage your group to back at the Sunday service talks from Toby and Jill.

- **Week 1: What is worship?**
- **Week 2: Why do we worship?**

Hello everyone and welcome to our series embracing our worship. This series uses the Sunday service talks to give space to explore and dig deeper our view of worship and its place in our daily lives as we seek “the plans I have for you” (Jeremiah29:11).

Opening

YAY.... Let’s look at worship. I’m reminded that worship will mean different things to different people; from a complete lifestyle to maybe something we experience when we join with others on a Sunday! So, begin with some time catching up then transition into the study with a prayer of thanksgiving and let’s start.

Session 1 – Week 1 talk – What is worship?

Toby led us to Luke 7:36-50 and a short summary follows:

Luke 7:36 is the beginning of what could be called the greatest worship set on earth. We see a dinner, with Jesus as the guest of honour, interrupted abruptly by a woman (thought to be a sex worker) weeping in the doorway. Not only does she weep, but comes, cries over the feet of Jesus, wipes them with her hair, and then continues to pour perfume over them. This act of worship all ends in the forgiveness of her sin, by her faith.

First, as we look at Simon’s reaction in verse 39, we must ask the question ‘how interruptible are we, even when it offends us, for a miracle to take place?’

Secondly, as we look at the woman with the perfume, we must recognise a few aspects of her posture. Take a look at her fear of God rather than man. Look at the way she worships Jesus purely for WHO He is. (This is before Jesus died on the cross). Look at how much it costs her (year worth of wages. OF HER). Her dignity, her money, her respect.

Toby highlighted that her offering to Jesus was Ointment, Tears and Love.

AND YET, the fruit of the cost is freedom. ‘Your faith has saved you, go in peace.’ Jesus lavishes His love onto her. Worship is approaching the throne of God, recognising God for WHO He is and WHAT He has done for us, and offering all we have, in the vast and beautiful expressions available to us because of the person of Jesus AND the works of the Cross.

HERE I AM TO WORSHIP, HERE I AM BOW DOWN, HERE I AM, JUST AS I AM, TO SAY THAT YOU ARE MY GOD.

Reflection and Discussion:

So, Toby indicates that worship is a lifestyle-

- how do you style your life for worship?

Action plan this week:

- How might we adjust to press more into the love of Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

Session 1 – Week 2 talk – Why do we worship?

Jill led us to Philippians 2:6-11 and a short summary follows:

This scripture in Philippians is all about submission to God. To worship God, is to come into agreement with who He is, denying ourselves in the process. We see in chapter 2 v 8, that it speaks of how Jesus sets the example. He came in complete humility, by becoming obedient to death. What does it look like for us as Christians to die to ourselves, in full submission, agreement and thanksgiving of who God is? Why do we worship? Because we follow a God who came and paid the price for EVERYTHING, and because of this we owe Him everything. We see this scripture says 'at the name of Jesus'. At Bridge Church, one of the anthems we sing is 'I Speak Jesus'. As we sing this, we bring everything under the submission and authority of his love. Anxiety, family, depression, disease, and in return he gives MORE. Healing, peace, unity, freedom. Let us recognise the full circle moments of worship under God's love. As we pour out our offering, He will pour unto us more than we can imagine.

Reflection and Discussion:

Jill said that worship is a declaration that God is in the midst of everything that is happening in our lives.

- When we experience difficulties how hard do we find it to worship?
- When good things happen how easy do we find it to worship?
- Share about a time that you worshipped God and how that changed the atmosphere.

Action plan this week:

- Jill said – if you want the atmosphere to change bring in the one who changes the atmosphere. Memorise this and use as a reminder to call on God in all circumstances.

Closing

If helpful remind your group that the bible tells us to enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; this should be our approach to worship in our daily lives.

If excited that's good and can form part of closing prayers. If a little unsure, please reassure people its ok if they feel any sense of trepidation in any of this – God loves us to seek him out - we're in God's hands – hallelujah! This can also be lifted back to God in prayer.

So, try to finish well. This might not mean a tidy finish – there may be much left unresolved – that’s ok and please feed questions back to us.

It’s always good to end in prayer so draw conversations to a close and let’s get praying –

- Themes from this evening can be lifted in prayer.
- If excited, then let God know.
- If reassurance needed, then seek God’s grace and peace in people’s hearts.
- Other prayer needs in the room.

If you’re on track with all of this then let the group know that next time, we’ll be exploring more of what worship might be for us both personally and collectively as the Bride of Christ.

Leaders, please provide feedback from your session 1 to us by dropping an email to:

grahambates54@gmail.com and pinktraceyj@yahoo.co.uk

How did the session go?

Significant points raised?

Areas that need further/future support/clarification?

Thanks