

KEEPING OUR BALANCE

Worship

INTRODUCTION

AIM : To see the whole of our lives as an act of worship to God

Where do you worship?

Which of these responses do you think is most applicable to you?

- “I worship God at Emmanuel Church”
- “I worship God everywhere!”



Worship is sometimes seen as the period of singing that takes place during a church service, but the Bible has much more to say on the subject. We are going to refresh our memories today as we look at various passages that point to worship.

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PRAY

Pray to start:

Ask God to open your ears and your hearts as you read through passages that may be familiar, and yet are always life-giving and life-shaping.

Pray that worship becomes a daily practice in your life, as you grow in your understanding of what God seeks from us as his followers.



NOTE TO LEADERS:

There is a lot of content in today's study. You may like to take one question from each section instead of both.

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BIBLE STUDY



Who does the Bible ask to worship?

Read: Exodus 20 :1-3 ; Luke 4 : 8

- There is no half-baked approach to what we read in the Bible about worship. In fact, we are **commanded** to worship God as the first of the Ten Commandments (*it's not an option*), and told that this is all about him. Why do you think this is so strongly expressed?
- Consider some of your daily interactions with other people and the choices you make. (*Maybe reflect on how you have lived your life in recent days*). What shape does this First Commandment give to our lives? What might we choose to do or to sacrifice as a result of true obedience?



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BIBLE STUDY



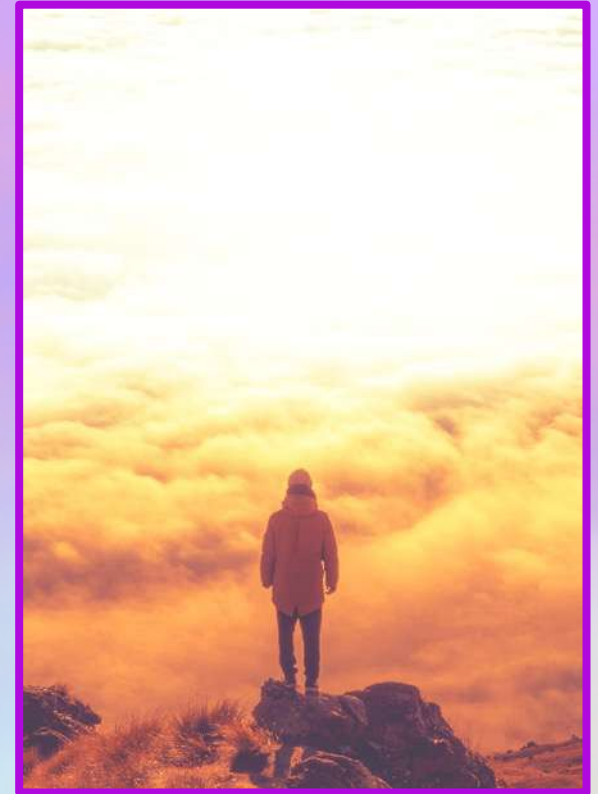
Why does God ask us to worship him?

Read: Exodus 20 : 4-5

- God continues in the Second Commandment with the call to worship him alone. Here he tells the people what they must not do. Why does God call himself a jealous God? *(Think about the covenant that God is making with his people, perhaps in terms of a marriage or call to faithfulness).*
How is jealousy a positive attribute here?

Read: 1 Chronicles 16:29; Revelation 4:11

- We have seen that God asks us to worship him alone. What are some of the reasons you see in these verses to do so?



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BIBLE STUDY



How does God ask us to worship him?

Read: Romans 12 : 1

- What does true worship involve? What are some of the ways in which we can put this verse into practise in a way that might speak to non-believers around us?

Read: Colossians 3 : 16

- Is worship only singing? How is singing powerful as a way of bringing us to a place of worship? Thinking about this verse and what we have already talked about in this study, what other ways can we show that we worship God in a way that is pleasing to him?



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BIBLE STUDY



When does God ask us to worship him?

Read: Deuteronomy 6 : 4-7

- Do you think God expects us to worship him at a certain time and place?
- How might we hold God's commandments 'on our hearts' in an age of social media and constant distractions?



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BIBLE STUDY



Where does God ask us to worship him?

Read: John 4 : 20 – 24

- Jesus explained to the Samaritan woman that he met by the well that there was no longer a requirement to worship God in a specific place (*as previously in Jerusalem*). He then gives this astonishing and transforming statement (**v. 23-24**).
- What do you think it means to worship ‘in spirit and in truth’? How does the Holy Spirit inspire our worship?

Read: Acts 2 : 46 – 47

- How do you think the early church answers the question ‘where does God ask us to worship him?’



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GOING DEEPER

Which of these responses do you think is most applicable to you?

Where do you worship?

- “I worship God at Emmanuel Church”
- “I worship God everywhere!”



- If you identify more with the first statement, what have you learned today about how we can avoid putting our lives into a compartmentalised life?
- If you identify more with the second statement, how would you answer someone who says that corporate worship is also very important?

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LISTEN & PRAY

**Listen to Matt Redman
Heart of Worship**
and use it as a prayer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-Zp586pvZg>

