

“The Tension of Worship”
A Personal or Small Group Experience

The Exhibition of Exceptional Effort by the wise men in worship of Jesus brought to light an ugly reality. Their desire to worship Jesus brought out the worst in King Herod. Worship of the true God that is heartfelt, sincere and filled with effort often does bring out the tensions that war within us and within our world. Bottom line, we human beings want to be our own gods. When we actively worship the true God we have to let go of our “other Gods” that clamor for our attention. That is one of the reasons worship is so important for our us. Our hearts, minds and spirits need the active regular exercise of letting go of our “other God’s” and clinging to - “worshiping” the true God.

In addition to this internal war that worship leads us through there are external “wars” that can be ignited by the act of worship. Read through the account of the wise men and Jesus again and this time concentrate on the tension with Herod. As you read **Matthew 2:1-23** discuss,

What was going on in Herod’s heart and mind in this narrative?

In what way was he offended by the worship of the wise men?

What does this say about the depravity of the human heart given the right conditions?

How could this have gone differently for Herod if he had truly followed the wise men in surrendered worship of Jesus?

If you have time you may wish to look at another incredible story of the Exhibition of Exceptional Effort in worship and how that brought about tension with other gods! Read **Daniel 3!**

Discuss the tension that “worship of the true God” brought into the lives of the different characters in the story.

How did “worship” at this exceptional level take great faith?

Discuss how God used this Exhibition of Exceptional Effort in worship for His purposes?



Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

Isaiah 60:1

“Connecting With God” Weekly Guide

This booklet is a resource to help you “Connect with God” this week. He deeply desires ongoing personal connection with you. You are that important to Him.

This Page has some scripture verses for you to meditate on each day this week. Notice the helpful hints section – these are great things to consider when personally engaging with God through His Word.

The Center Pages contain the notes and outline for the message given on Sunday. The message is also available as an audio download from www.pointofgracechurch.org

The Back Page has a study written specifically for a small group of people (or an individual) to drill down deeper into a particular aspect of the week’s theme. Small groups can review memorable points of the week’s message and then work through the study concluding with a time of prayer.

Scripture & Meditation Guide - January 3-8

Helpful Hints:

- 1) Find a quiet place along with 15-20 minutes!
- 2) Focus on God for a few moments asking His Spirit to speak to your heart!
- 3) Listen to Him by reading a section of scripture then rereading it several times, dwelling on “words and phrases” which grab your heart’s attention.

Ask God, “What do You want me to hear?” “Why this word at this time?”
“How are You inviting me to respond?”

- 4) Pray everything that is on your heart and mind as you are ready!

Worship Him, Bless Him, Thank Him, Ask Him, Trust Him

Monday: Matthew 2:1-12

Tuesday: Matthew 2:19-23

Wednesday: Psalm 100

Thursday: Psalm 121

Friday: Psalm 113

Saturday: Psalm 98