



True Worship Hinges on Honor

Bible Study

[Please provide: musical accompaniment; hymnals, Bibles, and copies of the Bible study on pages 1-5 for attendees, pages 6-10 for the leader.]

Opening prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, You alone are worthy of all our worship and praise. Show us through Your Word how we can honor You for who You are, for what You have done, for what You daily and continually do for us, and for what You have yet to do. Amen.

Acrostic for Worship

Fill in the following acrostic. For example, **GRACE** – **G**od's **R**iches **A**t **C**hrist's **E**xpense.

W_____

O_____

R_____

S_____

H_____

I_____

P_____

Defining Worship

Let us begin with exploring the word "worship." *Easton's Bible Dictionary* defines worship as "homage rendered to God which it is sinful (idolatry) to render to any created being. Such worship was refused by Peter and by an angel."

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/eastons-bible-dictionary/Worship>, accessed 2-14-17.)

What most important worship fact is described in Exodus 34:14?

According to *Vines Bible Dictionary*, there are five different Greek words for "worship." The definitions vary:

1. "To do reverence to"
2. "To revere," stressing the feeling of awe or devotion
3. "To honor religiously"
4. "To serve, to render religious service and homage"
5. "To act piously towards"

“Worship is not confined to praise. It more broadly can be regarded as the direct acknowledgement to God, of His nature, attributes, ways and claims, whether by the outgoing of the heart in praise and thanksgiving or by deed done in such acknowledgement.” (Vines, W.E., Hunger, M.F., and White, W., Jr., *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary with Topical Index*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1996, 686.)

What other words/actions do we see paired with worship?

Praises with _____, and they bowed down and worshiped (2 Chronicles 29:30)
_____ and worship (Psalm 66:3-5)

Worship with _____ and _____ (Luke 2:36-38)

Worship in _____ and in _____ (John 4:22-24)

How Was God Worshiped in the Old Testament?

Having looked at some definitions of “worship,” let us look at some ways that God was worshiped in the Old Testament. There were many different reasons people were led to worship God, and the ways they did so varied as well.

What led people to worship God and how was He worshiped?

Abraham’s servant: Read Genesis 24:2-3, 12-15, 24-27.

What was he told to do and what led him to worship? _____

How did he worship God? _____

Moses: Read Exodus 34:5-9.

What led Moses to worship? _____

How did he worship God? _____

Gideon: Read Judges 7:13-16.

What led Gideon to worship God? _____

What was the result of his worship? _____

David: Read 2 Samuel 12:19-21.

What led David to worship God? _____

What was different about David’s situation compared to the others?

How did David prepare for worship? _____

What was David's response to worshipping God? _____

Corporate worship – Hezekiah. Read 2 Chronicles 29:27-30.

What event led to the corporate worship in Israel? _____

How did they worship God? _____

Giving God Honor

This being said, let us explore four areas where we can worship God by giving Him honor. To honor God is to bring Him glory and to place a value on our relationship with Him. Giving Him His rightful place in our lives is bestowing honor to Him.

First: Give Him honor for whom He is and His attributes.

What attributes and/or descriptions do we find in the following verses?

Exodus 34:5-7: _____

Psalm 147:4: _____

Isaiah 40:27-29: _____

Acts 4:23-25: _____

On what characteristics of God do you often focus as you are led to worship Him?

Second: Give Him honor for what He has done.

What action of God does each passage below describe?

Genesis 1:1-2: _____

Romans 5:7-9: _____

John 8:31-33: _____

2 Corinthians 1:19-20: _____

Read Psalm 105:1-2. When the Holy Spirit empowers us to tell others what God has done for us, our witness brings honor and glory to God. Think for a moment about what God has done for you recently and share it with someone next to you.

Third: Give Him honor for what He daily and continually does in our lives.

List at least five things God is doing for you today. _____

What daily work of God in our lives do these references describe?

Genesis 3:21: _____

Ruth 1:16-17: _____

Job 12:10: _____

Psalm 121:1-8: _____

Psalm 139:7-10: _____

Psalm 145:15-16: _____

Romans 8:28: _____

1 Peter 5:7: _____

Which one of these provisions of God holds a special meaning to you today? _____

As time permits: Together, read out loud The First Article of The Apostles' Creed and its meaning (LSB 322). Note all that God does daily for us that is listed there.

Fourth: Give Him honor for what He is yet to do.

This includes prayers that have not yet been answered. We also give God praise for the fulfillment of salvation upon Jesus' return.

Read Revelation 5:2b, 9-10. What future event do these verses proclaim? _____

Read Revelation 7:15-17. What will all believers in Jesus someday enjoy? _____

Reflections

In what events in your life has the Holy Spirit led you to worship? What joys and/or strength and help have you received from God when you have worshiped Him?

How might your worship change in light of this study?

Closing prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for revealing to us ways that we can worship You with honor. Lead us to worship You in spirit and in truth. All glory and honor be Yours. Amen.

Closing Hymn: Sing "O Worship the King" LSB 804, TLH 17, LW 458



True Worship Hinges on Honor

Leader's Guide
Bible Study

[Please provide: musical accompaniment; hymnals, Bibles, and copies of the Bible study on pages 1-5 for attendees, pages 6-10 for the leader.]

Opening prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, You alone are worthy of all our worship and praise. Show us through Your Word how we can honor You for who You are, for what You have done, for what You daily and continually do for us, and for what You have yet to do. Amen.

Direct small groups or the entire group of participants to work together on this acrostic for three to five minutes.

Acrostic for Worship

Fill in the following acrostic. For example, **GRACE** – **G**od's **R**iches **A**t **C**hrist's **E**xpense.

W _____	<u>Willingly</u>	<u>Willingly</u>
O _____	<u>Out of</u>	<u>Out of</u>
R _____	<u>Respect</u>	<u>Respect</u>
S _____	<u>Serve</u>	<u>Sing to</u>
H _____	<u>Him with honor</u>	<u>Him</u>
I _____	<u>In all that I (you)</u>	<u>In</u>
P _____	<u>Purpose to do</u>	<u>Praise and adoration</u>

Defining Worship

Let us begin with exploring the word "worship." *Easton's Bible Dictionary* defines worship as "homage rendered to God which it is sinful (idolatry) to render to any created being. Such worship was refused by Peter and by an angel."

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/eastons-bible-dictionary/Worship>, accessed 2-14-17.)

What most important worship fact is described in Exodus 34:14?

God commands that we worship only Him.

According to *Vines Bible Dictionary*, there are five different Greek words for "worship." The definitions vary:

1. "To do reverence to"
2. "To revere," stressing the feeling of awe or devotion
3. "To honor religiously"
4. "To serve, to render religious service and homage"
5. "To act piously towards"

"Worship is not confined to praise. It more broadly can be regarded as the direct acknowledgement to God, of His nature, attributes, ways and claims, whether by the outgoing of the heart in praise and thanksgiving or by deed done in such acknowledgement." (Vines, W.E., Hunger, M.F., and White, W., Jr., *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary with Topical Index*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1996, pg. 686.)

What other words/actions do we see paired with worship?

Praises with gladness, and they bowed down and worshiped (2 Chronicles 29:30)

Praise and worship (Psalm 66:3-5)

Worship with fasting and prayer (Luke 2:36-38)

Worship in spirit and in truth (John 4:22-24)

How Was God Worshiped in the Old Testament?

Having looked at some definitions of "worship," let us look at some ways that God was worshiped in the Old Testament. There were many different reasons people were led to worship God, and the ways they did so varied as well.

What led people to worship God and how was He worshiped?

Abraham's servant: Read Genesis 24:2-3, 12-15, 24-27.

What was he told to do and what led him to worship? Abraham sent his servant to his homeland to find a wife for his son Isaac. The servant prayed that God would show him a wife for Isaac (verses 12-14) and God did so (verse 15).

How did he worship God? The servant "bowed his head and worshiped the LORD" (verse 26) as he prayed to thank God for His guidance.

Moses: Read Exodus 34:5-9.

What led Moses to worship? God's presence before Moses led him to worship.

How did he worship God? Moses worshiped God when he bowed his head and prayed.

Gideon: Read Judges 7:13-16.

What led Gideon to worship God? Gideon worshiped God to thank Him for giving him reassurance of victory concerning the Israelites upcoming battle against the Midianites.

What was the result of his worship? Gideon told his soldiers that the victory would be theirs and arranged them for battle according to God's direction.

David: Read 2 Samuel 12:19-21.

What led David to worship God? The death of his son.

What was different about David's situation compared to the others? David worshiped the Lord in sorrow and repentance.

How did David prepare for worship? David washed and anointed himself and changed his clothes. Then he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped (verse 20).

What was David's response to worshipping God? Having humbly accepted God's hand in the death of his son as the consequence for his sin with Bathsheba, David went back to his house and ate.

Corporate worship – Hezekiah: Read 2 Chronicles 29:27-30.

What event led to the corporate worship in Israel? After the cleansing of the temple (29:3-19), King Hezekiah restored temple worship.

How did they worship God? The people worshiped God with a burnt offering, with singing and musical accompaniment with instruments, and by bowing down to Him.

Giving God Honor

This being said, let us explore four areas where we can worship God by giving Him honor. To honor God is to bring Him glory and to place a value on our relationship with Him. Giving Him His rightful place in our lives is bestowing honor to Him.

First: Give Him honor for whom He is and His attributes.

What attributes and/or descriptions concerning who God is do we find in the following verses?

Exodus 34:5-7: The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness (verse 6). God forgives sins, but sin's penalty needed

to be paid for by the sinner himself or by a sacrifice. Through His death on the cross, Jesus would eventually pay the price for all of our sins.

Psalm 147:4: God determines the number of stars and names them. This shows His knowledge and authority over all things.

Isaiah 40:28-29: The LORD is the *everlasting God* and the *Creator* (verse 28). God never tires and His understanding is beyond man's knowledge. God gives strength to those in need (verse 29).

Acts 4:23-25: God is our ruler who made all things.

On what characteristics of God do you often focus as you are led to worship Him?

Allow time for discussion. Emphasize that in worship we honor God for His supreme greatness as our Creator, Redeemer, and as the One who gives us faith in Him and who grows that faith in us.

Second: Give Him honor for what He has done.

What action of God does each passage below describe?

Genesis 1:1-2: God created the heavens and the earth from nothing.

Romans 5:7-9: God showed His great love for us by sending His Son, Jesus, who suffered and died on the cross to save us from our sins. Jesus' sacrifice saves us from the wrath of God that we deserve because of our sins.

John 8:31-33: God has given us His Word so that we can know the truth of salvation in Jesus alone that sets us free from our sins.

2 Corinthians 1:19-20: In Jesus alone, God has fulfilled all of His promises to redeem His people.

Read Psalm 105:1-2. When the Holy Spirit empowers us to tell others what God has done for us, our witness brings glory and honor to God. Think for a moment about what God has done for you recently and share it with someone next to you.

Allow a time of sharing among the participants.

Third: Give Him honor for what He daily and continually does in our lives.

List at least five things God is doing for you today. Give participants a minute or two to list their responses. Encourage willing participants to share them with the group.

What daily work of God in our lives do these references describe?

Genesis 3:21: God clothes us.

Ruth 1:16-17: God provides us with family and friends to help us and to bear one another's burdens.

Job 12:10: God gives and preserves life.

Psalms 121:1-8: God protects us from danger and evil.

Psalms 139:7-10: God is everywhere with us (omnipresent).

Psalms 145:15-16: God feeds us and satisfies our every desire according to His will.

Romans 8:28: God works through all things for our good.

1 Peter 5:7: God cares for us and helps us with our problems and troubles.

Which one of these provisions of God holds a special meaning to you today? Encourage willing participants to share their provision with the group.

As time permits: Together, read out loud The First Article of The Apostles' Creed and its meaning (LSB 322). Note all that God does daily for us that is listed there.

Fourth: Give Him honor for what He is yet to do.

This includes prayers for what has not yet taken place. We also give God praise for the fulfillment of salvation upon Jesus' return.

Read Revelation 5:2b, 9-10. What future event do these verses proclaim? Jesus, the Lamb who was slain for us and who rose from the dead, will reveal the fulfillment of God's plan for us and will receive the honor and glory of all as He sits on His throne in heaven.

Read Revelation 7:15-17. What will all believers in Jesus someday enjoy? All believers will someday worship and serve God together in heaven. In heaven, they shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore, the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat (verse 16). Jesus will be our Shepherd and will guide us to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from [our] eyes (verse 17).

Reflections

In what events in your life has the Holy Spirit led you to worship? What joys and/or strength and help have you received from God when you have worshiped Him?

Encourage willing participants to share.

How might your worship change in light of this study?

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Closing prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for revealing to us ways that we can worship You with honor. Lead us to worship You in spirit and in truth. All glory and honor be Yours. Amen.

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