

COME LET US  
*worship*

DISCUSSION GUIDE



college park church

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# INTRODUCTION

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When we experience God's scandalous grace, we're pointed toward worship because there is an inseparable connection between redemption and worship. In life, we experience many temporary things, but worship is eternal. It has existed from eternity past within the Trinity, and it will continue forever with the people of God. In the death of Christ, God redeemed a people for Himself that will praise Him forever. This redemption brought spiritually dead people to life, and also transformed ugly, vile, and evil people, "so that they might become the righteousness of God" in Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:21). As recipients of this scandalous grace, what else can we do but worship?! Through this sermon series, we'll take a look at how worship happens, in three steps.

## **1. God redeems.**

Without God's plan for our redemption, we would not worship Him. Sin caused separation between mankind and God, but He made a way for all people to be reconciled back to Him, and to each other through Christ. In Christ, God has broken down the hostility of division and He redeems individuals from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation. The redemption that Jesus secured for us on the cross makes it possible to worship God with boldness and hope. We gather to worship God for who He is and what He has done.

## **2. God's people respond.**

God gives His redeemed people a new identity, and they display their new identity powerfully when they gather together. Our weekly worship allows us to gather as the people of God to sing His praises—breaking down cultural, historical, and ethnic barriers, and uniting us around the One who matters. God's redeemed people reflect His image, and will forever display His unity as they worship the only hope of mankind: Jesus. Our songs and words testify to God's redeeming work and our new identity, and as we gather, we rejoice—the dead are now alive! The Lord God said to our dry, dead bones, "Behold I will cause breath to enter you ... you shall live, and know that I am the Lord" (Ezekiel 37:5-6).

## **3. God's people receive.**

We receive God's revelation of Himself when we worship Him. In his book *True Worshipers*, Bob Kauflin says, "If God didn't reveal himself to us, we

wouldn't know who to trust, who to obey, who to thank, or who to serve." God primarily reveals Himself to us through His Word, and the incarnate Word: Jesus Christ. In the exposition and preaching of the Word, we learn who God is, what He has done, and what the future holds. Without the hope of His Word, we would be lost, without purpose, and destined for destruction. But, because God is infinite, we will be receiving new revelation that fuels our praise of Him forever. We will never be bored. We will never know it all. We will always rejoice in new revelation and new truth of God. Since His word is living and active, no passage has been read too many times. Every passage has life and can be seen with fresh eyes.

Worship is designed to happen when God's people gather. It points us toward what is to come—a future reality that we only experience partly now, but will one day experience fully where there will be no more brokenness. The hope of Eden, true shalom (perfect creation the way God intended it from the beginning) will be realized. One day, all of God's people will join together in the New Heavens and New Earth to praise God for all eternity.

**In this study guide you'll see three sections each week:**

**1. Discussion.**

These questions are designed to help you get into God's Word, apply the sermon, and guide your group discussion. Use the questions that fit best with your group's situation or needs. Beyond your Small Group, these questions can also be used in the context of a Bible study or discipleship relationship.

**2. Family Discipleship.**

These questions were created specifically with families in mind and we hope they'll be useful in facilitating family discussion (maybe around the dinner table, or another family devotional time). These questions are applicable for all ages, including young children. We pray these bless you as you disciple your family.

**3. Next Steps.**

Each week, we've suggested some next steps. Whether you take these steps, or find out other ways to respond, our hope is that you intentionally act on and obey God's Word.

# THE PURPOSE OF CORPORATE WORSHIP

Hebrews 10:19-25

## DISCUSSION

1. What causes you to wake up on a Sunday morning and decide to come to a church service? What are good reasons to come to church? Are there bad reasons? What makes the reason good or bad?
2. According to Heb. 10:19-21, how is the gospel connected to the regular gathering of believers for corporate worship? Can you have one without the other? Why or why not?
3. Read Heb. 10:24-25. Do you think it's essential to your Christian walk to regularly attend Sunday services? Why or why not? Do you notice a difference when you miss a corporate worship gathering?
4. What are the dangers for believers who fail to meet together regularly for corporate worship? What are the lies of Satan, cares of the world, and excuses that might prevent you from regularly gathering with God's people?
5. What is the purpose of gathering to worship together? Read and discuss Ps. 29:2, Ps. 26:8, and Ps. 86:9. What are the essential elements of a worship gathering mentioned in these passages?
6. How do we sometimes make worship gatherings individualistic instead of corporate? What are the dangers in making worship an individualistic event as opposed to a "family reunion"?
7. In Heb. 10:23, we see the command to "hold unswervingly to the hope we profess." How does gathering together help us do that? Consider all the pieces of a Sunday morning gathering: community, worship, preaching, prayer, etc.
8. As a Small Group or family, read the College Park Member Covenant and pray that the Spirit will unify our church and grow us together as God's family.

## **FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP**

1. What do we do on Sunday when we meet with the church? Why is it important to regularly meet with the church, God's family? What does it mean to be a part of God's family?
2. When we meet with other believers on Sunday, we gather to worship God. What does it mean to worship God? How can we do that at church and at home?
3. Who can we encourage, as a family, next time we gather as the church?

## **NEXT STEPS**

The corporate gathering of God's family should feel more like a weekly family reunion than an individual event. This week, seek out someone to encourage and tell them you are glad they are part of God's family with you. Pray for them on the spot when you connect with them.

Instead of sitting alone on Sunday morning, plan to meet another family or your Small Group before the service so you can sit together for church this month. During your time together, look for ways to encourage others and talk about what you learned from the Word.

If you're not a member of College Park Church, visit [yourchurch.com/membership](http://yourchurch.com/membership) to learn more about what it means to become a covenant member of College Park.

# WITH ONE VOICE: HOW AND WHAT SHALL WE SING?

Colossians 3:11-17

## DISCUSSION

1. What is it your favorite Christian hymn or song? Why? What theological truths does it proclaim?
2. Read Ps. 28:7, Ps. 20:4, Ps. 96:1-2, Acts 16:25, Eph. 5:19, and Rev. 7:9-10. What does the Bible tell us about singing (benefits, reasons to sing, who we sing to, when to sing, kinds of singing, etc.)?
3. Read Col. 3:11-17. What does this text say about how the church relates to and builds one another up? Why is an interpersonal, congregational context important for understanding our singing (Col. 3:16)?
4. When we sing at church, how are we singing to and for one another? Explain how singing has a God-ward (vertical) dimension and a congregational (horizontal) dimension. What do we lose if we sing with only one of the two dimensions in mind?
5. People have different preferences when it comes to styles of worship: the use of hymns vs. contemporary music, the decibel level, the level of emotion displayed, etc. How does what we're told to "put on" in Col. 3:12-15 help us navigate preferential differences?
6. Why might we not fully engage our head and heart in singing? Despite the sound of our voices, awkwardness, or hesitations, why should we lean into worshipping God and encouraging one another through singing? Is singing optional?
7. When we worship God through song, what benefits do we experience? When people around you worship in song, what benefits do you enjoy?
8. What is one way we can approach congregational singing with more intentionality so that we worship in spirit and truth (John 4:23-24)? How can we incorporate singing into our daily lives, throughout the week?

## **FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP**

1. Why do we sing to God? Why do you think God enjoys our singing?
2. How does singing Scripture and biblical truths glorify God? How does it encourage others? What are some other ways you can worship and glorify God?
3. How can we, as a family, incorporate singing together at home?
4. Why is it important that kids and parents or other adults have opportunities to sing together at church?

## **NEXT STEPS**

If you haven't already discussed question 8 above, read it now. How are you going to lean into singing Christ-exalting, Word-saturated songs this week? Come on Sunday eager to worship God in song and ready to sing out loud for the sake of your own heart, for God's glory, and for the good of those around you.

As a Small Group, consider incorporating singing together as a regular practice to build each other up. If singing acapella seems too daunting, sing along with a CD or online video, etc. (just make sure you can hear each other!).

# EXPOSITIONAL PREACHING: THE AIM OF TEACHING AND LISTENING

2 Timothy 3:14–4:4

## DISCUSSION

1. In 2 Tim. 4:3-4, Paul encourages believers to continue in what they believed and learned. Why is it important to regularly listen to God's Word?
2. What do you think Paul means in verse 15 when he refers to the, "sacred writings which are able to make you wise for salvation?" How might this wisdom motivate us to live holy lives in an unholy world?
3. Paul tells us that the inspired Word of God can make people whole, and equip us for every good work. As a group, discuss a time in your life when you saw Scripture as:
  - profitable for teaching
  - reproof
  - correction
  - training in righteousness
4. Why is it important to gather as a body to hear the preaching of the Word? How does it benefit the body as a whole? Read Col. 3:16. How can you use preaching to admonish other believers?
5. How might we, as believers, follow in Timothy's footsteps and preach the Word? What should we be doing, or what might we need to change to be ready "in season and out of season?" (4:2) How would being ready change our daily lives? How might it affect the way we interact with others?
6. In 2 Tim. 4:3-4, Paul describes individuals with itching ears who have found teachers that appease their guilty consciences. What do the ears of the world itch for? What should the ears of God's children itch for?



7. Discuss a situation where you either have listened to or were tempted to listen to false teachers, or false teachings and myths of the world. How did that teaching affect you? How have you been encouraged, or been able to encourage others, through sound teaching?
8. We should love the Word of God because it reveals the glory of God. How does the Word of God reveal the glory of God? List specific examples and verses.

## **FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP**

1. Read Col. 3:15. Why is it important to start learning God's Word from a young age? How can knowing God's Word help you when you're older?
2. What parts of the Bible are useful for your life? What parts of your life does the Bible help with? How does the fact that the Bible is God-breathed give us encouragement?
3. Read Col. 3:17. How does knowing God's truth help us praise God? How does knowing God's truth make us joyful?
4. Why is it important for God's Word to be preached? Why is it important to listen to the preacher?

## **NEXT STEPS**

### **Grow**

- Consider a Sunday morning or Wednesday evening class that will equip you to be ready to preach the gospel "in season and out of season."

### **Multiply**

- Set up a time to meet with someone and share gospel truths with them. Think about how you can live out God's calling to disciple.
- As we approach the Christmas season, consider inviting your neighbors, coworkers, and friends to a service, or to the Christmas concert to hear the truth of God instead of the myths of the world.

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## NOTES

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## PRAYER REQUESTS

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