

Small Group Leaders' Guide | Sermon Questions, May 3, 2015 (Choose the questions that best fit your group.)

How do I follow for the long haul?

Worship: Psalm 122 and 134

1. Attending a Worship service is usually a voluntary act. Was there a time in your life when you went to church because someone else was directing you to go? If so, when did it become your choice to attend or not? Are there times in your life now when you want to "skip" church? Share how that has affected you positively or negatively.
2. Read Psalm 122 out loud together. What strikes you when you read this Psalm?
3. Eugene Peterson, in A Long Obedience in the Same Direction, states, "Feelings are great liars. If Christians worshiped only when they felt like, there would be precious little worship. Feelings are important in many areas but completely unreliable in matters of faith. ...Worship is an act that develops feelings for God, not a feeling for God that is expressed in an act of worship." Discuss this statement by the author. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
4. Look at Ps. 122: 1-3. What is David saying about Worship? Worship puts us in right relationship with God. What is the importance of our relationship with God and how it affects our relationships with others? Read 2 Cor. 5:14-18. How does this passage relate to the need for worship? Is there someone in your life that you need to be restored with?
5. Read Ps. 122: 4-5. Imagine the Pilgrims walking together toward Jerusalem. It was an act of obedience as they approached the city. It was a Sacrifice. Our act of worship should also be an act of sacrifice. Travis stated that we all tend to evaluate the Worship service. Can you relate? How do you find yourself evaluating a Worship service? (Sanctuary was full, music, who is preaching, etc.) Do you sit in the same place every Sunday? If so, why? Challenge each other to sit in a new place next Sunday.
6. Ask yourself am I sacrificing when I attend worship? (Travis states that we should be sacrificing and if we are not, then we may need to evaluate our worship.)
7. God designed us for worship. Read Ps 122: 7-9. What will we experience in worship (even in the midst of sacrifice)? Read Luke 19:41-42. What is Jesus saying here about Jerusalem?
8. What can you experience in a Worship service that is difficult to experience anywhere else?
9. Two questions to ponder for this coming week: How is my relationship with Jesus? How is my relationship with others?