



SERMON

SMALL GROUPS



Sermon Series: Enter Pt. 3 – Spirit & Truth
Speaker: Pastor Joseph Zwanziger

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

- This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. After considering the needs of your group, you may choose one of the following options:
 - ◆ one section of questions
 - ◆ one or two questions from each section
- Feel free to adapt the format to meet the needs of your group. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, add Scripture and ask suitable questions. Remember that this is only a guide.
- Personal application is key to everyone's growth and should be included in every discussion. When asked how he or she intends to apply a certain principle a group member may say, "I need to spend more time in the Bible and in prayer." It is important for you to help group members make applications that are more specific and commit to a specific plan of action by asking, for example, "How are you going to begin?" An example is to get up 30 minutes earlier each morning, spending 15 minutes reading the Bible and 10 minutes in prayer. Encourage each group member to be accountable to the group for personal progress at the next meeting.
- As the leader your goal is to help bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their need for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.



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Introduction

The meaning of worship is not subjective. In fact, God has given us some specific "How-To's" in the Bible. God wants us to be identified as His people, to be set apart. He has even created us for this very same purpose. These worship instructions and expressions help us to live with the fullest expression of what God has put in us. More importantly, when we, as a gathering of believers, worship God through these expressions together, power is released!

"Blowout":

1. Blow a tire
2. One team dominates another
3. Means something entirely different to new parents :)

"Chain":

1. Metal links connected together
2. Piece of jewelry
3. Something that restrains
4. A series of things connected together
5. A group of stores

"Worship":

1. Slow songs
2. Look on your face
3. Warm-up for the sermon
4. A band on a stage,



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Twitter responses...

1. "Worship is much more about a life laid down than a song lifted up"
2. "An expression of love and adoration to God"
3. "Giving Jesus a concert!"
4. "Responding to God with surrender"

[Leviticus 16:1-10] (NLT)

¹ The LORD spoke to Moses after the death of Aaron's two sons, who died after they entered the LORD's presence and ***burned the wrong kind of fire before him.***

² The LORD said to Moses, "Warn your brother, Aaron, not to enter the Most Holy Place behind the inner curtain whenever he chooses; if he does, he will die. For the Ark's cover—the place of atonement—is there, and I myself am present in the cloud above the atonement cover. ³ "When Aaron enters the sanctuary area, **he must follow these instructions fully.** He must bring a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. ⁴ He must put on his linen tunic and the linen undergarments worn next to his body. He must tie the linen sash around his waist and put the linen turban on his head. These are sacred garments, so he must bathe himself in water before he puts them on. ⁵ Aaron must take from the community of Israel two male goats for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. ⁶ "Aaron will present his own bull as a sin offering to purify himself and his family, making them right with the LORD. ⁷ Then he must take the two male goats and present them to the LORD at the entrance of the Tabernacle. ⁸ He is to cast sacred lots to determine which goat will be reserved as an offering to the LORD and which will carry the sins of the people to the wilderness of Azazel.

⁹ Aaron will then present as a sin offering the goat chosen by lot for the LORD.

¹⁰ The other goat, the scapegoat chosen by lot to be sent away, will be kept alive, standing before the LORD. When it is sent away to Azazel in the wilderness, the people will be purified and made right with the LORD.



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Context

- Came out of Egypt... saw their worship
- Now in wilderness among pagan nations... see their worship

Worship practices

- **Human sacrifice** – Knifed, drowned, burned, buried alive
- **Self-Mutilation** – Prophets of Baal cut themselves with knives
 - designed to facilitate Baal's return from the underworld

“Worship” meant something different to each of these nations

God knew they had come out of EGYPT and seen the pagans worship their gods.

- They would use the same practices for worship
- They didn't know anything else!

These forms of worship (human sacrifice, self-mutilation, etc.) **would only harm them – no closer to God**

So, our gracious God gave **SPECIFIC instructions** on how to worship

- Marked them as **HIS people**
- Helped them to realize, "**Our God is NOTHING like the world**"
- God said **there is a specific way to come to Him**
 - leave what the world says is *natural* for what God created us to do *naturally*



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Same is true with many here today!

- Heart for God
- Try to worship how you've *seen* it done
- Our loving God has **given us specific instructions!**

Expressions of Worship... We were created to worship God

"You were made **by God** and **for God**, and until you understand that, life will never make sense" - Rick Warren

9 Expressions

Body

1. Bowing
2. Standing
3. Dancing
 - Meant to be the fullest release of our bodies in praise!
 - Not meant to distract
 - Dancing= moving rhythmically to music & = HOPE!
 - What God created for praise, the world has distorted
 - **So let's all try it! Here, and in Napa! Everybody stand. Hit the track (Party Rock Anthem)**



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Hands

1. Clapping
 - Playing instruments (leave this to the band, please) 😊
2. Lifting
 - ref. to “Thanksgiving” message
Like “throwing” praise/glory to God
Saying, “God, here I am!”
Like a child – “Daddy, pick me up!”
Let’s all lift our hands ... Here, and in Napa

Voice

1. Singing
2. Speaking
- 3. Shouting**
 - Shouting = the fullest release of our voice!
 - Sometimes, it just feels good to shout
 - We do it when we’ve **lost it**
 - So let’s do it to declare victory in our God!
When we all shout, there’s power!
Have 1 person shout... not much power
Now everyone... 1, 2, 3 SHOUT!

These are all **commands** in the Word

- Not suggestions based on personality type
- I encourage you, if you’ve never bowed, or danced, or lifted your hands



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I'm here to declare:

When the Church returns to the way the Bible tells us to worship, there will be an unprecedented move of God in our region

It just takes us not "Offering our own worship"
(like Aaron's sons),
but to "Follow these instructions completely"

John 4:19-26 – Most important verses on “Worship”

Context: Jews vs. Samaritans

Rabbi's & women were on complete opposite ends of spectrum
i.e. “women's court” in the temple

THIS WAS A BIG DEAL!

[John 4:19-26]

¹⁹ “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. **20** Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.” ²¹ “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ **Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.** ²⁴ God is spirit, and **his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.**” ²⁵ The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” ²⁶ Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”



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Jesus, Himself, gave her (and us) the instructions for worship

“Follow these instructions fully” [Leviticus 16]

Worship in Spirit

“Spirit” = *pneuma* = The Holy Spirit; wind, breath

The Holy Spirit is the wind, breath, and LIFE of the church

3 times, Jesus uses “Spirit”

- Jesus wanted to make sure there was **no confusion**

“True worshippers worship by responding to the Holy Spirit”

Worship in Truth

“Truth” = same word as in [John 14:6]

“I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the father except through Me.”

Jesus is the Truth!

[John 1:1] says He’s the Word

The Word is the Truth



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“True worshippers worship because of what Jesus has done
and according to His Word”

God is seeking something...

It's not a pastor,
it's not a church,
it's one thing:

Worshippers who worship in Spirit & Truth

Just as when God's people left Egypt, this worship...

Marks us as His people

Helps us to **realize** that our God is Holy

The way we come to Him is different than any other god
- What is unnatural for the world is actually how God created
us to naturally worship

We WANT to be a "Seeker" church

- 1) Where people seeking God can come and FIND Him
 - 2) Where THE SEEKER is present because the very worship He seeks is
found **here**
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So what do we want you to do?

- don't observe, but worship in spirit & truth - every day in your secret place, and every time you step foot in this room

Church, ***this isn't an option***... we MUST embrace these expressions and truly worship in Spirit and Truth



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Small Group Questions

1. Which of the nine Psalmic worship expressions (of Body, Hands, Voice) are the most comfortable for you to gravitate toward in corporate worship? What about at home? How has culture influenced what is seen as natural in worship?
2. What are some ways that you personally can stretch your worship expression?
3. What does it look like to worship "in spirit and in truth?". How is our response to God's promptings and leadings pivotal in making a place for The Holy Spirit?
4. How is God's holiness revealed to us in worship?
5. Outside of just ourselves, how does corporate worship build an environment to encounter God?