Worship

What makes worship a spiritual discipline? Weekly worship has been a central practice in the lives of Christians since the early days of the Christian church. Gathering together to express our praise and thanksgiving to God is a natural response to God's great gift of salvation. As we study the call to worship throughout both the Old and New Testaments, we learn why our pattern of worship matters and how habitually engaging in thoughtful, intentional, and Trinitarian worship is profoundly formative for our faith and life.

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

- If you had to describe worship to a friend or family member who is unfamiliar with the Christian faith, how would you do so?
- Do you think it is important to worship regularly as a community? Why or why not?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: Worship

READ 1 Chronicles 15:16-22, Hebrews 10:19-25, Ephesians 5:15-20, Isaiah 6:1-7

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- What did hosts Scott Hoezee and Dave Bast identify as the benefits of worshiping in community with others?
- Can you think of a time when a worship experience changed your perspective or behaviors during the week that followed? What made it so impactful to you?
- As Scott said, "Everybody worships something." What are some things you have been tempted to worship in the past? How can participating regularly in worship reorient our hearts towards God?
- Dave reminded us that "Worship is not just what we do for an hour on Sunday morning, but how we live Monday through Saturday." What would it look like for you to worship in your daily life this coming week?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

Romans 12:1-2, Hebrews 10:19-25, Psalm 100, Ephesians 5:18-20, Isaiah 6:1-8

CONCLUSION

C.S. Lewis once wrote, "To love you as I should, I must worship God as Creator. When I have learnt to love God better than my earthly dearest, I shall love my earthly dearest better than I do now"(*Letters of C.S. Lewis*, February 1952). Truly, C.S. Lewis recognized the importance of worship and how it shapes us to love God above all and to love each other more than we were capable of before.

Close your time of reflection with praise and prayer. Use the following prompts to guide you.

- Pray that the Lord would shape your heart, mind, and life through worship and praise.
- Pray any confessions that may weigh on your heart, and ask for renewal and forgiveness through your praise.
- Pray that your praise may be contagious and that the Lord would open your eyes to opportunities to share your testimony and worship with others around you.

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