

# 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)