

Worship Bible Study

1. What do we learn about worship from these New Testament passages?

⇒ Matthew 4:9-10

We can worship people or things other than God. Serving God is part of our worship.

⇒ Matthew 8:2 *Note: The word in NIV translated "knelt" is the Greek word "worship".* Worship is coming humbly before God to ask Him to make us clean.

⇒ Matthew 9:18

Again, the word "knelt" is the Greek word "worship." Worship is having faith in God.

⇒ Matthew 14:33

Worship is acknowledging and believing that Jesus is who He says He is—the Son of God.

⇒ Matthew 15:8-9

To worship is to have a pure heart. We can say the words but be far from God. We put "rules" together that are not from God, thus we worship God in vain.

What might be "rules"—though unspoken—we might see in the church related to worship? (*order of service, style of music, instruments allowed in the service*). If following these rules becomes more important than worshipping God, we are worshipping God in vain.

An example of saying the words, but being far from God: Mark 15:16-20. In verse 19, the NIV translation, "paid homage" is the Greek word "worship."

⇒ John 4:20-24

Worship is mentioned nine times in this passage. The key verse is 24...we are to worship God in "spirit and in truth." What do you think this means? (Worship must touch our hearts, not just our heads. It must come from a pure heart, not just going through the motions or words.)

What are some implications of this passage? (*worship is a matter of the heart. It is not about the music we sing, the place we worship, the style of worship, the order of worship, the instruments involved. All of these can help touch our hearts, but these are not worship*).

We have not worshiped unless our heart has been touched and we are changed to live the truth. To say the words, yet not be touched in mind, heart and life is to not have worshiped in spirit and truth.

⇒ Revelation 4:9-11

Worship is giving our accomplishments to God (our crowns) realizing we are nothing and God is everything. We acknowledge that God is worthy and give Him glory and honor and praise. We acknowledge we are the created and that God has all power.

In Greek, the word translated "worship" means
to prostrate oneself in homage—to show reverence, adoration and respect

Note to Leader: You can also add other verses if you so desire. The verses above all use the Greek word "worship." Other verses use a different word but in English are translated worship and can add some insight to your discussion. For example: Romans 12:1 or Philippians 3:3. You could also add Matthew 6:19-24 which talks about where our treasure is and that we cannot serve God and money. The point is we will worship what we treasure.

2. In the Psalms, we learn of some ways to worship. Let's look at a few of these. All these verses have the Hebrew equivalent to the Greek word "worship."

➔ Psalm 29:2

Acknowledge God's glory and splendor.

What are some words that describe God's glory and splendor? (let people share)

➔ Psalm 66:1-5

Singing praises to God, speaking to God about His awesome works.

➔ Psalm 95:6-7

Bowing and kneeling before God acknowledging we are His people and under His care.

➔ Psalm 99:5

Exalt God.

What are some ways we could exalt God? (our words, our attitude, our posture, our respect).