

# Small Group Discussion Outline



## That Thing Before the Sermon

Sung worship is our *response* to everything that God has done and all that He is. There are a number of different aspects of sung worship which warrant inspection so that we may continue to grow in our application and experience of corporate worship.



***What do you enjoy about times of sung worship in Church?***

***What do you not enjoy?***

***Are the things you do enjoy the result of something you do?  
(e.g. preparation, attitude, involvement etc.)***

***Are there things you do not enjoy that you can change?***

***Are there things you do not enjoy that require you to change?***

Christian worship is God-centred worship. It is a person's response to God's revelation of Himself. We were all created to worship God, and one of the key expressions of this throughout history has been through singing to God.

There are no right or wrong styles of music as far as worship goes, only right or wrong approaches and attitudes.

By highlighting these we can tackle them head-on and individually take action to delve deeper into this thing which God so desires and commands.

### **REPENTANCE**

Through worship, we are seeking to approach God who is holy and perfect - therefore we need to examine where we stand before Him so that we may enter His presence with a pure heart.



***Read: Psalm 25:8-11***



***If God desires to teach "sinners" what does that say about the requirements for approaching Him?***

***Do you think there is a connection between receiving instruction and being humble?***

The key obstacle to entering God's presence through worship is attitude. God delights in those who desire to know Him - regardless of what state their lives may presently be in. But the attitude that approaches God without that humility will not get very far.

### **SURRENDER**



***Read: Matthew 17:5-7***

The disciples received a revelation of Jesus and responded to it.

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***What does the disciples response reveal about their view of God?  
How does Jesus respond to their attitude?***

The disciples were afraid, but they also revealed a reverence and awe of God which was demonstrated through their response. Surrender is an attitude of the heart and is essential for entering God's presence.



***If we approach God, surrendered, how can we expect Him to respond?***

When the disciples responded in holy fear and reverence, in surrender, Jesus lifted them up. If we seek to honour God and approach Him with our hearts surrendered before Him then we can be assured that He will accept us and lift us up.

### **OVERFLOW**

Worship is a response. In order to respond we need to have some cause for response, some action or situation to react to. Worship is responding to God - to all He's done and is doing and will do and for who He is. True worship begins in the heart.



***Read: Psalm 119:171; Luke 6:45***



***Where does the "overflow" come from?***

***What causes it to overflow?***

***Can something overflow if it's not filled beyond its capacity?***

***How do we fill our hearts with the things of God?***

It is a deliberate decision to fill our hearts with the things of God. We do this by reading His Word, by praying, by allowing Him to speak to us, by thinking about everything He's done.

True worship comes from the heart, it is an overflow of our love for God, but it can only come from a heart which has been deliberately filled with the things of God. Unless we spend our days and weeks filling our hearts then, come Sunday, there will not be much in our hearts with which to "overflow" in worship.

### **SACRIFICE**



***Read: 2 Samuel 24:21-24***

Sometimes worship requires us to make a sacrifice. Fortunately it's not quite as messy today and we don't have to kill anything, but it still costs us.



***Can you think of any sacrifices you might need to make in order to worship God?***

***Who is worship for primarily?***

***Is anything too much to sacrifice in order to worship?***

Sometimes the sacrifice is just getting out of bed on Sunday morning. Other times it may be not liking the music style or volume, sometimes it's pressing through tiredness or weariness and making a decision that worshipping God is our number one priority.

We were created to worship God and one of the key expressions of this is through singing - so sing! :-)

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