

**Intro.**

-How did you do with your prayer this past week? Was it easy? Difficult?

**What is worship?** Focusing on and responding to God.

*Bible reading feeds prayer which in turn motivates worship*

*Retell the story of the basketball game*

“Though we come to an event where He is the Guest of Honor, it is possible to give him a routine gift, sing a few customary songs to him, and then totally neglect Him while we focus on others and enjoy the performance of those in front of us.”

Matthew 4:10 – “You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.”

**Describe what worship looked like in the Bible. OT? NT? Pictures of worship in heaven?**

Building altars (Noah, Abram, Jacob), tabernacle worship, temple worship

Worship in the early church- an everyday occurrence - Acts 4:42-47

Heavenly worship- creatures designed for worship (Rev. 4:8)

All of these show the participants' main focus is God, even as they do other things

**What do people worship in today's world?** (Ascribing worth to something)

Musicians, artists, politicians, ideas, philosophies, really anything

**How do we show our worship?**

Concerts / buying their merchandise / downloading their stuff / showing their face on our clothes and posters, following them on Twitter, sharing, etc...

-Worship happens all around us, even when we go to school or watch TV. We ascribe worth to things all the time by **focusing on and responding to them.**

## **Do we put that same effort into worshipping God? Why not?**

-It is easy to worship the things that are popular to worship (like celebrities, sports teams, and ideas). You have the support of your friends who affirm that it is good to worship whatever it is you worship.

-It is hard to worship God as consistently because we don't get the same kind of affirmation outside of a church setting. And sometimes, even in a Christian setting, we get looked at strange if we are really on fire for Christ.

## **So how do we worship God? How do we properly focus on Him and respond to Him?**

### **1. Corporate Worship**

-Not a duty, but a delight

(Explain duty- giving roses vs. Delight- giving roses)

#### **John 4:23-24** Spirit and Truth

Truth – worshipping the God of the Bible, not the God we want to imagine. The Bible has to inform us on how to worship God

Spirit – engaging our hearts/emotions in the process. We can't just academically think about God like we would analyze a math problem.

-thinking about God means thinking about how we are impacted by God.

-we've been forgiven, adopted, loved... God is awesome, eternal, etc.

Thinking about these things should fill us with emotion, just like we fill with emotion when we watch a movie that touches us or listen to a song we relate to.

#### **A. Prepare to worship before you come.**

-Don't show up to a service in the middle of a fight or engaging in sin. On your way to church, think about what you are about to do.

-Prepare the night before for what you will be doing the next day.

-Don't Stay up late, don't do things that you'll regret the next day (that one's for everyday, not just Saturday)

-The night before, read through the passage for the sermon. Check out the bulletin and what we'll be doing

**B.** Think about what you are doing. Engage your mind. Don't just mindlessly go through the emotions.

-Perhaps don't sing at first and think through the words.

-When someone is praying, pray the words along with them

-Be actively involved in your worship... even if you aren't directly participating, this isn't a passive time.

## **2. Private Worship**

-Its building blocks are Bible Intake and Meditation/Prayer.

The Intake helps us focus and the meditation/prayer is our response.

There are many examples throughout scripture of people doing this. Christ often went off by himself to pray. Moses and Joshua were known for this. This characterized men like Daniel, Jeremiah, Elijah, Paul, and many others.

### **Do you engage in private worship?**

-Start small.

-Be purposeful

-Put on your God-glasses (see everything in light of scripture)

-Sing or listen to worship music

-Don't forget to do it.

It's easy to just read your Bible, to take the time to consciously worship God

### **3. Continual Worship** Romans 12:1 – Your spiritual “worship/service” is all of life

A continual, active presenting of our bodies before God in service

-What can I do next?

### **What aids have you found helpful in your worship?**

### **Questions about worship at HPC or worship in general?**