

Worship

Worship (by definition)

(English) comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *weorthscipe* which denotes one who is worthy of honor and reverence.

(Hebrew) *shaha* meaning to "bow low" or to "prostrate oneself."

(Greek) *proskuneo*, which literally means to "kiss the hand of the one who is revered" or to "do obeisance (homage) to another."

Worship is the expression of a love relationship.

Worship also requires open, public *expression*; concealed love is to be questioned.

Look up the following Scriptures and discover the act of worship described by each verse.

Psalm 47:1	Psalm 100:2	Psalm 150:3-6	Psalm 33:1-3
James 5:13	Hebrews 13:15	Romans 12:1	
Psalm 95:6	2 Chronicles 29:30	Psalm 34:1	

In the following verses, discover who should worship the Lord.

Psalm 150:6	Psalm 96:1	Psalm 47:1
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In the following verses, discover when we should worship the Lord.

Psalm 34:1	Acts 16:25	Habakkuk 3:17,18	Ephesians 5:20
1 Thessalonians 5:18			

In Luke 7: 36-50 there is a beautiful example of a woman who worshipped Jesus in a manner consistent with both the Hebrew and Greek meaning of the word "worship." Describe her act of worship.

Worship

"The Joy of His Presence"

1. After reading the following verse, list some of the advantages of being in God's presence.

1 Samuel 30:3-6

Psalm 31:20	Acts 3:19	Jude 24	1 John 3:19
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2. Notice in these verses that when God removes His presence, it is always a sign of grave judgement.

Genesis 4:14	Exodus 33:15-16	2 Kings 17:22-23	Jeremiah 23:39
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3. Since God is omnipresent, what did Jesus mean when He said *"For where two or three come together in My name, there am I with them"* (Matthew 18:20)?

4. According to Hebrews 4:16, how may we approach the throne of God?

Worship

"The priority of Worship"

1. When Jesus was asked to prioritize the Levitical law, what was His response (Matthew 22:36-38)?

2. Read 1 Peter 2:9 and find out who we are in Christ and what we have been called to do.

3. In Luke 10, when a conflict arose between the importance of serving and worship, what was Jesus' reply?

4. Matthew 26:6-13 describes an incident in which the disciples were critical of a woman who was "excessive" in her worship of Jesus. What was Jesus' reply?

5. Israel is often considered to be a "type," representing the church, and their freedom from Egyptian bondage represents salvation (deliverance from Satan's domain). Based on these scriptures, why did God deliver the Israelites from the bondage of Egypt? (See Exodus 4:23; 7:16, 8:1, 8:20; 9:1, 9:13, 10:3, 10: 7)

6. In John 21:15-17, when Jesus was talking to Peter about ministering to other Christians, what did Jesus establish as a prerequisite to Peter's teaching and caring ministry?

7. Jonah's initial response to God's call to evangelize the city of Ninevah was *"Jonah ran away from the Lord."* (Jonah 1:1-2); but later in chapter three Jonah *"obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Ninevah."* What did Jonah experience while he was inside the fish that made him have a change of heart?

8. Notice in Isaiah 6 the result of Isaiah's worship, in which he saw the Lord "high and lifted up," was that he committed himself to evangelism.

9. What is the first priority of the church?

Serving Evangelism Missions Discipleship Teaching Prayer Worship Exhortation

WORSHIP

"The Pathway To Worship"

There are two sides to reality - the seen and the unseen, the physical and the spiritual. One reason there needs to be a "prelude" to worship is because worship takes place in the spiritual, unseen world, but in day-to-day living we're primarily tuned to the physical world. Notice in these verses, Paul's reference to the spiritual realm.

Ephesians 1:18	2 Corinthians 4:18	Colossians 1:16
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What can we learn from these verses about being thankful, grateful people?

Colossians 2:7	Philippians 4:6	Colossians 3:16	1 Thessalonians 5:18
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Colossians 3:15	Colossians 4:2	1 Timothy 4:4
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According to Psalm 22:3 (KJV), how does the Lord respond to praise? Explain what this means.

According to Psalm 95:2 what is an appropriate way to approach the Lord?

In a normal worship service, are we usually given enough time to tune our spirits and focus on God? What changes could be made that would allow for the "tuning" process?

WORSHIP

"Knowing God - The Foundation of Worship"

Read Romans 1:21-32 and discover what happens when mankind rejects the truth and knowledge of God. How does this affect worship?

In Ephesians 1:17-19, what two things did Paul pray about concerning the church at Ephesus, and what three things did he pray that they would know about God?

Isaiah said this about some of the Israelites, *"They have no regard for the deeds of the Lord, no respect for the work of His hands. Therefore my people will go into exile for lack of understanding"* (Isaiah 5:12, 13). Could there be a similarity between their physical exile and our potential spiritual exile as a result of not knowing God?

WORSHIP

"Characteristics of Worship"

Teaching is speaking to man about God.

Evangelism is speaking to lost men about God.

Service is helping men in God's name.

Worship is speaking to God about God.

1. Although Revelation 3:20 is often used as an appeal to the lost person, it was written to the church at Laodicea - to Christians! It is an invitation to worship! What can we learn about worship from this verse?
2. Worship is both broad and narrow. According to these verses from 1 John, what are some characteristics which must be in our lives if we claim to know and worship God? (1 John 3:17, 4:8, 2:15, 2:3)
3. Notice in Psalm 119 that the psalmist is speaking **directly to the Lord**. This is a good example of vertical orientation that is necessary in worship.
4. When God told Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac, Abraham told his servant *"Stay here with the donkeys while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you"* (Genesis 22:5). Why did Abraham see the event as an act of worship?
5. To whom are these songs sung? Place each song in one of the following categories: worship, teaching/exhortation, evangelism.

Holy, Holy, Holy	Come Unto Jesus	There's Room at The Cross for You
Trust and Obey	How Firm a Foundation	Just as I Am
My Jesus, I Love Thee	I Exalt Thee	

WORSHIP

"The Profile of A worshiper"

"He whose walk is blameless will minister to me"

- Psalm 101:6

1. What do each of these verses teach us about the importance of preparing our hearts for worship?

Matthew 5:8	Psalm 15:1-2	Matthew 5:23,24
Hebrews 12:14	Psalm 24:3-5	Mark 7:6-8, 13
2. In Matthew 6:1-18 Jesus mentions three "religious acts" which, if executed improperly, can actually be detrimental to our relationship with Him. What are the three acts? How does this passage speak to the fact that God is more interested in the attitudes of our heart than He is in outward expressions?
3. What should be our main concern as we prepare for Sunday's worship services?
4. Can we worship God if unconfessed sin is in our hearts?
5. Can someone who is living an ungodly lifestyle worship God?
6. What goes on around your house on Sunday mornings before church? Does it help or hinder your preparation for worship? Are you getting ready for worship or just going to church?
7. Before a plane takes off, the pilot works through a checklist of critical functions to make sure the plane is safe to fly. Write out a checklist of items that should be considered prior to worship.

*The acceptability of any act of worship
is determined by the acceptability of the worshiper.*

- Ron Dunn

WORSHIP

"The Barrenness of a Worshipless Heart"

Read the following chapters in your Bible: 2 Samuel 6, 1 Chronicles 15

1. David wasn't the only one to be criticized for promoting a praise procession into Jerusalem. During Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem *"the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices..."* so the Pharisees asked Jesus to rebuke His disciples for their "excessive behavior" and to silence their praise, what was Jesus' response? (Luke 19:37-40)
2. In 2 Chronicles 7:19-22 what did God say would be the result of forsaking true worship and worshipping other gods?
3. The church at Ephesus excelled in good deeds, hard work, moral purity, doctrinal integrity, and righteous suffering. Yet they were lacking in "one thing," and because of this God was going to "remove their lampstand." What was this "one thing" and what corrective measures did God prescribe? (Revelation 2:1-7)
4. Why do some people resist worship?
5. What is the fate of those who are apathetic toward God? They don't dislike God or speak poorly of Him, but neither do they worship Him.

"Manasseh bowed down to all the starry hosts and worshiped them..."

The Lord said, I am going to bring disaster on Jerusalem..."

- 2 Kings 21:3, 12

WORSHIP

"Idolatry"

1. A unique aspect of the Christian faith is that our God is a jealous God and demands that we worship Him exclusively. Other gods are not so restrictive - the Corinthians worshipped many different gods, with no apparent problem - but our God is. Read Matthew 4:10, Revelation 22:8,9, and Exodus 20:3-6. Why does God demand that we worship only Him?
2. In the Bible we read of places devoted to idolatry:
altars - 1 Kings 16:32, Isaiah 27:9, Acts 17:23
temples - 1 Samuel 5:2, 1 Kings 12:31, Daniel 1:2, Acts 19:27
high places - Numbers 22:41, 1 Kings 11:7, 2 Chronicles 11:15
groves - Deuteronomy 12:2, Judges 6:25 (KJV), Isaiah 17:8 (KJV)
What "places of idolatry" do we have in our society?
3. In Ephesians 5:5 Paul says that immorality, impurity, and greed are forms of idolatry. Why is this?
4. What would be a modern day application of Paul's admonition to "abstain from food polluted / sacrificed to idols"? (Acts 15:20, 21:25)
5. In Psalm 115:1-8, notice how David describes the uselessness of idols.

"Dear children, keep yourselves from idols."

- 1 John 5:21