

**LEADER NOTES**  
**LIVING BEYOND THIS LIFE - WORSHIP PART I**  
**“WHAT IS WORSHIP?”**  
**MAY 17-18, 2008**

**Key Verses**

Hebrews 12:28  
John 4:24  
Mark 12:30  
1 Samuel 16:7

**What do these verses tell us about the type of worship that is pleasing to God?**

Hopefully these verses point out the importance of having a sense of “reverence and awe” for God when we worship that helps us recognize His magnificence, holiness, majesty, character, and all that He has done for us. We give Him the respect He deserves, recognizing that He is the Creator of the universe (Hebrews 12:28). Also, God needs to be worshipped in spirit and in truth, meaning that we connect with Him beyond the level of our minds, and beyond our circumstances and feelings at the time (John 4:24). God is deeply in love with us, and wants us to love Him with all that is within us. He longs for us to really desire and “hunger” for Him - as well as recognize our need and dependence upon Him (Mark 12:30). God desires that we worship Him with a heart that is truly worshipping Him - sincere. It is not about our outward appearance, that we look like we are worshipping, but God knows our heart and what is really happening inside us (1 Samuel 16:7).

**Discussion Questions**

- **What are some different ways worship can be expressed?**

While most of us would probably think of worship as the time we sing in church before the message, it actually can be expressed in a variety of forms. It can take the form of simply speaking out your feelings of praise, thanksgiving, and just acknowledging God for who He is and all He has done. It can take place in written form through writing down thoughts, a note or letter. It can also be in reading out passages from the Bible that express praise (such as Psalms). Ultimately our entire life should be a form of worship as we are instructed to give Him glory in whatever we do and do all we do as unto the Lord.

- **Have you observed a difference in the way men and women worship?**

Most people will probably recognize that women are more free in expressing their worship not only physically (raising hands, clapping, dancing, etc.), but also verbally in being able to speak out their feelings of love towards God than most men. As Pastor Dan mentioned, men are more into “doing,” and by serving others they are still worshipping God with whatever talents and abilities He has given them.

- **Why do you think our worship is important to God?**

Worship is an act of love, so it is an action that demonstrates to God we love Him; which is obviously very important to Him. As Pastor Dan taught, worship means moving towards our Heavenly Father to show Him affection and love - which is His desire for everyone to know how much He loves them and responds to that love. Worship enhances our relationship and level of intimacy with God, and as we

express our love to Him we will experience Him doing the same thing back to us. It has been said that God doesn't need our worship, but we need to worship God. While it may be true that God doesn't need our worship, He does desire it - and in fact has created us to worship Him!

- **Pastor Dan defined worship as an expression of love, or “affection communicated.” How well do you think you communicate your love to God?**

This will give your group members an opportunity for some personal reflection and allow them to examine how well they communicate their love and affection to God through various means of worship. Hopefully, they will be open to sharing - especially if you are able to lead out and share first.

- **According to Romans 12:1 what is our ultimate act of worship?**

Romans 12:1 states that our spiritual act of worship is to offer our bodies as living sacrifices, that are holy and pleasing to God. This is pretty much all-encompassing as it would not only include all we do during our lifetime as a form of worship unto Him, but it would also seem to imply that we would be willing to give up our lives if that was what was needed. This should certainly not be a surprise coming from Paul who like so many other early Christians did just that. He also said things like, “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me”(Galatians 2:20). “For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain”(Philippians 1:21).

So God desires that we offer our bodies, our lives back to Him as a “living sacrifice.” In doing this we acknowledge that our lives are not our own, and for us to do whatever we want with them. Instead, we recognize that God has created us for a purpose and we are to live for Him and to serve Him, hopefully being able to say as Jesus did, “Not my will, but Yours.” This would be true of Rev. E.P. Scott from the Life Example who was willing to lay down his life for the tribe in India who had never heard the Gospel, and modern day martyrs like Jim Elliot or others around the world today that we have never heard of.