

SCRIPTURES FOR 2/5/06 LIFEGROUP LESSON

PSALM 150

Praise the LORD.

Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens.

Praise him for his acts of power;
praise him for his surpassing greatness.

Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,
praise him with the harp and lyre,

praise him with tambourine and dancing,
praise him with the strings and flute,

praise him with the clash of cymbals,
praise him with resounding cymbals.

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.
Praise the LORD.

ISAIAH 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory."

At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

JAMES 4:8

Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

ROMANS 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

NOTE TO LEADER: There is a lot of material here. Familiarize yourself with it so you know which stuff you are most comfortable with and what you will cut if you get short on time. Try to keep the lesson/discussion 20-30 minutes in length. Good luck and let me know if you have any questions. - Ed



2006: THE YEAR OF CONSTRUCTION - *BUILDING BLOCK #2: WORSHIP* **LESSON #1: DRAWING NEAR TO GOD?**

NOTE TO LEADERS: All items in *italics* are for your information and not designed to be read aloud.

INTRODUCTION:

WCC's 7th core value says, "We are committed to God-honoring worship." What does that mean? Does that mean we will only sing certain songs of a certain style? Does that mean we will avoid certain things in our sermons? Does that mean we will only discuss certain subjects in our LIFEGROUPS? Or does it mean something deeper?

Have someone read Acts 2:42-47.

TRUE WORSHIP IS A PRIVILEGE

Don't you wish you could experience that kind of worship? Well, you can, but you must first understand what worship is. Worship is a feeling, but it is more than just emotion. Worship is an act, but it is more than mere ritual. Humanity is built to require worship, which is why people become so passionate so easily. But real worship of a holy God can be both difficult and dangerous.

Have someone read the first sentence of James 4:8.

So if you truly worship, God promises to draw close to you, but do you want Him so close?

Give time for some answers, then have someone read the second sentence of James 4:8.

Since God can see our unclean hands and our divided minds, wouldn't it be better to worship something else – a team, a job, an actor, money, science, pleasure, fitness – something less dangerous? If not, why not?

Any of these things might set you up for a time, but ultimately they fall short of the sovereign provision and worthiness of God. The better you know God, the more He feels worth the risk.

TRUE WORSHIP MAKES US LOOK...

UPWARD (*Read Isaiah 6:1-4*)

<Confirms God's **POSITION**>

When we see God for who He really is, we see His holiness, kindness, power, and love, and because He is so much greater than whatever else we cling to, we must cast down our idols.

What are some idols people hang on to?

Have you ever had to cast down an idol because it no longer with your life as a Christian? When you did, were you sad or relieved?

When you were considering becoming a Christian, was there something you thought you would miss that you never really missed at all?

INWARD (*Read Isaiah 6:5-7*)

<Cements God's **CONVICTION**>

When we see God for who He really is, we see things inside ourselves that need fixing, sins that require repentance, changes that need to be made. In light of God's holiness, we must address these things, but because of His mercy, grace, and forgiveness, He is still with us through the process of addressing them.

Isaiah said, "Woe is me; I am undone!" Do you find it refreshing or scary that God can see your imperfections?

Have you ever felt like hiding from God (*no need for specifics*) or, when God showed you something you needed to fix, tried to ignore Him?

OUTWARD (*Read Isaiah 6:8*)

<Requires our **ACTION**>

When we see God for who He really is, we see how worthy He is of our praise and our service, and we must act. Part of that is acts of worship between God and us (singing, praising, proclaiming, studying), but part is acts of worship among ourselves – reaching out to our Christian family and to the unsaved around us.

Isaiah said, "Here am I; send me!" Have you ever felt called to something specific?

Have you ever felt like God was asking you to do something and you did it? How did it turn out?

Have you ever felt God asking and not done it? How did that turn out?

Have someone read Romans 12:1-2.

CLOSING

The word **WORSHIP** literally means to show worth. Our worship of God requires us first to recognize His worth and then to respond. James says our worship draws God near, and Paul says that nearness will help us to know His will. That should be all the reward we need.

Have someone read Psalm 150.

Next week, we will begin looking at modes of worship.