

Grow Series: Worship

Introduction

Today started a little weird, didn't it? We didn't begin with our usual worship time. We actually didn't do any worship at all. Why was that strange? Was it because it's our usual routine or because we didn't open our time with praising God?

Over the next few weeks we are going to do a series called "Grow". This series is going to focus on ways we can grow our faith through prayer, worship, baptism and communion. If you haven't already guessed, today is about worship!

What is worship?

Sometimes we think that worship is just singing songs to God. Sometimes we think it's honoring God with our tithes or serving at our church. But it's not **just** those things. Worship is much more than that. I like a definition from the 1828 Webster's Dictionary, "***Worship is to honor with extravagant love and extreme submission***". Who knows what extravagant means? Extravagant is the greatest, it's something beyond what's normal or appropriate. It's like if you asked for an M&M and I gave you a bucket of M&Ms. Extravagant love is almost overflowing for love for someone. "Extreme submission" is to obey and listen to that person more than anyone else--no matter what they say, you would do it. Is there anyone you love like crazy and would do whatever they asked? Just God. Worship is honoring Him with great love and obedience. It's putting God at the top of our list, our main focus, over everyone and anyone because He is worthy. True worship is a matter of our hearts and living a life of holiness--a life that honors God in all you do.

Why do we worship?

So why should we live our lives worshipping God? I like what **1 Chronicles 16: 23-27** says:

23 Sing to the Lord, all the earth!

Tell of his salvation from day to day.

24 Declare his glory among the nations,

his marvelous works among all the peoples!

25 For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,

and he is to be feared above all gods.

26 For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,

but the Lord made the heavens.

27 Splendor and majesty are before him;

strength and joy are in his place.

We worship God because He is God. That's it. We love Him, because He first loved us. We could just worship God because of all the stuff He's done for us, and that's not a bad reason to worship, but that's not **the reason**. We worship God because He is the one, true God. He's the Creator of the Universe and deserves all the honor and praise.

Psalm 86:8-13

*8 There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,
nor are there any works like yours.*

*9 All the nations you have made shall come
and worship before you, O Lord,
and shall glorify your name.*

*10 For you are great and do wondrous things;
you alone are God.*

*11 Teach me your way, O Lord,
that I may walk in your truth;
unite my heart to fear your name.*

*12 I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
and I will glorify your name forever.*

*13 For great is your steadfast love toward me;
you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.*

How do we worship?

Like I said earlier, we worship with our whole lives, how we live and obey. However, there are acts of worship: singing songs of praise, serving at church, tithing, and so on. For today's lesson, we are going to focus on the act of worship by singing songs to God. This is singing songs to God or singing songs about God and all He has done.

You might have seen some different ways to worship God through song. We can sing with or without music/a band, we can raise our hands to God, we can kneel down, we can jump and dance, we can shout and sing, or we can just listen and reflect. Do you think there is a wrong way to worship God through songs? There is only one wrong way: to worship God and not mean it. Like we talked about, it's about our heart. We can sing all the words and even hold our hands up, but if our hearts aren't really worshipping Him, then it's nothing. Just a pretty song. 1 Corinthians 13: 1 says, "*If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal*". Basically Paul says, I can say all the right things, but if I don't have love, I'm just a noisy nothing. We don't want to be a noisy nothing, do we? I don't!

Let's Worship!

I want to put what we've talked about in practice. We're going to worship to three songs, each a little different so we can worship God in three different ways.

Lord of Hosts

I want to start with a song that you may not know. It's called "Lord of Hosts" and is based on Psalm 46. I want you to listen to this song. **Psalm 46:1-3:**

*1 God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.*

*2 Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,*

*3 though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.*

You can close your eyes, read the words on the video, but listen. Think about the words being sung and worship God through that. We're going to be quiet and still and no one is getting up. Think about what this song is saying about who God is and what He does.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbr-Oky1qV0>

Good, Good Father

This next song, is a song you all have sung before in Kids Church: "Good, Good Father". You know this song, but you can also understand this song because you have a father on earth that loves you and wants what is best for you. God is our Heavenly Father that loves you and wants what is best for you even more than your earthly father.

Your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Psalm 23:6

For this song, I want you to stand or sit or kneel, do whatever makes you comfortable to worship God. But sing this song to Him, just don't sing the words on the screen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBwXHpKVS5I>

Undignified

David Crowder wrote this song and he wrote it based on 2 Samuel 6. In this passage, David is King over Israel and they are returning the Ark of the Lord, back to Jerusalem and it's like a giant Homecoming parade. People are celebrating, dancing and playing music. It's a huge party. The Ark is home, God's chosen a King, and Israel is back to worshipping God. David is so happy and thankful to God, that he is literally "leaping and dancing" all in praise to God. Now, how many kings have you seen act crazy like that? Not a lot! His wife got really upset at him and couldn't believe he would act with such dishonor. Here's what David said back:

2 Samuel 6:21-22, 21 David said to Michal, *“It was before the Lord, who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the Lord’s people Israel—I will celebrate before the Lord. 22 I will become **even more undignified** than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes. But by these slave girls you spoke of, I will be held in honor.”*

He told her he’d be even more crazy for the Lord and doesn’t care if it even embarrasses himself! That’s what our final song is about, being undignified for God. Praising and dancing for Him because He’s our one true God. Who wants to get a little undignified?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hp7B5V-qpTQ>

However you worship, we want to worship with our full heart, giving the love and adoration that God deserves because He is our God.

Let’s pray.

Grow Series: Worship Small Group Time

Discussion:

Take time to introduce yourself and learn children's names. Use these questions to help lead discussion.

- What is worship? *honoring God with great love and obedience everyday*
- Why do we worship? *Because He is the one, true God*
- How can we worship? *Song of praise and worship, reading our Bible, serving, tithing, praying*
- What did you learn about the different ways we worshipped today?
- Which was your favorite and why?

Activity: Write a Worship Song

Supplies: poster board, markers, Bible

Use the questions below to help lead your group to write a few lines of a worship song or praise to God. You can write and decorate your song and share it with the large group if time permits.

- If you were to write a worship song, what would it say?
- What are things you love about God?
- What are things you are thankful to God about?
- What do you tell others about God?

Memory Verse:

Introduce the verse for this week. Practice saying it together.

Psalm 105:1 *"Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done."*

Prayer:

Ask if there are any prayer requests and if anyone would like to pray to close out small group.

Dismissal:

Pass out Memory Verse Cards as children are released.