



Discussion Guide Worship — Part 1 LEADER GUIDE

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We're made to worship! It's part of our design. But how we worship matters just as much as the fact that we do. In this series, we're exploring what it means to worship God on His terms instead of ours and rediscovering the wonder of approaching Him the way He invites us to. This series will reshape how you see every moment you spend in His presence.

NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or discipleship@rockbridge.cc

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"Beware of singing as if you were half dead or half asleep, but lift up your voice with strength."
[John Wesley]

LEADER RESOURCES || **Leader Note** *We do our best to equip, empower, and encourage you to shepherd your group well.*

- **Passage Summary**
 - The text notes how quickly the two sons of Aaron improvise in their approach to God and dishonor His presence and how quickly and decisively God deals with them in the severity of death. Moses teaches, and Aaron receives the truth that God's holiness and glory are more valuable than human life. Our role is to respond to God as He has revealed. Our response must honor both the nature and the excellence of God

ENGAGE & CONNECT || **Leader Note** *The goal for the icebreaker is to prepare your group for the conversation ahead by connecting with one another's hearts and building joy together.*

What do you imagine worship looking like in heaven?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER || **Leader Note** *Begin your time together thanking God for his presence and praying His word back to Him. Ask a few people to pray, taking a posture of humility and dependence!*

Holy God, we do not understand the truth about Your nature. Help us to worship You the way You deserve to be worshipped.

MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE || **Leader Note** *Help your group memorize this verse together by having each person read it aloud. The goal is to enjoy hiding God's word in our hearts together.*

"I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth."
[Psalm 34:1, ESV]

BIG IDEA || **Leader Note** *Read this aloud so your group knows the theme of today's reading and discussion.*

We are made to worship and will, in fact, do so. But our purpose is to worship the one true God, and our worship must be on God's terms, not our own. Worship is playing with fire.

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION || Leader Note Your role is to FACILITATE, so keep your group moving along, encourage people to share, and look for opportunities to point out the grace and glory of God! Here are two reminders: 1) Every question does not have to be answered ... go where the Spirit leads! 2) Answers do not have to be read aloud ... they're for guidance!

Have someone read aloud Leviticus 9:22-10:7 in the ESV.

1. What kind of worship is happening in Leviticus 9? *There are many ways your group could describe this worship. Its effect is obvious: blessing comes from it. God sends fire and accepts their offerings. The people see God's work and shout and fall on their faces before Him. There is awe and reverence and glory visible for everyone to see.*
2. What was wrong with Nadab and Abihu's fire? *God was very specific on how to worship Him correctly in His presence. The reason for that seems here to be simply for their own protection. If you bring tainted, wrong worship too close to the face of God, you will be burned by the consuming fire He is. They simply did it their own way and hoped He'd accept it—like Cain in Genesis or the prodigal son's older brother in Luke 15, instead of asking what is acceptable to Him and doing that.*
3. What kind of worship is happening in our services? *Pray—"Lord, open our eyes to see the kind of worship we're bringing. How does it look from Your perspective? Are we offering what You want?"*
4. What kind of worship is happening outside of the church gathering—how are you worshipping Him throughout the week? *We bring a different kind of praise to church gatherings when the week has been full of His presence. How we worship at home directly impacts how we worship when we've gathered.*
5. Are we worshipping something else besides the holy God of this story? What is getting our worship? *The hard part about being wired to worship is that we will place our awe, reverence, fear, hopes, and needs in the hands of pretty much anything that offers us even something as simple as entertainment or distraction. It promises us something. We give it a try. We feel relieved from daily life. So we give it more... and the cycle grows bigger than our souls meant to.*
6. In what ways are we "doing it how we want to do it" rather than looking at God to worship in response to Him? *Do we pick the song because it's the one that makes us feel a way? Do we avoid singing because we sound bad to our own ears? Do we ever ask how He wants to meet with us, or do we just go through the quiet time routine we've decided is most efficient?*
7. How can we be more intentional to be consecrated or prepared for worship? *This can be very simple. Sweep the porch before sitting down to read the Word. Pray and ask the Lord what He wants to do. Be willing to pray all the way on the floor, face down. Do not harbor bitterness or hatred toward anyone else. Take off your shoes to pray. It isn't about adding a big to-do list before we can worship—that's a trap—it's about asking God how He wants us to worship Him and doing that for His sake and ours.*
8. How is worship different through the blood of Jesus and fire of the Holy Spirit? *We have a better high priest to mediate now. We become the temple, and He ministers in us to bring His presence deep within us and spilling out to bless the world around us. But that means we have to let Him work in us. We have to let Jesus' presence and teachings consecrate us and make us holy so that we live holy lives and carry His Spirit well. It is still dire.*
9. How can you cultivate awe and reverence for the Lord in your daily life? *We get awe by looking at something bigger than ourselves. This could be looking up at the sky and seeing the*

clouds and acknowledging that God sends them where He wishes and brings rain from His storehouse. It could be keeping a prayerful attitude through the drive home from work—watching how many people are flowing through one stretch of road and acknowledging that God sees and knows each one. See something bigger than what you know, understand, and can handle, and look in reverence to the God who knows, sees, understands, and is sovereign over it all.

STEP OF OBEDIENCE || Leader Note This is an opportunity for people to put into practice what the Spirit is inviting them to do and live in obedience to God for the sake of love! You can encourage your group to be accountable to one another and use these to follow up with one another throughout the week.

True, acceptable worship starts with God, **not us**.

As you consider your next step, reflect on: 1) How can I make worship about God? 2) How do I need to worship differently this week?

Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 2 or 3 for this question, so each person has others praying with them for the needs they're taking before the throne.

PRAYER FOCUS || Leader Note Be intentional about saving at least 5 minutes to pray together. Try the prayer activity below or pray for one another's personal requests!

"Holy God, teach us to pray. Teach us to bow. Teach us to give. Teach us to love. Teach us Your worship—worship that can only and purely be about You and for You. Amen."