

## INTRODUCTION

**Big Idea:**

**Definition of worship:** Worship is the \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_ of an awesome God.

## SCRIPTURE

Isa. 58:3-5; Mal. 1:6-14

## EXPOSITION

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(Isa. 58:3)

II. God ignores worship that is \_\_\_\_\_.  
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Community Group Curriculum  
For the week of November 17, 2013  
"Illuminate: Worship That God Ignites – Part 2"

**BIG IDEA:** When we worship the way God wants, our worship is accepted.

**LET'S DIG IN!**

1. Read Isaiah 58:1-9

- a) The people of Israel are gathered together for worship, but there is a problem. What is the problem (58:1-2)? Read Luke 18:9-14 for another example of this behavior.
  
- b) What question do the bewildered people of Israel ask (58:3)? Why is 58:3 a poor attitude with which to approach God in prayer?

Key Point: What establishes true religion is not what is acceptable to man, but what is acceptable to the Lord (Isaiah 56:6-7).

c) What answer does the Lord give to His people (58:3-5)? List the issues God has with His people.

d) Why is 58:6-7 a better preparation for prayer? How can you apply this in your own life?

e) What are some of the benefits and blessings the Lord confers upon those who practice true worship (58:8-9)? Share in your group examples of when the Lord answered your call for help.

2. A great definition of worship is expressing your affection to God, focusing your attention on God and using your abilities for God. With that definition in mind, how do you combat "going through the motions" in these key spiritual disciplines:

Prayer -

Hearing God's Word –

Reading God's Word –

Applying God's Word -

Quiet time with God –

Meeting together corporately (Sunday) –

Giving –

Fellowship -

3. Read Malachi 1:6-14.

a) What is wrong with their gift-giving? List the ways the people are going through the motions.

b) In what ways do Christians disrespect God today? What can we do to try and ensure that our worship does not become false?

c) What does this passage have to say about the responsibility of Christian leaders in the life of the Christian community today?

Question to consider: Which is more pleasing to God right now: my public worship or my private worship (read Mark 12:30)? What will I do about it?

4. We worship God willingly and obediently because God is a great and loving God. Read the following verses that confirm this: Psalm 62:7-8, Psalm 116:5, 1 Corinthians 1:9, 1 John 4: 7-9, 16. How else would you describe God's love toward us?

### **PRAYER**

"Father, we pray that You might impress on our hearts Your greatness and glory. Let the thought of Your complete sovereignty over all things cause us both to fear You and to worship You with joyous awe. Let Your power and the mystery of Your purposes not discourage us, but rather spur us on to greater faith and devotion. In our worship let us have a settled confidence that You do all things well."

### **FINAL THOUGHT**

The heart of worship is surrender. In our competitive world we're taught to never quit trying, never give up – so we don't hear much about surrendering. Yet the Bible teaches us that rather than trying to win, succeed, overcome and conquer, we should instead yield, submit, obey and surrender. Surrendering is best demonstrated with God. You say, "Yes, Lord" to whatever He asks of you. Surrendered people obey God's Word, even when it doesn't make sense. When we completely surrender ourselves to Jesus, we discover that Jesus is not a tyrant but a Savior, not a boss but a Brother, not a dictator but a Friend.