

SOUND DOCTRINE: (Week 1) – Group Guide

Icebreaker: The Soundtrack of Your Life

Pastor Micah shared a core memory of singing praise choruses with his friends at a middle school Fall retreat.

- **Question:** What is a song, album, or band that instantly transports you back to a specific core memory in your life? Share the memory briefly with the group! Or make a Spotify playlist together to share.
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1. The True Definition of Worship

Micah noted that over the last couple of decades, the word "worship" has mistakenly become synonymous with music. He defined worship as "seeing God rightly and responding to Him accordingly".

- If worship is seeing God rightly and responding to Him with the submission of our lives, how does this change the way you view your everyday routines outside of Sunday mornings?
 - Can you share an example of a time you "worshiped" God through an action that had nothing to do with singing?
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2. The Danger of Consumer Christianity

The sermon warned that we are in danger of creating idols out of our local church gatherings if we care more about our musical offerings than our heart offerings. Micah referenced Amos 5:21-23, where God says He hates and despises the solemn assemblies and the noise of their songs because the people's hearts were in the wrong place.

- Why do you think it is so easy for us to make worship about our own preferences (like song genre or sermon style) rather than about seeking the heart of God?
- How can we individually guard against a consumer mindset when we walk through the church doors?

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3. Leaving in Awe of the Savior

Micah shared a story about American pastors in the 1880s who traveled to London. After hearing one famous preacher, they marveled at what a great preacher he was. But after hearing Charles Spurgeon, they left proclaiming, "What a great Savior!"

- When was the last time you left a gathering or finished a time of personal devotion simply overwhelmed by the greatness of Jesus?
- What practical steps can we take to ensure we are exalting the person of Christ rather than just enjoying the "activity" or entertainment of a church service?

4. A Posture of Expectancy

The group was challenged with a hard question: "Do we really expect to encounter God when we come to Church?". Micah suggested that sometimes we prefer to keep God at arm's length because drawing near to His holiness requires us to confront our sin, much like Isaiah did in Isaiah 6.

- True biblical revival always begins with repentance. Why is seeing our own sin rightly a necessary step before we can truly worship the King of Glory?

Closing Prayer:

To close, pray the prayer that Micah shared at the end of the sermon out loud - as a group:

"Spirit of God, cause me to have a desperate dependence, an eager expectation and a humble responsiveness to Your leading that is grounded in the Scriptures.

Fill my personal worship of You, and our congregation's worship of You, with the beauty of the cross - and the confidence that comes with it by grace - that we might worship fully in Spirit and Truth and that we might magnify You rightly.

In the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit - Amen."