

(This series of studies is based on the book, 'The Unquenchable Worshipper' by Matt Redman ISBN: 9780854769957)

LOVE

Study 1 – The Undignified Worshipper



Live

In Chapter 3 - The Undignified Worshipper, we read about a heart being so overwhelmed by God's love that the physical expression was for the leader to run around the car park for 10 minutes without any shoes! What would be your reaction if one of our leaders had a similar experience next Sunday ?



Love

Listen to or sing along to a worship song. Perhaps try worshipping in a different way than normal.



Grow

Read Romans 14:1-15:3 and 1 John 4: 19-21.

In the passage in Romans, Paul tells Christians of different backgrounds to respect one another's consciences. Paul gives Jesus as the perfect example.

1. What do the weak and the strong argue about, according to v.1-6?
2. What is the attitude we should have to one another when we disagree?
3. Discuss what these passages say about relationships within the community of believers. Do we still find this passage relevant today?

This applies to how we worship too. We have to respect each other's backgrounds and how we each choose to worship.

4. If one worshipper sits quietly and does not make a sound, the next worshipper lifts their hands whilst praying in tongues and the third worshipper is singing and dancing in the aisle of the church. Which of these three worshippers is experiencing a greater fullness of God?
5. How do you like to worship God? Does this vary with how you are feeling? Has it varied during your Christian life?

We should not question the expression or style of worship - true worship comes from the heart. Man looks on the outward appearance but only God looks on the heart.



Love

The Bible teaches us that different expressions of worship are what God wants from us and asks of us. Discuss the different styles of worship you are familiar with and those you are not so familiar with. See the Notes section of this study for some ideas and references. Share a bit about your experiences with these different styles, perhaps thinking of what we could bring to St James.

Prayer

Pray for wisdom in how to deal with our fellow Christians when we disagree with each other. Ask that God would help us to show love to one another in these disagreements. Pray that God would unite us despite our diversity and that we would learn to embrace our differences.

Notes – Expressions of Worship

Kneeling Phil. 2:9-11 Psalm 95:6 Ephesians 3:12-15

Once upon a time, parents kneeled with their children beside their beds to pray with them. We lost something precious when that tradition was disregarded. When we adopt a posture of humility, it affects our attitude. The Bible encourages us to take this posture of humility before the Lord.

Lifting Hands Psalm 28:2 Psalm 134:2 1 Timothy 2:8

The Jewish people of Jesus' day usually lifted their hands to heaven as they prayed, this tradition continued into the New Testament church. In our contemporary church culture many have labelled this as a Pentecostal tradition, but as you can see it is a Biblical tradition.

Being Still Psalm 4:4 Psalm 46:10 1 Thessalonians 4:11

Being still is a rare item in today's fast paced world. It is more of a need on our day than ever before. We have to take time to shut off all the noise and just get alone at Jesus' feet and hear what He has to say to us. There is always something waiting to be done. Martha is always in the kitchen needing help (Luke 10:38-42). If you wait until all is done, you will never be still. The more you have to do, the more you need to take that time to be still – you might hear the best way to go about your busy day. God will set your priorities aright in the stillness.

Clapping Psalm 47:1 Isaiah 55:12 Psalm 98:9

Clapping is also an expression of worship – we usually think of it as praise or adulation for a job well done. God always does a good job. We can praise and give Him adulation at any time through clapping. Some traditions call it a 'clap offering' – we can applaud God. We can clap with a song to express praise with our hands as well as with our voices. Has God been wonderful in your life? Let's give God a standing ovation – He deserves it more than any performer or team!

Shouting Psalm 66:1 Psalm 81:1 1 Samuel 4:5

Psalm 47:1 brings us into the next expression, a shout! When we hear folks shouting "Hallelujah" do we think they are crazy or overflowing with the joy of the Lord? The Bible tells us to shout to the Lord. If you have a reason to be joyful, let's give a shout of Hallelujah! Quiet is no more reverent than a shout of praise – it is just a different expression.

Singing Psalm 9:11 Psalm 13:6 Psalm 66:2

One of the most common expressions of worship in Scripture is song. Over and over the Bible encourages us to sing to the Lord and to sing for joy. It is a sad fact that worshippers can be divided by the type of songs they like to sing. Traditional, modern, old and new all have one purpose – to glorify God alone.

LOVE

Study 2 – The Unpredictable Worshipper



Live

If you could suddenly have an expert knowledge on any topic, what would it be and why?



Love

Listen to or sing along to a worship song. Perhaps try worshipping in a different way than normal.



Grow

Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-16.

1. How is God's wisdom different to human wisdom?
2. How is God's wisdom described in v.7? Do you think this is an accurate description? Why or why not?
3. How do those without the Spirit and those with the Spirit differ in their understanding of God's wisdom?
4. According to v. 16, why is this?

"Draw near to God and God will draw near to you." (James 4:8)

5. What does this verse say to you?
6. Where can we find God's wisdom? How can we draw near to Him?



Love

We should seek God's wisdom both in our private and corporate worship. Since His wisdom resides in His Word, it is imperative that we study and understand His revealed truth. Likewise, we need to allow the Holy Spirit to guide our lives.

Share with each other how we can become better as this and commit to do so this week.

Prayer

Pray that we would draw closer to God this week and that we can be given true wisdom that comes from the Spirit. Thank God that He has given us the Spirit so "that we might understand the things freely given us by God."

LOVE

Study 3 – The Unnoticed Worshipper



Live

If you were invisible for a day, what would you do and why?



Love

Listen to or sing along to a worship song. Perhaps try worshipping in a different way than normal.



Grow

Read Genesis 18:1-9.

In this passage Abraham hosts three guests, thought to be the Lord and 2 angels. In his hosting and service to these guests, he is worshipping the Lord.

1. How do you think you would feel if God knocked on your door? What would you do?
2. Read John 1:18 and 1 Timothy 6:16. If God the Father has never been seen, how do you think God appeared to Abraham?
3. Do you think Abraham recognised the three guests? Why or why not?
4. How does Abraham welcome the guests? What does he do?
5. What do you think he meant when he said, “please do not pass your servant by”?
6. How is Abraham worshipping God in this passage and what can we learn from it?

Worship is the act of drawing away from the world to be in God’s presence – this is what Abraham does in this passage. We can do this too! And it doesn’t just have to be singing on a Sunday!

7. Share different ideas of worship. Think particularly about what could be described as “unnoticed” worship. How can we draw near to the presence of God in our lives continually?
8. Discuss what Jesus teaches about unseen worship in Matthew 6:5-14.



Love

After our discussion of how we can draw near to the presence of God and worship Him continuously, commit ourselves do so this week. Share with each other what we are going to do.

Prayer

Thank God that he is always with us. Pray that we would be better able to draw near to God’s presence this week and that we would worship with our whole lives, not just a few hours on a Sunday.

LOVE

Study 4 – The Undivided Worshipper



Live

If you could be a professional at any sport, what would it be and why?



Love

Listen to or sing along to a worship song. Perhaps try worshipping in a different way than normal.



Grow

Read Romans 12.

In this chapter, Paul is telling Christians how to live in a way that their behaviour is worshipful to God.

1. What does God require of us? See v. 1 and 2.
2. What is our spiritual worship as described in v. 1?
3. Sometimes we are frightened of God's will. How can Paul's description of it help this?
4. Why does Paul say that we all have different gifts?
5. What gifts does he use as examples?
6. How does Paul describe true love?
7. How does all this relate to worship? Perhaps now that your idea of worship has already been challenged in the previous weeks you will be able to see how living in this way worships God.



Serve

Think about what gifts God has given us and how we can use them to serve, and in doing so, worship Him.

Are you aware of any new gifts over the past 12 months

Think also about how we can show better love for one another. Is there one person who you find particularly difficult to love? Commit to showing love to them this week, worshipping God as we try to be more like Jesus in our lives.

Prayer

Pray that we would be able to know our gifts and how to use them to worship God. Pray that we can embody this love that Paul describes.

LOVE

Study 5 – The Unending Worshipper



Live

When something is perfect, people often describe it as “heaven on earth”. How would you describe your version of “heaven on earth”?



Love

Listen to or sing along to a worship song. Perhaps try worshipping in a different way than normal.



Grow

Read Revelation 4.

Images of Heaven and Heavenly Worship are given in this chapter. Let's look at these verses in more detail. Use the Notes section for help.

1. John sees a door standing open in Heaven. Does this remind you of any of Jesus' teaching? (Matthew 7:7)
2. Who is at the centre of worship?
3. What does the rainbow signify - think about Noah?
4. Who do the 24 elders represent? What does this signify?
5. What other occasion was God's presence surrounded by thunder and lightning? (Exodus 19: 16-23)
6. What are the seven spirits of God? (Isaiah 11: 2-3)
7. What does the sea of glass represent?
8. What are the four creatures around the throne like?
9. Compare their worship song with Rev. 1:8 & Rev. 22:33.
10. What does the final song teach us about ourselves?



Love

Now that this is the final study, reflect on the ideas we had of how we can better worship God in our everyday lives. Share which ones we tried and which ones we liked.

Prayer

Give thanks to God. Pray that we have God at the centre of our lives and at the heart of our worship.

Notes

1. In Revelation Chapter 4 – John sees a door standing open before him. He is invited to pass through it – and finds himself in the presence of God, surrounded by the worship of heaven.
2. God is at the centre - seated on His throne. John says His appearance is like the beauty, sparkle and lustre of jewels.
3. He is encircled by a rainbow – recalling the grace and mercy He extended to the world after Noah's flood encircles him.
4. God's throne is surrounded by twenty-four others; twelve for the tribes of Israel and twelve for the apostles of Christ. Together they sum up the whole people of God. The elders who sit on the thrones – white robed and gold crowned – share God's heavenly reign.
5. From God's throne come lightning and thunder – as there had been on Mount Sinai when God's people stood in His awesome presence and He gave Moses the Law.
6. Before the throne burn seven lamps. They recall the seven-branched lamp stand which stood first in the tabernacle and the temple. The lamps represent the sevenfold Spirit of God – the spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and power, knowledge, fear of the Lord and delight in worshipping Him.
7. Before the throne is a sea of glass. The cruel sea – the sea of dread and chaos in our lives, is now conquered, cleansed and in perfect peace.
8. Around the throne are four living creatures. With faces of lion, ox, human and eagle – they represent all God's creatures in earth and heaven. Like the seraphs of Isaiah's vision, they have six wings. Like the cherubim of Ezekiel's vision, they are in close attendance on God's throne.
9. Their worship confirms that God is the Alpha and the Omega – the beginning and the end. This description is given in the first chapter of Revelation; the same description is used of Jesus in the last chapter. The Father and the Son were there at the beginning of the universe – and they will be there at its end.
10. The worship of heaven gives all glory, honour and thanks to God – the One, eternal God who reigns forever. Worship is not about us – but all about God.