



# FLOURISHING

## Week of August 20 Celebration in Worship<sup>1</sup>

### Overview:

This sermon series will center around the idea of *flourishing* in our relationships with God, with others, and ourselves. When we live in *shalom* with one another, we also bring wholeness, peace, and reconciliation to our city and our world. The word *shalom* in the Hebrew bible carries this idea of flourishing – not just living “at peace” with one another but calling out the best in others through ethical economics, education centered on truth, physical health, and creative beauty. We are called to live in such a way that others are drawn into the abundant life that Jesus provides.

### Group Objectives:

***Relationships and Life Transformation are the primary purpose of community groups.***

- Reflect on this past Sunday’s message and other devotional reading.
- Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members.
- To attend worship alongside someone in your group this week and invite someone new.

### DNA statement(s) tie-in:

- *We Encounter the Father daily.* God the Father speaks to us through the Bible, and we commune with him through prayer.

### Conversation Starters:

- What’s the most unique worship experience you’ve ever had? What makes it stand out?
- What stood out to you from this week’s sermon?

### Listening to God

- Where did you experience God last week? How were you able to join God on mission?

### Learning from God’s Word: Bible Study Discussion

Worship is meant to be a powerful and Spirit-filled experience that helps us encounter God daily. Our worship includes listening to God in silence, prayer, and scripture as well as speaking and/or singing to God verbally. Worship is also enriched by celebrating weekly with others in a shared experience, becoming even more meaningful when we share it with brothers and sisters in Christ. Worship can also be a way of witnessing to non-believers – when they join us in worship, scripture says they may recognize how “God is really among [us]!” (1 Cor 14:24-25) Regular corporate worship is one of the practices that helps us to flourish.

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<sup>1</sup> This discussion guide was written by Dawn Gentry.

### **Read Psalm 100**

- What words stand out to you from verses 1 and 2? Why?
- How does knowing “who God is” (verse 3) and how God is related to us affect our attitude toward God in worship?
- Gratitude is a key theme in verse 4. How have you expressed gratitude to God this week?
- Similarly, verse 5 reminds us of God’s faithfulness. Where have you seen God’s faithfulness over the last several months? How does that draw you into worship?

### **Read John 4:19-26**

- What does it mean to you “to worship in Spirit and in truth”?
- Notice Jesus’ comment in verse 22 “...we worship what we do know” and the woman’s response in verse 25 “I know that Messiah is coming.”
  - What does it mean to know God, and how is that different from knowing about God?
  - How can we ensure our worship includes both head knowledge (understanding) and heart knowledge (experience)?

### **Leaning into Obedience:**

- How do you sense God calling you to respond to these passages?
  - Is there an example to follow? A command to obey?
- How can the group encourage you this week as you respond?
- Who is God calling you to invite to attend worship services with you this week?

### **Prayer Prompts:**

- Invite members of the group to share requests.
- Allow time for silent reflection on the following prompts.
  - Invite the Holy Spirit to reveal characteristics of God to you.
  - Pray in gratitude for who God is, and what God has done for you.
- **Read Psalm 117 out loud together as a prayer of praise to close.**

*Praise the Lord, all you nations;  
extol him, all you peoples.  
For great is his love toward us,  
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.  
Praise the Lord.*

### **For further study:**

- Tozer, A.W. *Worship: The Reason We Were Created-Collected Insights from A. W. Tozer*
- Schmidt, Clayton. *Sent and Gathered: A Worship Manual for the Missional Church*
- Bible Project series on worship and life practices:  
<https://bibleproject.com/podcast/series/practicing-faith/>
- To further your understanding of *Shalom*, watch <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/shalom-peace>.