

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

TAKE THE NEXT STEP — Worship

Primary Text: Psalm 95:6 (ESV)

Communion Text: 1 Corinthians 11:23–26

Supporting Texts: John 1:14; Isaiah 53:5; 1 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 9:22; Jeremiah 31:34; Romans 5:8; Psalm 32:1

BIG IDEA

Worship is our **right and appropriate response** to God’s revelation of Himself—and at the Lord’s Table, God reveals His Son, His grace, and His promise in a **visible and tangible way**.

1. Opening Question

When you hear the word *worship*, what do you most naturally think of—**music, preaching, atmosphere, or something else?** Why?

2. Core Scripture

“Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!”
(Psalm 95:6, ESV)

Teaching Emphasis

- Worship is more than attending a service—it is a **response**.
- True worship is not driven by preference, emotion, or performance.
- Worship flows from **God revealing Himself**, most clearly in Jesus Christ.

3. Key Truths

A. Communion Is Visible Worship

“This is my body, which is for you... This cup is the new covenant in my blood.” (1 Corinthians 11:24–25)

- At the Table, God **reveals Himself** and calls for a response.
- Communion connects **history** (the cross), **the present** (our worship), and **eternity** (Christ’s return).

Discussion Questions

- Why is it important that worship includes visible, physical elements?
- How does Communion guard us from turning worship into a performance?

B. The Bread Reveals the Son of God Given for Us

1. The Incarnation

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” (John 1:14)

- God did not save us from a distance—He came near.
- The bread reminds us that salvation required **God in the flesh**.

2. The Suffering Savior

“He was pierced for our transgressions.” (Isaiah 53:5)

- Jesus’ body was beaten, pierced, nailed, and buried.
- Worship includes remembering the **cost** of our redemption.

3. The Substitutionary Gift

“This is my body, which is for you.” (1 Corinthians 11:24)

- Jesus suffered in our place—**the righteous for the unrighteous** (1 Peter 3:18).

Discussion Questions

- Why is substitution essential to understanding the gospel?
- How does the bread shape our humility at the Table?

C. The Cup Reveals the Grace of God Poured Out

1. The Cost of Forgiveness

“Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.” (Hebrews 9:22)

- Sin is serious; grace is costly.
- Forgiveness required the blood of Christ.

2. The New Covenant

“I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.” (Jeremiah 31:34)

- This covenant is written on hearts, not stone.
- Grace replaces condemnation.

3. The Depth of God’s Love

“While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

- The cup declares love that pursued us when we were undeserving.

Discussion Questions

- Why must worship include honest reflection on sin?
- How does the new covenant shape our assurance before God?

D. Worship Demands a Right Response

At the Table, God reveals—and we respond:

- **Humility** – We did not earn this grace.
- **Gratitude** – This is the gift of God.
- **Surrender** – We receive by yielding our lives.
- **Confession** – Sin is not hidden; it is washed away.
- **Faith** – We trust God’s promise, not our performance.
- **Joy** – Forgiven people are joyful people.

“Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven.” (Psalm 32:1)

Discussion Questions

- Which of these responses do you find easiest? Which is hardest?
- Why must confession and joy always be held together?

4. Heart-Level Reflection

- Are you more prone to approach worship as a **consumer** or a **respondent**?
- What does the Lord’s Table reveal about your need for grace today?

5. Taking the Next Step

Personal

- Examine your heart before worship—come ready to respond.
- Practice confession and gratitude as part of regular prayer.

Spiritual Commitments

- Repent and believe the gospel.
- Be baptized.
- Begin daily Scripture reading and prayer.
- Establish family worship rhythms.

Church Life

- Consider formal commitment through membership in this local body.
- Engage worship not as spectators, but as participants.

6. CLOSING

At this Table, God reveals His Son, His grace, and His promise.

“Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!”

(Psalm 95:6)