

Message Discussion Guide EXTRAVAGANT WORSHIP

The Church at Brook Hills,

Dr. Bart Box

June 13, 2010

1 Kings 8

This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Small Group. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to facilitate this experience not to complete the discussion guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid teaching task list.

Connect . . .

Use one or both of the following options to introduce the discussion time to follow.

Option 1

Invite learners to describe what they think worship will look like in heaven. After a few minutes explain that today we will discuss the prominence of worship in the life of a believer now and forever.

Option 2

Invite any willing learners to share about a time when God showed them extravagant grace. How did that make them feel? What was their response to the grace that was given? After a few moments explain that today we will discuss how God's extravagant mercy and grace should drive us to worship Him extravagantly.

Review the Message . . .

The Picture of Worship in Redemptive History...

- The reign of Solomon signals the climax of Old Testament history.
 - At the very heart of this reign is the worship of God.
 - Indeed, throughout redemptive history worship is central.
 - Worship is evident in the Garden.
 - Worship is prominent in the Law.
 - Worship is anticipated in the prophets.
 - Worship is elevated in the New Testament.
 - Worship is unhindered in the end.
- The implication is clear: if worship is central in the Bible, it must be central in our lives.

Discussion

- Enlist two learners to read Genesis 12:1-3 and 1 Kings 4:29-31, 34. Remind learners that as Pastor David discussed last week, the reign of Solomon at this time was the climax of Israel's relationship with God in the Old Testament. They were in a time of great peace and restoration, great wisdom given by God, and great worship of God. The wisdom they were receiving was directly related to the worship they were expressing.

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- Looking at Genesis 1:27-28, how were people created to reflect the glory of God in the earth?
- Looking at Exodus 15:1-2, what place did worship have in the Israelites response to God's rescue of them from slavery in Egypt?
- Explain that in Isaiah 2:1-2, the prophet is prophesying about the restoration of Jerusalem after it would be conquered. What purpose does God have for restoring His people to worship Him?
- Considering Romans 12:1, how is worship (in terms of sacrifice) different in the New Testament from the Old Testament?
- Enlist a learner to read Revelation 22:1-5. Describe worship in heaven in eternity.
- How is worship a predominant theme throughout the entire Bible?
- What does the predominance of worship indicate about God?

Application . . .

- What does our culture most often tell us is the purpose for our lives?
- What is our true purpose as creations of God who reflect His image?
- What is worship? When does worship happen?
- What place should / does worship have in our everyday lives?
- What idols does our culture worship in place of God?
- What generally tends to be your attitude when you think about worshipping God for all eternity? What does this response indicate about the role that worship plays in your current lives?

The Picture of Worship in 1 Kings 8...

- Extravagant worship...
 - No expense was spared in the construction of the Temple.
 - The best builders were assembled.
 - The best materials were employed.
 - No energy was reserved in the dedication of the Temple.
 - All the people were present.
 - All the sacrifices were offered.
- For an extravagant God.
 - God shows extravagant grace by dwelling with His people.
 - God shows extravagant faithfulness by fulfilling His Word.
 - God shows extravagant mercy by forgiving sins.

Discussion

- Enlist two learners to read 1 Kings 5:13-17, 20-22, and 1 Kings 7:13-14. Describe the great detail that Solomon put into organizing the building of the Temple.
- What did Solomon's selection of craftsmen and materials signify about the importance of the Temple to him?

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- Read 1 Kings 8:1-3. Explain that these verses begin to describe the dedication of the Temple by Solomon after it was completed. How many times does the word “all” appear in these verses?
- What does the presence of all of Israel indicate about their devotion to the worship of God?
- Looking at 1 Kings 8:5 as an example, how did the sacrifice of so many animals give a picture of God’s worth to the nation of Israel?
- Enlist three learners to read 1 Kings 8:10-11, 30, and 56. How does Solomon indicate that God has shown mercy to His people? How do these actions warrant worship from God’s people?

Application . . .

- Are there any things that we tend to withhold from God? What kinds of things are we likely to withhold from God? What resources do we not like to contribute to God?
- What things in our lives are we unwilling to part with in order to worship God fully? Is it fair to say that we worship those things more than God?
- Why does God seem to sometimes get the leftovers, or worst, part of our energy?
- How do our priorities demonstrate a priority or lack of priority in worship?
- How has God shown extravagant grace in our lives that we do not give Him credit for?
- Do we always acknowledge extravagant grace in our lives? Is our response appropriate to God’s worth?

The Picture of Worship in the Church...

- An extravagant Savior...
 - Jesus is the embodiment of God’s extravagant grace.
 - Jesus is the embodiment of God’s extravagant faithfulness.
 - Jesus is the embodiment of God’s extravagant mercy.
- Demands an extravagant response.
 - Heartfelt praise for God’s faithfulness
 - The reality: God is worthy of our praise for His faithfulness.
 - The question: Are we proclaiming God’s faithfulness on a regular basis?
 - Wholehearted devotion to God’s Word
 - The reality: God is worthy of our obedience.
 - The question: Are we obeying God’s Word in every respect?
 - Are we praying for right hearts?
 - Are we pursuing righteous lives?
 - Continual dependence upon God’s mercies
 - The reality: We are continually in need of God’s mercy.
 - The question: Are we pleading for God’s saving work in our lives?

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Discussion

- Enlist a learner to read Hebrews 1:1-3. How is Jesus the fulfillment and embodiment of God's extravagant grace and love?
- Read 1 Kings 8:56. How did God show Himself faithful to the Israelites? How did God show Himself faithful to His people through sending Christ?
- Enlist a learner to read 1 Kings 8:61. How does worship of God result in devotion to His Word?
- Read 1 Kings 8:59-60. Why did Solomon continue to depend upon God? What was his purpose for asking God's guidance and help?

Application . . .

- How do/should we recognize God's faithfulness in our lives? Are we telling others about His faithfulness? What should that look like in our daily lives?
- What tools are available to us today to help disseminate our testimony of God's faithfulness to other people?
- What emotions do we generally feel when we think about studying the Bible?
- Why should a full understanding of God's extravagant grace and mercy drive us to His Word?
- Do we sometimes pick and choose which parts of God's Word we like and which parts we will ignore? Why do we believe this behavior is OK?
- What would our lives look like if we stopped trying to justify our sin by twisting God's Word?
- When do we most often depend upon God? Why do we not engage in constant dependence upon Him?
- What are we claiming about ourselves when we do not depend upon God?
- What are we proclaiming about Him when we do depend upon Him?