



FAMILY STUDY

When Should We Worship?

EPISODE
13C
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"When Should We Worship?"

More Than Just Sunday...

Church is over. We've sung the songs, listened to the sermon, and maybe even dropped a few bucks in the offering plate. We've fulfilled our duty to God for another week. We've recharged our spiritual batteries and now we can get back to 'real life.' We'll see God next week, right? How many people feel that way? Be honest. How often do YOU feel that way? It's okay to admit it, but next we have to ask, 'is that really worship?' You know the answer. Worshipping God is a lot like eating. If you don't do it every day, you can't survive spiritually. So when and where do we worship? This study explores the answer to those questions. We encourage you to study this concept and the related Scripture passages this week with your family, and we pray that you will acquire a new attitude about when and where we can worship our Lord!

In the Morning...

Okay, maybe you're not a morning person. Those of us who wrote this study aren't either! However, if you're willing to make the daily sacrifice of getting up 30 minutes earlier, there really is no better time to be with God in worship. The kids are still asleep. The house is quiet. It's just you, your coffee, and God. Making God your first daily priority is like giving Him your firstfruits. Starting your day in God's Word renews your mind. Beginning your day in prayer connects you to your Maker. Offering praises and thanksgiving to God in the morning, even in song, sets the tone for the rest of your day. And, while the Bible may not command us to start our mornings with God, it certainly makes some strong suggestions about it! After, all, Jesus Himself started mornings with His Father. Shouldn't we?

1 Chronicles 23:30 Psalm 59:16-17 Psalm 90:14 Isaiah 26:9
Psalm 5:3 Psalm 88:13 Psalm 92:1-3 Mark 1:35

At Night...

If starting the day with God is a good practice, then so too is closing your day with God. What a good time to gather the family and thank God for His goodness throughout the day! Spending family time in God's Word and in prayer, and even singing songs of praise as a family not only gives God glory, but it draws your family closer together. Your children will always remember those moments, and it will impact them more than you know. After the kids have gone to bed, you can spend some additional time with your spouse praising God and asking for His guidance in raising your family. Even in those times when you wake up in the middle of the night, you can use those restless moments to tiptoe into your kids room and thank God for the blessing of your children, uttering short and simple prayers over them. All of these things are acts of worship to our Father.

Psalm 16:7 Psalm 92:1-2 Luke 6:12 Acts 16:25
Psalm 42:8

All Day, Every Day

As you may have already guessed, there is no set time when we have to worship God. There is no reason why you can't worship God on the way to and from work. You can turn off the radio and pray (with your eyes open, of course). You can thank God, sing to Him, and allow His peace to fall on you. You can decompress from a hectic day and make rush hour fly by when you spend it with God. Even during the work or school day, there are times when

you can spend a moment or two with God. You can silently utter simple, brief prayers any time of day. It all comes down to your attitude. We need to have an attitude of worship all day long. When our attitude is worshipful, then every little thing we do can suddenly be an act of worship. This kind of attitude also becomes a safeguard to keep us from falling into sin. Worship isn't an activity we do in life; worship is the context in which we do every activity of life!

1 Chronicles 16:23 Psalm 65:8 Psalm 104:33 Acts 1:14
Psalm 35:28 Psalm 71:8 Psalm 119:164 1 Thess. 5:16-17
Psalm 61:8 Psalm 96:2 Daniel 6:10 Hebrews 13:15

Where Can We Worship?

God is everywhere, so it makes sense that we can worship Him anywhere we happen to be. Worship doesn't have to take place only at church. It can take place anywhere. Paul and Silas even sang praises to God in a prison cell. Whether at home, work, or school, there is no wrong place to give God worship. The important thing is that, wherever we are, we proclaim the glory of the Lord.

Psalm 108:3 Psalm 139:7-9 Isaiah 42:10 Matthew 18:20

And Yes, Sundays...

Although we shouldn't confine our worship only to Sundays, neither should we ignore Sunday. Just because every day is a day to worship God doesn't mean that we can forget about meeting together in group worship. Don't fall into the trap of minimizing the importance of corporate worship at church. Worshipping God in a church setting is also very important for us. The purpose of church is not only for instruction, but also for strengthening and encouraging each other, holding each other accountable, sharpening one another, and being refreshed by the fellowship of believers. What's more, corporate worship also honors God in that we have set aside a special time to gather with other believers in worship.

Psalm 107:31-32 Psalm 134:2 Hebrews 2:12 Hebrews 10:24-25
Psalm 111:1 Psalm 149:1

Examples Of Group Worship

Nowhere in the Bible is group worship condemned. In fact it is actually commanded. The Israelites were told to gather regularly to worship God. King David often went to the tabernacle to worship. It was even customary for Jesus to go to the synagogue on the Sabbath. He set the example, and His disciples followed it after He rose from the dead. The new church gathered at the temple daily in public worship. Everywhere Paul went, he established churches and encouraged the believers to meet together. There can be no question that group worship is expected whenever possible.

Psalm 122:3-4 Luke 4:16 Acts 2:44-46 Acts 3:1

A Proper Time And Place

Clearly, there is an appropriate time for individual worship, for family worship, and for corporate group worship. All of these worship activities should be present in our lives, or we will become like malnourished people who only eat once a week. Truly, worship is not something we should fit into our lives; it is something we should fit our lives into. Don't starve yourself! Don't withhold the praises that God deserves! Don't hold God at arm's length! Run to Him like a child runs to his Daddy, and never let go! Worship God with that kind of devotion, and watch your life be changed!