

Community Group Guide

@ our core – Passionate Worship

The Gathering

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Romans 12:1 & various

Community Groups are the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering. It is through the interaction that takes place in each of these groups around our area that will enable people to begin to move from being drawn to God to a life that is being deepened by God. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering, owning, and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be aspects you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on an aspect of their relationship with God. Your role is to help facilitate this encounter with God in His Word through His Body, not just to complete the guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid group task list.

HEY!

Begin your group time by engaging in relational conversations and prayer that may include the following elements:

Greet each other—a simple, brief time to greet one another (especially new friends), enjoy refreshments, and make announcements.

Week in review—a time to review the truths discussed last week and report on how members have had success or frustrations in applying those truths during the week. The leader will want to provide encouragement and shepherding during this time. Periodically, the leader will also want to review the gospel and allow members to share reports about opportunities they've had to share the gospel. Occasionally, the leader will want to revisit the vision for the group and discuss ways to accomplish that vision better.

Opening prayer—a time of general prayer with the whole group praying for struggles regarding the application of truths, for those with whom the group is sharing the gospel, and for understanding of today's truths.

SAY!

Use the following summary and questions to review this week's message and reflect on its implications in our lives:

Message Summary

Part 12 of the "@ our core" series dealt with worship. Our core value says that we value **Passionate Worship** and expect His presence to overwhelm us with awe of Him and acceptance by Him. Phil shared 2 ways to see worship that many of us aren't always aware of, and closed by sharing the obvious point of worship:

1. **Worship is a noun. It is you.** Romans 12:1 commands us to offer ourselves as a sacrifice, and we need to understand that a sacrifice required 2 things: it had to be offered and it had to be killed. Because we have been buried with Jesus and made a new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17), we can now offer ourselves as a living sacrifice. In short, we now worship with our lives, and when we fully submit our lives to God, we bring Him the most glory possible.
2. **Worship is a verb. It is what you do.** Worship is like a puzzle, and there are many elements that make the picture complete: preaching, baptism, communion, prayer, reading Scripture, giving, dancing and the arts. When we each do these things in a corporate setting, God is pleased with the complete picture of worship and Matthew 18:20 is clear that He is with us.
3. **So what's the point of worship?** The point is that, according to Hebrews 10:11-14, Jesus' sacrifice has made it possible for us to always be in God's presence, and so worship is – as Romans 12:1 says – the only reasonable response. It is logical to stand in His presence and be overwhelmed by who He is and by how much He accepts us based on Jesus' sacrifice.

Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- Describe something that you are in awe of. What is about that object that brings out that response?
- Sometimes we worship God because of how great He is and how powerful He is, but we never really allow ourselves to believe that He is also near to us. How does worship change when we realize that we are not only in awe of Him but also accepted by Him?
- Read Psalm 89:15. What does it mean to acclaim something? What words in this verse reveal that worship is more than just songs on Sunday? How is your life acclaiming God?
- What are some of the benefits of living your life aware that you are in God's presence? What does Acts 2:28 say we receive when we live in His presence? How does this motivate you to want to be in His presence 24/7?
- Phil listed a bunch of pieces to the worship puzzle. Take a few minutes to review them and then talk about which one(s) you feel the most passionate about.
 - Preaching: 2 Timothy 4:2
 - Baptism (Matthew 28:19)
 - Communion (1 Corinthians 11:34)
 - Prayer (1 Timothy 2:1-8)
 - Reading Scripture (1 Timothy 4:13)
 - Giving (2 Corinthians 8-9)
 - Singing, dancing, and the arts (Colossians 3:16; Psalm 150)
- What are some next steps that you can take immediately to make your life the best worship possible for the Lord?

PRAY!

Encourage your group to break out into smaller, same-gender groups where they will respond to the truths of the message. These groups will share with one another based on the following questions and then close in prayer:

- What are some of the main truths that God wants you to know from the message?
- According to the truths from the message, what does God want you to desire/value?
- How do your desires/values need to change to align with His desires/values?
- What actions does God want you to take according to the truths of this message?
- What is an action that you can start to implement today or tomorrow?

Close this time by praying for each other, specifically for strength in the application of these truths and for the lost people with whom you are seeking to share the gospel.