

## WEEKLY DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Message: Inside Job: The Power of Worship | Toby Slough | July 19, 2020**

### ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS

If anything is clear during these uncertain times it is God's constant voice calling to his children, the bride of Christ, saying draw near to me. Come sit in my presence where you will find life, fullness of joy, rest, peace, and God speaking with His still small voice. (Psalms 16:11, John 14:27, 1 Kings 19:11-12).

1. What is your favorite way to pull away from the cares of the world and sit quietly in God's presence? worship music, reading and meditating on His word, just sitting quietly, or other ways?
2. How do you spend time with the Lord and what does that time mean for you?

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God desires to do something deeper and richer within us than the things we want Him to do around us. He calls for us to turn our attention away from everything around us and toward our Father God who desires to fill us!

Psalms 100:1-5 Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Worship is not a place to go or even an activity, it is how we live our life (Romans 12:1-2)

1. What does a worship-based life filled with praise really look like?
2. How do I allow God to create that kind of life within me?

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Three ways for praise and worship to equip us.

Gratitude is the doorway into awareness of God's presence. – Hebrews 12:28-29 "... let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe" Do I focus on my problems or on God's desire to bless? Joshua and Caleb saw God's promise when everyone else saw problems.

3. How can I start my day in thanksgiving and praise, focusing on God's blessings instead of my problems?

Praise and worship changes the atmosphere around us. – Habakkuk 3: 17-19 "Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior." The heart of God is for the world to see his presence and love through our life. It will be most obvious when we choose gratitude, praise and worship in the midst of troubles, persecution, and trials. Praise and worship allow God to do things within us that only He can do.

4. What challenge or trial do I need to praise God through today so God can do what only he can do?

God sustains us through praise and worship – Psalm 63:1-8 "You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you." Sunday morning was never meant to sustain me for the week. It takes constant, daily, sustenance from spending time in God's presence.

5. Because your love is better than \_\_\_\_\_, my lips will glorify you. (Fill in the blank)