

## “What is Worship?” Blandford and Langton Home Groups - Spring 2007

### Session 12 “Worship is ... For Life”

(Weeks beginning 29<sup>th</sup> April)

- Welcome

Are you someone who “sticks to what you know” or are you willing to try new things?

- Worship

It is suggested that each week, one person in the group might like to choose a song or hymn which has helped them to worship God - and to explain in one or two sentences why they have chosen it. If a CD is available, then it might be good to listen to it - or you could sing it as a group.

Spend some time sharing the good things God has done for you as an individual or as a group in recent weeks. Read Psalm 108 and praise him! Songs of Fellowship 812 “In every - . circumstance”, 1498 “Over all the earth” and 1501 “Praise Him, you heavens” may be helpful.

- Word

Go round the group and ask each person to describe ...

- ❖ What would the perfect worship service be like?
- ❖ What would be the most awful Church service be like?

(For most people, Heaven will be like the former and [if it were to exist!] Purgatory would be like the latter!)

- ❖ What happens to your relationship with God in the days that follow after a service like one or the other of the above?
- ❖ How does it affect the way you think or act?

Read 1 John 1:1-5

- John begins with the word “That”, meaning the whole of who Jesus is and what he came to do. How does Worship on a Sunday help us to understand this? Which facets of a service help?
- John talks of his “Testimony” (vv1/2). He is writing at the end of his life and reflecting back on what he has seen - and preached to others. How does worship assist us in the same process?
- John takes the testimony on to form “proclamation” (v3). For what cause? How does worship affect this?
- The building of the Kingdom (v3b) is the result - which aspects of worship contribute to this?
- Ultimately, what should our united worship bring (v4)?
- Thinking back to the previous session - how does the light of v5 affect the way we worship and live in the community?
- How is the brightness of the light affected by the things John says in verses 1 to 4?

Over the past few months, we have looked at:

- ✓ What Worship is.
- ✓ The components of Sunday worship and how they fit together.
- ✓ The need for there to be a balance of these elements in our worship?

The session leader may wish to briefly remind the group what the elements are (Confession, Creed, Bible Reading, Teaching, Intercessory Prayer, Holy Communion etc) and what they mean.

The Westminster Confession asks the question “*What is the chief end of man?*” and gives the answer “*Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him for ever.*”

- ❖ How do we “glorify” God? Is “glorify” the same as “worship”?
- ❖ If so, what does that mean on Sunday?
- ❖ And what does it mean on Monday to Saturday?
- ❖ Are the elements of Worship described above part of “daily” worship?
- ❖ How might they work in reality?

## Works

Looking back over the series on worship ...

- How have you changed in your understanding of what worship is?
- Which particular facet of worship has struck you most?
- Would you be willing to try a different style of worship?
- What style of worship is still a challenge to you? How might you deal with this?
- For example, how did you relate to the Taize worship on Sunday?
- How do you think you would like to change the way you worship as a result?
- Is there anything you could do as a group to help in this?
- Pray for each other to do it !

- Next meeting ...

Next Wednesday - 9<sup>th</sup> May:

“Church is ... What?” Session 1 - “Built To Last”

## The Book for the Coming Term -

Stocks of the book for the coming term’s studies “Christian Community” are available now. All of the studies will come from the book and will not be online. You might want to take orders for copies at your meeting this evening and let the office know how many you need. The book is £4 a copy (ok, £3.99, but you may have to wait to get the 1p change) and it is suggested that everyone has a copy (couples may want to share a copy!).

OVER ALL THE EARTH, You reign on high,  
Every mountain stream, Every sunset sky.  
But my one request, Lord, my only aim  
Is that You'd reign in me again.

*Lord, reign in me, Reign in Your power;  
Over all my dreams, In my darkest hour.  
You are the Lord of all I am, So won't You reign in me again?*

Over every thought, Over every word,  
May my life reflect the beauty of my Lord;  
'Cause You mean more to me Than any earthly thing,  
So won't You reign in me again?

In every circumstance of life  
You are with me, glorious Father.  
And I have put my trust in You,  
That I may know the glorious hope  
To which I'm called.  
And by the power that works in me,  
You've raised me up and set me free;  
And now in every circumstance  
I'll prove Your love without a doubt,  
Your joy shall be my strength,  
Your joy shall be my strength.

PRAISE HIM, YOU HEAVENS  
And all that's above.  
Praise Him, you angels  
And heavenly hosts.  
Let the whole earth praise Him.  
Praise Him, the sun, moon  
And bright shining stars.  
Praise Him, you heavens  
And waters and skies.  
Let the whole earth praise Him.

Great in power, great in glory,  
Great in mercy, King of heaven.  
Great in battle, great in wonder,  
Great in Zion, King over all the earth.