

Lesson Five Discussion Guide

In hard times, we become focused on our circumstances or on ourselves and our own problems. What we're going through can be so overwhelming that we can't see past it.

*If you look at the world, you'll be distressed.
If you look within, you'll be depressed. If you
look at God, you'll be at rest.*

Corrie Ten Boom

In Acts 16:16-25, Paul and Silas give us an example of how to look to Christ in the midst of hard times. What did Paul and Silas do?

-They sang hymns and worshipped God

Although we can worship together corporately, we should also each worship God on our own.

What is worship?

-Basically, to worship God is to recognize and to acknowledge that God is worthy of our praise and honor. It's focusing on who God is and what He is capable of doing, and responding to Him in a way that reflects that.

What are some things that you know about God and Jesus that make them worthy or worship. How does knowing those things make it easier to endure the hard times?

-God is good, merciful, forgiving, compassionate, loving, sovereign. He will not do anything to harm me. He can bring good out of even the worst circumstances. He has never failed me or forsaken me in the past and He will not in the future.

In 1 Chronicles 16, we see that we can worship God by...

1) Thanksgiving (v.8a, 34)

-When we give thanks to God, we are acknowledging His character and our need for Him.

2) Praising God (v.8b-9, 24)

-We praise God by sharing with others who He is and what He has done for us. We also praise Him in our prayers by telling Him what we appreciate about Him.

3) Singing (v.9a, 23, 33)

-There are many great praise/worship songs that can help us worship and praise God. Music can also help us get in the mood to worship.

4) Seeking God's Presence (v.10-11)

-Being aware of God's presence should lead to a continual attitude of worship and praise. It also helps us see His hand at work in what might otherwise seem like coincidences.

5) Rejoicing (v.10b, 31-32)

-When we choose to be joyful, we are expressing confidence and trust in God, which is an act of worship. When we think about what Christ has done for us, we have every reason to rejoice.

6) Remembering God's Wondrous Works (v.12-22)

-Remembering the blessing God has given us and the care He has shown for us in the past can lead to worship.

7) Recognizing God's Character (v.27-29a)

-When we think about the attributes of God, we should be led to praise Him. He alone is worthy of our worship and praise.

8) Bringing and Offering (v.29b)

-God has given to us so generously that we should worship Him by giving back a portion to Him, trusting Him to continue to provide for us even as we give.

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