

FREEDOM

Small Group Leader Guide

WEEK TWELVE



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WORSHIP

For the dead cannot praise You; they cannot raise their voices in praise. Those who go down to the grave can no longer hope in Your faithfulness. Only the living can praise You as I do today. Each generation tells of Your faithfulness to the next.

ISAIAH 38:18-19 NLT

WEEK TWELVE LEADER GUIDE

Overview

When we truly embrace the love God has for us, we begin to trust Him, and, as our relationship with Him grows, we develop a great love for Him as well. What we once saw as duty has now become devotion. It is our delight to know Him and follow His commands. Worship is a natural response when we fall in love with Jesus. It is also an act of warfare against satan and demonic forces! Psalm 149:6 says, “Let the praises of God be in their mouths, and a sharp sword in their hands.”

In Ezekiel 47:1-12, we find a vision of a river, which symbolizes the presence of God. As we venture forward in our relationship with God, we have a tendency to want to keep our toes on the ground, ensuring our head stays above water and we are in control of our lives. But God is inviting us to trust Him, to go deeper, to experience the fullness of His presence. As we surrender control to God, we will be swept away by His love and freely enjoy our journey with Him. When we see that God is worthy of our trust, we will more easily give up control and live in spiritual order.

Ways to be a true worshipper:

1. Give God your affection.

God wants to be in a covenant relationship with you that involves much more than singing songs. He wants you to desire and enjoy His presence. Worship Him out of the overflow of your heart because He is worthy of the best you can offer Him.

2. Commit to unconditional worship.

True worship means praising God even when we don't feel like it. It's common for us to take a conditional approach to worshipping God. We praise Him when our lives are going well, but disengage and withdraw when things get difficult. The truth is, God is worthy of our worship in good times and bad. We must make a commitment that whatever comes in our lives, we will continue to posture ourselves to worship God.

3. Include God in your daily life.

When our everyday world looks different than our "church world," we compartmentalize our lives and limit God's access to our hearts. Including God in all areas of our lives reveals our level of surrender to Him. As we invite Him to be a part of everything we do, we will have moments of worship every day.

4. Be obedient.

The greatest sacrifice we can give to God is a heart of humility willing to serve Him with unconditional obedience. This kind of worship moves the heart of God toward us.

5. Show reverence.

Our God is like no other—almighty, awesome, and beyond comprehension. It is only appropriate that we approach Him with awe and reverence. True worship requires that we fear the Lord. When we both fear God, and love Him, we feel safe in the shelter of His immense greatness.

Discussion Guide

- Are you living the life of a worshipper? If so, how? If not, what are some things you can change to ensure you are living the life of a worshipper?
- Looking at the four levels of worship, at what level are you currently? What steps can you take to move to the next level?
- Do you feel like your worship is coming from a genuine place in your heart? What are you doing to create an atmosphere of worship in your daily life?
- What are some practical things you can do to worship the Lord throughout the day?

Application

Consider starting this week's group off with an extended worship time (two or three songs) to prepare everyone's hearts for a more focused discussion on worship.

This will be your last Small Group meeting before the Freedom Conference. Set a date for your group to meet after the conference. This meeting will give participants an opportunity to share what the Lord has done in their lives this semester and at the conference. Try to plan the meeting on the same day and time your group has met throughout the semester.

Prayer Focus

- Pray for each participant to live a life of genuine worship. Bind the enemy from stealing spiritual progress that has been made this semester.
- Pray that the Lord will work out all of the details for them to attend the Freedom Conference and experience all God has for them.

FREEDOM CELEBRATION MEETING

This meeting will give participants an opportunity to share what the Lord has done in their lives this semester and at the conference.

Ask your participants the following questions and give every participant the opportunity to share:

- What has been the most powerful truth you have learned this semester?
- What did the Lord teach you at the Freedom Conference?