

Worship: What It Is and Why We Do It

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- If someone said to you, “Let’s worship,” what would you expect to do?
- As you currently understand it, what is the purpose of worship?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Worship: What It Is and Why We Do It](#)

READ [Psalm 96 & Isaiah 6:1-7](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- What do you think of the idea that doing what you’re created to do well is an expression of worship? How do you think living as God intended ascribes glory to his name?
- Study your church’s liturgy. Can you find patterns in the format? Where do you observe worship of God the creator and God the redeemer? Are there mentions of both God as creator and God the redeemer? When is there vertical dialog (dialog between us and God) and when does horizontal dialog occur (dialog from believer to believer)?
- Consider each piece of your church’s worship service individually, as sections, and the service as a whole. What do you observe? If possible, compare a few similar services. Do you notice any trends?
- What does it mean to you that God has called you to worship and invites you into communion with him? How does it impact you to think that when you worship you are not worshipping alone or even just with your church family but that you have been called to worship by God himself and that you worship with believers of all times and places, and with the heavenly hosts?
- How can you incorporate worship into your daily life? How can you let the echos of your gathered weekly worship echo throughout your week?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Psalm 148](#), [Romans 12:1-2](#), [Hebrews 10:19-25](#)

CONCLUSION

Throughout this Groundwork program, Scott Hoezee references *For All God’s Worth: True Worship and the Calling of the Church* by N.T. Wright. In his opening chapter on worship, Wright borrows the motif of [1 Corinthians 13](#) to offer a picture of true worship. Consider the below quote as you continue to reflect on and discuss worship.

Worship is humble and glad; worship forgets itself in remembering God; worship celebrates the truth as God's truth, not its own. True worship doesn't put on a show or make a fuss; true worship isn't forced, isn't half-hearted, doesn't keep looking at its watch, doesn't worry what the person in the next pew may be doing. True worship is open to God, adoring God, waiting for God, trusting God even in the dark. -N.T. Wright

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/worship-what-it-is-and-why-we-do-it>

Printed on May 13, 2025