

"How To Worship"

Discussion Guide | Pastor Ron Carpenter, Jr.

MESSAGE SUMMARY

One of the most powerful themes throughout Scripture is that God speaks to a thing and calls out what He desires it to become. This principle begins in Genesis and continues throughout the Bible. God often does not speak directly to what He wants; He speaks to what is holding it and commands it to release what He has ordained. In creation, God spoke to the earth and commanded it to bring forth life. He spoke to the waters and told them to bring forth living creatures. When Jesus looked at Simon, He called him Peter, meaning "rock," speaking to his future rather than his present condition. God always sees beyond what is and speaks to what can be. This principle connects directly to praise and worship. Praise creates an atmosphere where God's presence dwells. Scripture tells us that God inhabits the praises of His people (Psalm 22:3). As we praise Him, we make room for His presence. The depth of our worship often reflects the depth of our revelation of God's goodness and greatness in our lives.

ICE BREAKER

What is one nickname, title, or encouraging word someone spoke over your life that positively impacted you? Allow each person to share how words have shaped their identity, confidence, or future.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Luke 7:36-47; Genesis 1:11, Genesis 1:20, Romans 4:1;

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. THE POWER OF SPEAKING & CALLING THINGS FORTH

God established a pattern in creation. He spoke to the earth and the waters and called forth what was hidden within them. Throughout Scripture, God continually demonstrates His ability to call things into existence and speak destiny over people.

Discussion Questions

1. What stands out to you about God's method of speaking to creation instead of directly creating everything by hand?
2. How does God's practice of calling things what they can become challenge the way we view ourselves and others?
3. Can you think of a time when God spoke promise, purpose, or potential into your life before you could see it?

2. PRAISE CREATES AN ATMOSPHERE FOR GOD'S PRESENCE

Praise is more than singing songs; it creates an environment where God's presence is welcomed and acknowledged. The Bible says God inhabits the praises of His people. Praise becomes the house where God dwells. Pastor Ron teaches us that we control the size of God's house. Small praise creates little room for God's presence to move in our lives, while extravagant praise creates greater space for

us to encounter Him. When the church gathers and serves, heaven's provision has a point of entry into real lives and real needs.

Scripture: Psalm 22:3

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to you that God "inhabits" the praises of His people?
2. How does your attitude change when you intentionally begin praising God despite difficult circumstances?
3. What are some practical ways we can make praise a daily lifestyle instead of something we only do at church?

3. WORSHIP REFLECTS OUR EXPERIENCE WITH GOD

In John 4, Jesus encounters the Samaritan woman at the well. After experiencing His love, grace, and truth, her life was transformed. Worship flows from personal encounter. We worship parallel to our God experience. When we truly recognize how faithful, merciful, and good God has been, worship becomes a natural response. Worship is not merely an activity; it is an external demonstration of an internal revelation.

Scripture: John 4:1-42

Discussion Questions

1. How did the Samaritan woman's encounter with Jesus change her perspective and actions?
2. Why does a deeper relationship with God often result in deeper worship?
3. How has God's goodness in your life influenced the way you worship Him today?

4. WORSHIP REQUIRES ENGAGEMENT

True worship is participatory, not passive. Worship is not intended to be observed; it is meant to be expressed. When we understand what God has done for us, our worship should demonstrate gratitude, reverence, and surrender. Our worship should mirror the greatness of God's work in our lives. We should not approach worship casually or indifferent to His goodness. Worship calls for our hearts, voices, hands, and lives.

Discussion Questions

1. What are some barriers that keep people from fully engaging in worship?
2. What does wholehearted worship look like in everyday life, beyond a church service?

CONCLUSION & CHALLENGE

Genuine worship flows from a personal encounter with God, a grateful heart, and an understanding of His goodness and forgiveness. The degree to which God will inhabit our praises is directly proportional to the space we cultivate for him. By creating an atmosphere for him in daily life AND in our places of worship, we allow Him access to move in our lives. True praise and worship is less about a performance, and more about removing limiting beliefs and breaking through comfort zones to give give God the praise he is due. Doing so strengthens the House and our encounters with His presence!

Challenge

This week, move from being spectators to active participants during worship by embracing one practices outside of your comfort zone: clapping, jumping, dancing, lifting of hands, kneeling in God's presence, tears, laughter, etc.

Go around the group and share one way you will make space for God in your praise this week. What habit are you **letting go of** and what habit are you **embracing** to give God the praise He is due? Remember: God's presence brings liberty. There is no judgement!

"So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing…and David danced before the LORD with all his might."
– 2 Sam. 6:12b,14a

Closing Prayer *- Father, we thank You for being worthy of all praise, honor, and worship. Thank You for speaking life, purpose, and destiny over us even when we could not see it ourselves. Help us to become people who create an atmosphere where Your presence is welcomed and celebrated. Teach us to worship You in spirit and in truth. Let our worship reflect our gratitude for all You have done and our trust in all You will do. Remove every distraction, fear, and hesitation that keeps us from fully expressing our love for You. May our praise be bold, our worship be genuine, and our hearts remain completely surrendered to You. As we leave today, help us carry an attitude of worship into our homes, workplaces, and relationships so that others may experience Your presence through our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

