

THIS IS US

OUR MISSION, VISION, & VALUES

Discussion Guide | Week 9: Lead w/Prayer & Respond w/Worship, Part 2 | April 5, 2020

OVERVIEW This weekend we asked the question, “How do you face a crisis with peace & rest?” The answer is found in a life of worship. We must worship our way through it. Worry is what happens when you meditate on your problems. Anxiety is what happens when you meditate on the things that threaten peace. Worship is what happens when you meditate on God & enter into His presence & the residue of His glory. As God gets bigger in worship, our worries & anxiety get smaller & lose their hold on us.

KEY VERSES Psalm 95:1-11, Romans 12:1-2, Hebrews 4:14-16

WE WILL PRAY WITH BOLD EXPECTATION
AND WORSHIP WITH GREAT CELEBRATION IN
RESPONSE TO GOD’S GOODNESS.

VALUE: LEAD WITH PRAYER & RESPOND WITH WORSHIP

REMEMBER What jumped out at you from Sunday’s message? Was there a particular story, point or example that resonated deeply as we worshiped together via livestream? Maybe something that kept rattling around in your mind over the past couple days? Share.

REFLECT Take a few moments to read Psalm 95:1-11 (NIV) together. Go around the room & have each person read a verse at a time. God’s people have been praying & singing through the words of Psalm 95 in worship for almost 3,000 years now! Pastor Brad mentioned in his message that “Worship rescues us from hard hearts.” What is it about psalms like this that soften up our hearts? What do these 11 verses tell us about God, his character & his actions? What do they say about us as human beings? Explain.

RESPOND Brad said this about idols that we allow to creep into our lives: “Your idols will never care about you, they will become tyrants that drive your life.” The chaos & uncertainty of the past few weeks have peeled back the curtain for many of us, revealing the idols that try to hide out in our blindspots when we’re going about life as usual. For you, are there any examples of idols that you’ve recognized in your own life lately? How do you think the Holy Spirit is asking you to surrender those right now? Share.

REAL LIFE Whether you’re introverted or extroverted, you’ve probably felt the pain of not seeing people in person lately. As God’s family, that should weigh on us. It should bother us when we have to remain distant for long stretches of time. How has that struggle played out for you lately? What’s been hard? How’ve you seen Jesus working around you in spite of that? Take the brave step of sharing vulnerably with one another for the next few minutes & see how God uses your stories to speak hope & encouragement into each others’ lives. Do this as an act of worship, out of love for God & the other people around you.

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PRAYER TIME Close your time by reciting the Lord's Prayer together (Matthew 6:9-13). Have each person mention one friend, family member, neighbor or co-worker who doesn't know Jesus. Pray for them by name, that the Holy Spirit will use you in this season of chaos to point them to Jesus so that they can experience his grace, mercy & purpose for the very first time.

NOTES

WORSHIP = What happens when you meditate on God & enter into His presence & the residue of His glory

The 3 Ingredients of Worship

1. Community ("Let us...")
2. Truth
3. The sabbath rest of Jesus

QUOTES

"We aren't social distancing, we're physically distancing."

"Your idols will never care about you, they will become tyrants that drive your life."

"Worship isn't a have-to, it's an incredible privilege."

"Worship rescues us from hard hearts."

"God gets to tell us who he is. We don't get to decide who he is."

"Others of you might say, 'You know, when I like to think of Pastor Brad, I like to think of him as a lover of cats, and not dogs.'"