

Welcome to Home Groups Winter 2017!

We are excited you have chosen to join a group!

Ice Breaker Question:

Share with your group a memorable worship experience that you have had, whether good or bad, and the impact it had on you.

Read Sunday's scripture: Acts 16:11-34

Discuss:

1. If someone asked, "Why do you worship God?" how would you answer them?
2. How has a certain style of worship in church – traditional, liturgical, contemporary, charismatic – shaped you and your image of God? Is there a style that resonates with you more?
3. How could personal preferences lead to a critical spirit and undermine your worship?
4. In reading Acts 16 and in thinking about the worship service Sunday (if you attended), what new things did you learn about a broader meaning of worship?
5. From our text on Sunday (Acts 16:11-34), what elements of worship do we see in Lydia's story. What about Paul and Silas's story?
6. In what actions do we reveal that Jesus is Lord of our lives? In what parts of your life do you struggle making Jesus Lord?
7. How do you see worship on Sunday morning shaping how you live outside of Sunday morning?

Prayer:

Share your prayer requests with one another and also remember those from our church family:

- > Prayers of healing for Pam Bierwagen, Steve Gates, Horst Pimmler, and Lois Saint.
- > Prayers of comfort for Tom and Julie Moll in the death of Julie's mother and for Steve and Pat Mundy in the death of Steve's mother.

Read **Colossians 3:16-17** as a closing prayer:

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Reminders for your group:

> Welcome to this round of Home Groups. It goes until the week of March 26.

Leaders Notes:

It is good to remind ourselves that worship is so much more than praising God through song. In worship, we give ourselves to God. We respond to God's invitation to join him in a different way of life. Through worship, our lives (like those lives in Acts 16) can be reoriented in a new direction. Worship is a great place to start thinking about where we are headed right now; devoting ourselves to God – who is our True North.

[Question 1] Give your group members some silence to consider this question. It could be a very personal answer. If they are struggling with an answer, you might rephrase the question in your own words or answer yourself to get them talking. You might consider 1 John 4:9-10, we love God because he first loved us – seen in Jesus' ultimate sacrifice, as a motivator for worshipping God.

[Question 2] ZPC has more of a blended (traditional and contemporary) worship or contemporary worship style than other styles. Some in your group might share how ZPC's worship has affected them. Others might share how past worship experiences and styles have shaped them.

[Question 3] If a person "hates" contemporary praise choruses, they could sour when they hear those played in worship. If a person is "bored to tears" by older traditional hymns, it can draw them away from God just at a time when they should be drawing closer to God. As God's disciples, we can rise above our musical preferences or other preferences to focus on worshipping God through all parts of a worship experience.

[Question 4] In Sunday's service at ZPC, Jerry explained the different elements of worship from greeting one another, to prayer, to the offering, to sharing about mission, to music, to the message. Each element of worship has a reason for being there and can help us reorient toward following Jesus all week long.

[Question 5] In Lydia's story we see worship in the form of hospitality, giving of time and money, and eager receptive hearts. In Paul and Sila's story we see them suffering, praying and singing hymns to God, being obedient to God. What else does your group see?

[Question 6] You can refer to the last two questions to help answer this question. In thinking about your prayer life, the way you think about money and spend money, the way you treat your neighbors, the way you love your family, hospitality, how you spend your time – how do all these things reveal that Jesus is Lord? What is one area that is difficult for you to make Jesus Lord? It could be money, time, family, or jobs – where we might skew our priorities out of fear or a desire for control instead of fully trusting in Jesus.

[Question 7] Help your group members think about how the elements of worship impact or shape them Monday through Saturday. Another way to think about it is True North: How does Sunday worship put you in the right direction, the right frame of mind – to live differently during the week and truly go in God's direction?