

LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE



FALL 2019

Week of September 1

Rearrange: SUNDAY SERIES
Rearrange our Worship: SERMON FOCUS

DISCUSSION FOCUS

Read (Primary Text): Romans 12:1-2

Supporting Texts: Exodus 20:3-4; Exodus 32; Deuteronomy 5:7-8; Deuteronomy 29:1-29; Isaiah 6:1-13; Isaiah 42:8; Ephesians 5:1-5; Colossians 3:1-17.

MAIN IDEA: Our lives are to be spent in worship to God.

STARTER QUESTIONS

- Who is the most passionate person you know? What characterizes them?
- How would you define worship to someone who doesn't go to church?
- How can you tell what is the most important thing to someone?

OBSERVE

How does Paul, in Romans 12:1-2, describe worship? What goes in to worshipping God? (*Present their bodies (i.e. everything they have) in service, as a sacrifice, to God*)

Paul gives a warning of what not to do and then commends an activity of what to do. What are these? (*Do not be conformed to this world, be transformed by the renewal of your mind*)

What reason does Paul give for why readers should take his advice? (*That they may discern the will of God*)

INTERPRET

How does Paul's account of worship differ from how you may have thought of worship in the past? (*Perhaps you've thought of worship as being only something we do on Sundays, or only singing songs, or doing "spiritual" things – Paul here is saying our lives are to be lived in worship to the Lord*)

In this text, we are called to surrender our entire lives to God in worship. At the heart of that is what Paul references as being "transformed by the renewal of your minds." Based on this passage and those referenced above (e.g. Ephesians 5:1-5 and Colossians 3:1-17), how are we transformed? (*We are transformed through the word of the Lord and conformity to his character*)

Similar to the previous question, how can we most clearly determine the will of God for our lives (i.e. what transforms us and renews our minds)? (*Through understanding and applying the scriptures*)
How does this inform our worship?

RESPOND

How does this passage challenge you to change how you think about worship?

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In the Scriptures, putting anything or anyone in the position God alone deserves. Some questions to consider that can reveal how you might be inclined to do this is to ask yourself, "Where do you go for comfort?" "What makes life worth living?" "What do you look forward to most?" What are you inclined to worship other than God alone?

How does Romans 12:1-2 give us hope when we may fail to worship God rightly? (*The gospel transforms us and God's word always stands ready to renew our minds. That is to help us not be conformed to this world.*)

APPLY

In keeping with the theme of our series, how might the Lord be challenging you to "rearrange" your worship?

What would it look like to see what fills your days (e.g. your job, parenting, relationships) as opportunities to worship the Lord?

If our lives are to be lived in worship to the Lord, how does this change how you view gathering with the church on Sunday? (*We come together with God's people to worship the Lord and bring glory to him and build up one another*)

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