

## WHAT TO BRING TO WORSHIP | A Disciplined Joy | Week 4 | Feb 22 & 23

Psalm 100; Isaiah 12:6; Luke 17:15; Revelation 5:12; Luke 19:37-40

*These study guides are designed for individual or group study but highly encouraged to be experienced in community with a small group or other friends on the journey with Jesus.*

**Context:** What is the meaning of worship? How should we think about each Sunday morning? In our first week we learned we are not the spectators —God is. Then we considered, with a growing humility, the awe of being in God’s overwhelming presence. Today we conclude the series with Joy—the joy of being invited and being given the opportunity to worship our King with gladness.

- How do you react to the phrase “going to worship”? What emotions does it bring up in you?
- Have we made church too somber? Too distant? Too predictable? Why or why not?
- Being honest, on a typical Sunday if someone watched you worship what emotions would they see come across your face and expressed through your body?

**How could we NOT:** Consider your favorite scripture describing one of God’s gifts to you: forgiveness, grace, transformation, new community, adopted into the family of faith.

- How easy or hard is it for you to think of these graces and gifts from God and be lead to express that to God with emotion and energy? Journal or share with the group what gets in the way.
- Why do you come to church on Sunday?

**All the Earth:** Read Psalm 100. These instructions are specific - how are they timeless? These instructions are broadly targeted — how do they include modern, sophisticated and educated personalities?

- How do you feel in worship? What does it mean to you?
- Be honest, what do you find yourself thinking about?

**With Gladness:** Dr. Richard Allen Farmer was quoted on the issue of gladness. *”worship ought to have a certain JOY to it, that it ought not to be drudgery. We ought not to drag ourselves up into the face of God...”*

- Our daily encounters encompass a broad range of relationships. Some raise genuine joy in greeting and conversation. Some greetings are crafted by us to appear as genuine joy but are not. Some greetings are honest but empty of emotion. What is your Sunday morning encounter with God like?
- Is your individual attitude one of expressing genuine joy to be greeting and worshipping God in the community of believers?
- How do you think your attitude affects the attitude of the community?

**One Reason:** Pastor Dan makes this statement, “ There’s only ONE reason for you or me to be here. It must be because we’re **glad** to do it... because we know what an honor and a privilege it is to be invited to commune with the Creator of the Universe...”

- How do you respond to that? Agree? Disagree? Indifferent? Surprised? Resentful?

**Expression and Experience:** Go back and read Psalm 100 again, especially vs 2. Read Isaiah 12:6, Luke 17:15, Revelation 5:12, and Luke 19:37-40. The expression of tribute and joy is clear.

- How do we express tribute and joy in our culture? Bears, Blackhawks?
- What happens to you when you identify an emotion of joy and enter into it? Talk about an experience you have had.
- Where have you experienced that in worship? Why or why not?

**Perspective:** Go back and read Ps 100 again, especially vs 3-5. We are God’s people...God made us... God’s love endures forever... God is faithful for all generations. Pastor Dan defines three dimensions of worship: EMOTIONAL, ACOUSTICAL, DEVOTIONAL

- Take a minute and describe how you see or experience each dimension—write down just a few words.
- Now as a group talk about each dimension? What do you desire for yourself? What do you desire for the community gathering of Christ Church?
- How can you, and your group, take a step in that direction next Sunday?
- What are you afraid of that would prevent those steps from taking place?

**The very witness of your Worship:** In community we come together to strengthen our faith. Some weeks we come strong and some weeks we need help. Worship in community pulls us together and toward God. Pastor Dan reminds us that “ the very witness of your worship will tell them that Someone lives”

- Is there a block to your joining in? Can you take a deeper breath and make a louder sound? Why don’t you?

**Practice of the week:** Read Psalm 100 each morning try different translations: NIV, NLT, The Message. Memorize it by the end of the week. Ask God to open you to His presence in worship. Sing a song in the car on the way to work or school or as you do the dishes. Try to connect to and then emotionally express the joy and gratitude that you know in your head. Let God (and you) see it flow from your head to your heart to your hands and mouth in worship.

### **We’d love to hear from you!**

If you have thoughts, questions, comments, ideas on how to make these study guides more meaningful for you or your small group, please let us know.

We also enjoy hearing how God is using these study guides in your lives.

Roger Peer (co-author) contact through; Eric Haskins: ehaskins@christchurch.us