

“A Life Characterized by Worship”

A Personal or Small Group Experience

One definition of worship is listed as reverent honor and homage paid to a [god](#) or a sacred personage, or to any object regarded as sacred. If you looked at our culture, which objects or people would be deemed sacred using the above definition? Where would Jesus fit in our culture?

Maybe we worship and revere athletes or celebrities, rock stars or artists, executives or models. The idea of worship might move away from a specific person or class of people and land more closely on a lifestyle, status, appearance, or possession. The idea of worshipping Jesus is probably not the obvious choice of who is revered by our society today. Many Christians discuss worship as something they go to and not much beyond that. Christ and the writers of Scripture move to a much deeper and holistic approach to worship in which one engages mind, heart, soul and spirit and our lives are a culmination of our beliefs expressed through our actions. Read through Romans 12:1-2 and discuss the ideas of worship that come out of the text.

Do you see your entire life as an expression of worship towards God?

How would those around you classify your life as a worship of God?

The idea of sacrifices catches the Western mind off guard and honestly, all the blood and fire makes us a little uncomfortable. God ordained animal sacrifices in the Old Testament as an expression of worship and tangible step of faith, trusting that God comes through on His promises. In the culture of the time, they were much more readily accepted and part of life than they are today. Paul discussed this idea in Romans 12, equating our worship of God as living sacrifices. We are continually offering ourselves to God by our actions. Our lives become a response to the mercy and grace shown to us by our Father in Heaven.

The Christmas narrative has some great expressions of worship and adoration of the Christ child and the deeper meaning of His birth and intentions on Earth. Read through Luke 2:21-40 and notice the various characters within this narrative and the attitude and display of worship in their lives.

What examples of worship do you see in Mary & Joseph? Simeon? Anna?

How is their worship characterized by sacrifice, praise, and a life devoted to God?

Read and discuss 2 Corinthians 3:18 and spend time praying that your life is pregnant with worship, not just Sunday mornings, but every moment of every day. Pray that God will transform your heart into His likeness and that your actions reflect the Lord's glory through His Holy Spirit.



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 - December 27–January 1

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: Luke 2: 21-40

Tuesday: 2 Samuel 12: 1-23

Wednesday: Psalm 96

Thursday: Romans 12: 1-8

Friday: 1 Kings 19: 9-18

Saturday: Luke 2: 21-40