

Moving beyond me to us

This study is the last in our short series looking at 'Worship as a way of life'. We are going to conclude by looking beyond our personal worship, to our response to God in corporate worship. Mike Pilavachi once wrote - 'worship is not a spectator sport; it is not a product moulded by the taste of the consumers; it is not about what we can get out of it; it is all about GOD.'

Worship

Go around the group and each share a quick story of something that God has done in your life or how He has spoken to you over the last week. Pray together and give thanks to God for what he has done in our own personal journeys.

So often we think that we go to church *to worship*. Perhaps the better approach would be to go to church *worshipping*. Church would be a lot better when our meetings are filled with people who have been pursuing God for six days before they get there. Corporate worship works best when we arrive with something to offer God, as opposed to coming only to get something out of it.

Q1. What things make it harder or easier for you to come *worshipping* to church?

Read Psalm 33:1-5 and Psalm 34:1-3

Someone once said 'Worship is centering our mind's attention and our heart's affection on the Lord.' Throughout the Psalms we see expressions of worship through using music, through proclaiming God's Word, through the heart-cries, etc. These focus not only on individual worship but corporate worship also ('*you righteous*' or '*let us exalt*'). Maybe for you it is difficult to stay focused on God in a corporate worship setting. Maybe your attention can wander too easily.

Q2. When do you think it might be appropriate in a corporate worship setting to be silent and not join in with others who are singing and praising God together?

Now as we come to the end of this short series, let us just take a heavenly glimpse. It may be helpful to pause before reading this familiar passage. Why not play a worship song on CD or perhaps spend a few moments in silence, followed by one person read the following verses, showing the dimax of corporate worship. Listen to what God is saying to you afresh. At the end of this study, take the opportunity to pray for each other and for God to move you on.

Read Revelation 5:11-14

Q3. How can we make sure that the feelings we get in worship remain less important than experiencing God Himself?

Q4. How can we change things in our own lives to enable us to truly seek God during the week before coming together on Sundays?