

## ***STUDY ONE: WORSHIP AS A RESPONSE***

Worship of God in the Old Testament was always a response.

The following verses all contain worship in response to God; either something God had done (deeds) or a characteristic of God (trait).

Categorize the verses as to whether they are in response to deeds (D) or traits (T):

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Exodus 4:31
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Exodus 12:27
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Exodus 33:10
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 24:48
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Judges 7:13-15
6. \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Chronicles 7:3
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 66:4-5
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 72:11-14
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 86:8-10
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 99:9
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 138:2

What deeds has God done in your life for which you worship Him?

For what traits of God do you worship Him?

It may be easy to worship God in the “rear-view mirror”, when we see how He has worked in our past.

How was the worship in Judges 7:13-15 different from the others? On what was it based?

Gideon’s worship came after he heard a dream and its interpretation, but *before* the dream’s fulfillment.

How wonderful it would be if we could get to the point where we not only worship God retroactively, for what He has done in the past, but also prospectively, anticipating what He will do in our future. His promises are sure, and we can worship Him now for any future fulfillment.

Choose one thing God promises to fulfill in the future that you can claim and worship Him for now.

How will doing this affect your stress level?

## ***STUDY TWO: WORSHIP AS WISE***

Read Matthew 2:1-2, 11

### **1. The Wise Men Knew Scripture**

Have you ever wondered how these wise men knew to follow this star?

Little is stated about the Wise Men in Scripture. Matthew 2:1 says they came from the east. Some scholars suggest these men (probably more than three) came from Babylon, where the Jews were taken into captivity during the Exile. According to the ancient historian Herodotus, the Magi were a tribe of people within a larger people called the Medes,<sup>1</sup> who lived in Babylon at the time and are prominent in the book of Daniel – in fact, Daniel was appointed their chief (see Daniel 5:11). With this background, they were probably well aware of Numbers 24:17.

What does Numbers 24:17 reveal? What does a scepter generally imply?

Genuine worship requires knowledge of Scripture.

### **2. The Wise Men Traveled a Long Way**

What's the most beautiful place you have been?

What all did you do before you went to this place?

We spend a lot of time planning for vacations – looking at pictures, researching places to stay, talking to others who have been there. But we cannot really *know* the place until we go for ourselves.

It is not enough just to know about Jesus – we must go to Him.

The wise men saw the star and knew it was related to a King, but then they acted on that knowledge.

What all do demons believe, according to Mark 1:23-24 and James 2:19?

Even though the demons believe these things, they do not worship. Knowledge is not worship. Searching for and finding Jesus will lead to worship.

### 3. The Wise Men Gave Costly Gifts

What's the costliest gift you have ever given? What's the costliest gift you have ever received?

What three things did the wise men give?

What do you know about these things?

Notice that the wise men gave out of their "treasures". This word in Greek is "thesauros", which means a place where good and precious things are stored.<sup>2</sup>

True worship will be costly. We will want to give something of value to Jesus.

What do you have in your treasures that you could give to Jesus?

Extra credit: What gift is missing in Isaiah 60:6? Considering the context of Isaiah 60 refers to Christ's second coming, why do you think this is? See John 19:38-40 for additional insight.

1. MacArthur, John. "Grace To You." *Who Were the Wise Men?* 2014. Web. 18 May 2014. <<http://www.gty.org/resources/sermons/2182/who-were-the-wise-men>>.

2. "Thesauros." *BibleStudyTools.com*. 2014. Web. 18 May 2014. <<http://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/greek/kjv/thesauros.html>>

### ***STUDY THREE: WORSHIP AND EMOTION***

What personality tests have you taken? Do you tend to agree with the results?

There are multiple personality tests available on the Internet. If you access any social media site, you can find out what color you are, what gemstone you are, what state you are, your emotional IQ. While these are fun, our real emotional test is found in Matthew 15:8-9.

Read Matthew 15:7-9.

Why did Jesus call them hypocrites? (See Matthew 15:3-6)

What's the relationship between emotions and worship?

Jesus said we are to worship in spirit and in truth. That is, our worship is based on God's truths, not emotions. However, our worship should elicit emotions. The Pharisees and teachers of the law had the external form of worship, but there was no internal evidence, thus nullifying their worship.

How can we know if our worship is genuine based on emotion? Read the following verses and write the emotion that may result from worship:

Psalms 51:17: \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 42:1: \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 33:8: \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 100:4: \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 32:11: \_\_\_\_\_

Read Psalm 73.

How are the verses after verse 17 different from the ones before verse 17?

Not only will worship elicit emotions such as remorse, longing, awe, gratefulness, and joy, it will give us a heavenly perspective. Worship has the capability of completely reversing our bitterness, resentment, and anger and transforming them into satisfaction, hope and joy.

When has worship changed your perspective?

The next time you are in a bad mood, worship God and see what happens.

## STUDY FOUR: WORSHIP AND THE PROGRESSION OF GOD'S GLORY

God's glory was made manifest many times in the Bible. It appeared and disappeared in various places.

Read the following verses and describe where God's glory appeared:

Exodus 16:10	in the _____
Exodus 34:29-30:	on _____ (Also 2 Corinthians 3:7)
Exodus 40:34:	filling the _____
1 Kings 8:10-11:	filling the _____
Ezekiel 10:3-4:	moving from the _____ to the _____
Ezekiel 10:18-19:	moving from the _____ to the _____
Ezekiel 11:22-23:	from inside the _____ to _____
Matthew 17:1-2:	_____
2 Corinthians 3:18:	_____

How do John and Peter affirm the glory in Matthew 17:1-2? See John 1:14 and 2 Peter 1:16-18.

We see God's glory coming with the giving of the law, then hovering in the tabernacle, then the temple, then leaving the temple. Then God's glory was clearly revealed in Jesus in the Transfiguration (this "dropping" of His humanity before His death means He voluntarily and completely chose to die for us. He could have received this glory back whenever He wanted, but chose to die first).

Where does God's glory now reside on earth?

As we reflect God's glory, we are being transformed more and more like Him. The word "transformed" is the Greek word "metamorphoo", which means to change into another form.<sup>1</sup> It is the same Greek word used in Matthew 17:2.

One of our jobs in worship is to give glory to God. How can we reflect God's glory?

How else can the world witness God's glory?

1. "Metamorphoo." *BibleStudyTools.com*. 2014. Web. 19 May 2014. <<http://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/greek/kjv/metamorphoo.html>>.

## ***STUDY FIVE: WORSHIP AND MANNA***

Read Exodus 16:4-8, 14-18, 31, 35.

The Hebrew word for manna means “what is it.”<sup>2</sup>

What did God call the manna?

Exodus 16:7:            the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

Exodus 16:12:           \_\_\_\_\_

Nehemiah 9:15:        \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 78:25:          \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

According to Deuteronomy 8:3, why did God send the manna?

Just imagine going to bed every night....with no food in the house. What would this force us to do?

What does the manna represent? See John 6:48-51.

Describe the manna and how it represents Christ:

1. Exodus 16:14 – it was \_\_\_\_\_ (see also Philippians 2:7)

2. Exodus 16:14 – It was like \_\_\_\_\_ (NIV)

The root word in Hebrew is “kaphar,” which means to atone or cover. The Hebrew word for mercy seat is also from this root word.<sup>2</sup>

3. Exodus 16:16 – Each person received what he/she \_\_\_\_\_

Note that every person was required to gather their own, and it was sufficient for each person.

4. Exodus 16:31 – Its color was \_\_\_\_\_

5. Exodus 16:31 – It tasted \_\_\_\_\_

6. Exodus 16:21 – They needed it every \_\_\_\_\_

Reading the Bible or praying last year will not help you today – we need Jesus every day.

7. Exodus 16:17 – It cost \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus and His grace are completely free and available. All we have to do is bend down and accept it.

8. Deuteronomy 8:3-4 – It prevented \_\_\_\_\_

Miraculously, their diet kept them in good physical shape.

Just like manna, Jesus came from heaven and offers Himself to us every morning completely free of charge to completely satisfy us - exactly what (or rather, Who) we need.

What do you need this week that Jesus can supply?

Worship Him for being the Bread of Life.

1. "K@phowr." *BibleStudyTools.com*. 2014. Web. 19 May 2014. <<http://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/hebrew/kjv/kephowr.html>>.

2. "Man." *BibleStudyTools.com*. 2014. Web. 19 May 2014. <<http://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/hebrew/kjv/man.html>>..

## ***STUDY SIX: WORSHIP AND A NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLE***

Read John 12:1-3.

Describe what the following people were doing:

Martha:

Lazarus:

Mary:

These three were all worshiping, just in different ways. Martha worshiped through service. How will service be rewarded, according to John 12:26?

Lazarus worshiped by spending time with Jesus.  
What was Lazarus risking by being there? See John 12:9-11.

What did Mary know? See John 12:7. How could she have known this?

Describe Mary's two other encounters with Jesus:

1. Luke 10:39 (Notice where she was and what she did):
2. John 11:32:

Mary both listened at Jesus' feet in amazement and fell at Jesus' feet in distress.  
What did Jesus prophecy in Mark 8:31-33, Mark 9:30-31 (also alluded to in John 2:19)?

What was the disciples' reaction to these prophecies? See also John 2:22; 12:16; Mark 9:33-34.

Mary was an intent listener and follower of Jesus. She was rewarded for this by learning and understanding what would happen to Him. Too often we are like the disciples, too caught up in our own selfishness and greed, to really listen to and learn from Jesus.

Mary learned both to listen intently to Jesus, and to fall to His feet when she was upset. These led her to worship by giving extravagantly and voluntarily.

What was Jesus' response to Martha's complaint in Luke 10:41-42? "...Only \_\_\_\_\_ thing is needed, and Mary has chosen [it]..."

What was David's "one thing" in Psalm 27:4?

The main focus of our worship that is of primary importance is to spend time with Jesus. David and Mary had learned this.

As we spend time with Jesus and go to Him in our trials, our worship will be rewarded with Jesus saying, "You have done a beautiful thing" (Matthew 26:10).

## ***STUDY SEVEN: WORSHIP IN HARD TIMES, Part 1***

In this fallen world, we can expect times of trouble. How are we to worship in these times? Since worship is based on truth (John 4:24) that does not change (and not on our ever-changing emotions), it is possible to worship even when we do not feel like it. Of course, that does not mean it is easy. The Bible provides many examples of people who worshiped in difficult times. Let's look some of those today.

### **We can worship in times of DISEASE: Read John 11:1-6.**

What was the sickest you have ever been?

What do you tend to do when a loved one is sick?

What did Mary and Martha do (verse 3)?

Notice that Mary and Martha simply gave the issue to Jesus. They did not tell Him what to do; they laid the problem at His feet and appealed to Jesus' love for their brother.

What are the two parts of prayer in Psalm 37:5?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ it to God                      2. \_\_\_\_\_ Him

Too often we may give the problem to God, but then not trust Him with it.

What do we learn about the purpose of Lazarus' sickness?

When God works through sickness, His \_\_\_\_\_ is revealed.

We can worship in times of sickness because God purposes that He will get the glory.

How was God glorified in this? See John 11:43-45; 12:10-11.

We may never know the full extent of the glory God will get through sickness.

Note the theme of love in this passage (verses 3, 5, 36). We can be assured of Jesus' love during times of illness.

THE IRONY: Read John 11:46-48, 53. Note that the very miracle of raising a dead man set in motion Jesus' own death which would, in turn, give us life!

### **We can worship in times of DISABILITY: Read John 9:1-5.**

Describe any exposure you have had to disability (yourself and/or others):

Is it comforting that Jesus states disabilities are not caused by the person's (or their parents') sin? Explain.

How does Jesus redirect their question?

The disciples thought disabilities were some form of karma – in other words, a person got what they deserved. Jesus turned this idea upside down. He re-directed their focus from the “why” of disability to the “who” of the cure. He turned their focus from the darkness of blindness to the Light of the World, Himself.

What did Jesus say the purpose of the blind man's disability was?

We can worship God in disability, knowing God can be displayed in it.

The next time you see a disabled person, think about how God's work might be on display.

**We can worship in times of DEATH: Read 2 Samuel 12:13-23.**

When has someone close to you died?

What was your response?

Why did David's son die?

How was David's response to the illness different from his response to the death?

In such a tragic situation, for what could David worship God (verse 23)?

Thank God today that we have eternity to spend with our loved ones in heaven.

Know that sometimes God says, “No,” but we can still accept His will as best, and worship Him.<sup>1</sup> David's servants were amazed that he found comfort and joy and a desire to worship at the death of a child.<sup>1</sup> Who knows the witness we might have if we can do the same.

1. Deffinbaugh, Robert L. "The Death of David's Son." *Bible.org*. N.p., 1 June 2004. Web. 23 May 2014. <https://bible.org/seriespage/death-david's-son-2-samuel-1214-31>.

## ***STUDY EIGHT: WORSHIP IN HARD TIMES, Part 2***

So far, we have seen we can worship in times of disease, disability, and death. Today we will look at other difficult situations in which we can worship.

**We can worship in times of DESTITUTION: Read Habakkuk 3:17-18.**

How are these verses in stark contrast to chapter 1, verses 1-4?

Something happened in the intervening verses to cause this radical change in Habakkuk's attitude. After complaining about injustice, God spoke to him of His plans to use the Babylonians to punish Israel. This did not settle well either, so God told him of plans to destroy the Babylonians. Chapter 3 is Habakkuk's prayer after these revelations. This prayer reveals his change from complaining to worship.

What is your greatest worry right now?

On what did Habakkuk base his worship? See 3:2.

What great deeds has God done for you?

As Habakkuk reflected on what God had done in the past, he could be assured that God would remain faithful, loving, and merciful.

If you knew you would lose all your possessions tomorrow, what would you do?

Habakkuk had the foreknowledge that his nation would be overrun by foreigners, yet he could worship God. On what fact was his worship based (see verse 19)?

Habakkuk's worship was based on the fact that the great I AM was his strength. What was Paul's secret to contentment even in destitution, according to Philippians 4:12-13?

With Christ as our strength, we can worship even in times of need.

**We can worship in times of DESPAIR: Read Job 1:18-21.**

What all did Job lose (see also verses 2-3, 14-17)?

Not only did Job lose numerous animals and his children, he lost a great number (two superlatives are used in verse 3) of servants. Job's loss was so catastrophic, it seems unimaginable.

What did Job do upon hearing this terrible news?

Job understandably mourned, and mourned deeply. But amazingly, as we read in the same verse, he also worshiped.

When have you received bad news? What was your reaction?

I venture to guess that worship may not have been one of the top five things you did! It may not even make the top ten! And yet, that is exactly what Job did. How could he do this?

Job's worship was based on two facts about God, revealed to us by Job himself in verse 21.

1. God \_\_\_\_\_
2. God \_\_\_\_\_

Job's worship was not dependent on his circumstances. His worship focused on God's control; on the fact that God is the great Giver and Taker.

What had Satan hoped Job would do? See Job 1:11.

When we feel like cursing God, we should instead worship God.

We have seen that it is possible and appropriate to worship God in circumstances such as disease, disability, death, destitution and despair. These are certainly times we may not feel like worshipping, but since worship is based on truth, we can worship in these situations because of what we know of God. The *facts* are: He is good, He is gracious, He is merciful, He is ever-present, He is loving, and He is in control.

What other "He is" statements can you add to the above list?

## ***STUDY NINE: WORSHIP AND THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD***

Are you right- or left-handed?

If you are left-handed, what struggles have you encountered?

The right hand of God is mentioned multiple times in Scripture. Let's explore what that means by looking at several together.

Write the following Scriptures under the correct heading for the symbolism of "right" used in the verse(s):

*Genesis 48:13-20*

*Exodus 15:6*

*Psalms 16:8*

*Psalms 16:11*

*Psalms 17:7*

*Psalms 18:35*

*Psalms 44:3*

*Psalms 45:4*

*Psalms 63:8*

*Psalms 98:1*

*Psalms 118:15-16*

*Psalms 139:10*

*Isaiah 41:10*

*Isaiah 48:13*

**Prominence**

**Power**

**Presence**

**Preservation**

**Purification**

**Pleasures**

**Creation**

Match the verses below with the same headings:

<b>Prominence</b>	<i>Colossians 1:17</i>
<b>Power</b>	<i>1 John 1:9</i>
<b>Presence</b>	<i>Philippians 2:9; Colossians 1:18</i>
<b>Preservation</b>	<i>Song of Solomon 1:3</i>
<b>Purification</b>	<i>Colossians 1:15-16</i>
<b>Pleasures</b>	<i>Revelation 5:12, 2 Peter 1:2-3</i>
<b>Creation</b>	<i>Matthew 28:20</i>

Who is at God's right hand? (See *Acts 7:55, Romans 8:34, Ephesians 1:20, Hebrews 1:3*)

Whenever we read "right hand of God" in the Bible, we can simply insert "\_\_\_\_\_."

As God's "right-hand-man," how has Jesus fulfilled these roles in your life?

**Prominence**

**Power**

**Presence**

**Preservation**

**Purification**

**Pleasures**

**Creation**

## ***STUDY TEN: WORSHIP AND... WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE?***

### **WHY**

What “why” questions would you like to ask God?

There are numerous examples of “why” questions in the Bible. Prominent and godly men like Moses, Joshua, Gideon, Job, David, the sons of Korah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Habakkuk, Peter, and even Jesus Himself asked God, “why?” (see end of lesson for a listing of examples). These questions generally regarded the situation they faced and/or injustice. Occasionally God answered, sometimes after a mild rebuke. Occasionally no answer was given, but the person questioning came to certain truthful realizations about God. One rare instance in particular occurred when the Israelites questioned God and Moses about why He had brought them out of Egypt to die, and complained that they detested manna. At this, God sent poisonous snakes.

I have experienced both situations (well, not the snakes). In one instance, I sincerely and passionately questioned God, and He answered with logical and loving answers. At another time, I questioned (okay, complained to) God and he clearly impressed upon me to “Be still, and know that I am God!” I think His answers (when He chooses to give them) differ according to our motive: are we sincere and humble in the asking, believing Him to be loving and gracious regardless? If so and we receive no answer, we can be comforted by His presence and promises. But if we grumble and complain with a heart full of blame, He may (in love) give us a stern rebuke.

From the following Biblical examples, we see it is perfectly okay to ask difficult “why” questions of God. He is certainly big enough to handle whatever we ask!

### **BAD THINGS**

What are some “bad things” that have happened to you?

What was Job’s conclusion about “bad things” in Job 2:10?

Job’s take was that we should accept good, as well as bad, things from God. God, as the source of all things, can be trusted for His inherent goodness, mercy, and justice.

According to Romans 8:28, in what things does God work?

The words "all things" are "pas" in the Greek, and means "each, every, any, all, everything."<sup>1</sup> From God's perspective, the things we consider "bad" may not be so bad in light of eternity and God's purposes.

## **GOOD PEOPLE**

Who do you consider one of the best people who ever lived? Why?

What standards does society use for defining "good" people?

What did Jesus say about good people in Mark 10:17-18?

What had the man called Jesus (rather ironically)?

As much as we would like to believe we are good, the Bible says otherwise.

What does Romans 3:10-12 reveal about man?

Consider this... Did you directly teach your children to disobey? Lie? Did you insist they never share? Of course not. We are born sinners; pride and selfishness do not need to be taught. It's a hard lesson to realize these things come naturally to us all. No one is inherently good.

We have seen that asking "Why?" is appropriate with the right motive, but things we perceive as "bad" may not be bad, and no one is good except Jesus, who was God. Maybe the more appropriate question is, "Why do good things happen to bad people?"

List all your blessings that come to mind at this moment in time:

Worship God for the fact that He blesses us with so much when we do not deserve anything.

The next time you are tempted to ask God "why" in your circumstances, read Ephesians 1:3-14, Ephesians 2:1-10, and Romans 8:18. Ask away, but then worship, praise and thank God for His many blessings, whether He clearly answers or not.

1. "Pas." *BibleStudyTools.com*. N.p., 2014. Web. 27 May 2014. <<http://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/greek/nas/pas.html>>.

**Examples of “Why” questions in the Bible (outcome in parentheses):**

**Numbers 11:11:** He (**Moses**) asked the LORD, “**Why** have you brought this trouble on your servant? What have I done to displease you that you put the burden of all these people on me? (God had a plan to help Moses)

**Numbers 21:5:** **they (Israelites)** spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “**Why** have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!” (God sent snakes)

**Joshua 7:7:** And **Joshua** said, “Alas, Sovereign LORD, **why** did you ever bring this people across the Jordan to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us? If only we had been content to stay on the other side of the Jordan! (God gave Joshua a little reprimand and an answer)

**Judges 6:13:** Pardon me, my lord,” **Gideon** replied, “but if the LORD is with us, **why** has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the LORD has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.”

(God said “Go, I’m sending you”)

**Job 7:20:** (**Job**) If I have sinned, what have I done to you, you who see everything we do? **Why** have you made me your target? Have I become a burden to you? (God waited a long time, then answered Job out of a storm with many questions)

**Psalms 10:1:** (**David**) **Why**, LORD, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble? (God didn’t answer but David came to the conclusion that God does notice)

**Psalms 44:24:** (**Sons of Korah**) **Why** do you hide your face and forget our misery and oppression? (No answer – they call out to God)

**Isaiah 63:17:** (**Isaiah**) **Why**, LORD, do you make us wander from your ways and harden our hearts so we do not revere you? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes that are your inheritance. (God answered that He notices)

**Jeremiah 12:1:** (**Jeremiah**) You are always righteous, LORD, when I bring a case before you. Yet I would speak with you about your justice: **Why** does the way of the wicked prosper? Why do all the faithless live at ease? (God answered that justice will come)

**Habakkuk 1:13:** (**Habakkuk**) Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing.

**Why** then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves? (God answered that justice will come)

**Matthew 27:46:** (**Jesus**) About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*” (which means “My God, my God, **why** have you forsaken me?”). (God’s silence)

**John 13:37:** **Peter** asked, “Lord, **why** can’t I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.”<sup>2</sup> (Jesus answered with mild rebuke and prediction)

*New International Version. Bible Gateway. Web. 27 May 2014.*