

[Week 2 – Worship in the Vineyard](#)



Leader's Note

Worship (oxford dictionary)

• **noun** **1** the feeling or expression of reverence and adoration for a deity. **2** religious rites and ceremonies. **3** great admiration or devotion. **4 (His/Your Worship)** chiefly Brit. a title of respect for a magistrate or mayor.

• **verb (worshipped, worshipping; US also worshiped, worshipping)** **1** show reverence and adoration for (a deity). **2** feel great admiration or devotion for.

From time to time the church should take stock of that which is most central, most important and most vital in our common life together. Though we sing with the tongues of men and of angels, if we are not truly worshipping living God, we are noisy gongs and clanging cymbals. Though we organize the liturgy most beautifully, if it does not enable us to worship the living God, we are mere ballet dancers. Though we repave the floor and reface the stonework, though we balance our budgets and attract all the tourists, if we are not worshipping God, we are nothing. NT Wright, For All God's Worth

Worship is an important value in the Vineyard, that being a lifestyle of Worship, not just the way we sing. Worship in essence is that thing we do to bring glory to God or that thing we do to honour Him.



Learning Session

Read Romans 12:1-2, Psalm 150

In the light of these 2 passages, split up into groups and discuss the following questions:

- What is worship?
- How are you getting on with it?
- From your observations of musical worship on Sundays, what do you think are the values this church has concerning worship?

Bring the group together after 15 minutes for feedback, ensure that the following points are stressed.

- Worship is a lifestyle right down to the way we talk to a stranger in the shop or the ethics we use when at work, university or school. Everything we do says something about how surrendered we are to God.
- It is the effort we make in our daily lives to get to know God better.
- The values that should come through the comment on our worship is that it is intended to be:
 - **To and For God** - We generally only sing songs that fit this criteria. The point is not that we get something out of it, rather it is only for God, even when it is a sacrifice for us. What we get must always be secondary.
 - **Intimacy** - where we draw near to God in order to experience and express love and affection.
 - **Integrity** - where we can be real with God in an honest and meaningful way. We do not hype things up as it is important for us to be real in our worship to God.
 - **Simplicity** - where we do nothing for effect, but for edification. Worship is an offering, not entertainment for us participants.

Discussion Questions

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