

WEEK OF 10/19/25

WHY DO WE WORSHIP?

PSALMS 95:1-7_A

Silence (1-2 minutes)

Sit silently for a minute as a way to center your heart and invite the Holy Spirit to help you listen to and receive God's Word.

Opening Prayer (2-3 minutes)

Read: Psalms 95:1-7a

Devotional (30- 45 minutes)

This week we will focus on "Why do we worship?". Worshipping in a group is powerful because it demonstrates that although we are all different people, we can remain a united group focused on God and what Jesus' sacrifice has done for us. "In a fragmented and weary culture, exhausted by shrill division, the church has an opportunity to model something better, something rare, strange, and wonderful: People who are different from each other, joining together to sing, in unison, in praise of the living God." (Brett McCracken)

1. What is your favorite meal and why is it your favorite?"

Psalm 95:1-2 | Like our favorite meal or a good movie, we just can't keep it to ourselves, and we want to tell others about it with enthusiasm. In the first two verses of this passage, the Psalmist uses the word "us", "we", or "our" 5 times. Consider the 4 phrases that the Psalmist uses with these words "us," "we," "our." Something unique and special happens when we worship together as one. We are focused on God and there is power in that moment, we are united together as the people of God.

- 2. What is similar about each of the phrases?
- 3. What emotions are communicated with these phrases?

Psalms 95:3-5 | In these verses the Psalmist is listing what God is capable of and has done. Imagine that your best friend comes to you bursting with some news. They keep saying phrases like, 'isn't it great!', 'isn't 'it the coolest thing you've ever seen'. And you say, "What is cool, what is great?" They reply, "well, there's God, you know, the God who ..."

- 4. How do these verses about God inspire awe in you?
- 5. How can you explain God to others so that awe can be inspired in them?

Psalms 95:6-7 | These verses bring it home. Joyful worship is because we stand in awe of God. He's nothing like us, He is so far better than us, He's perfect! This brings us to our big idea: We worship because He is God, and we are his people. Worship gives us identity and value because He is the Creator of the universe and has chosen us, despite our flaws, failures and forgetfulness.

- 6. Verse 7 says, "For He is our God" We have a choice of "gods." What are some of the things we choose to be our god in place of the only true God?
- 7. How does being "the sheep of His hand" (meaning under His special care and conduct) move us to worship?
- 8. What does the realization of who God is and what He has done have in changing our focus on worship?

Closing Prayer

Let's read this song as our prayer:

I stand amazed in the presence Of Jesus the Nazarene, And wonder how he could love me, A sinner, condemned, unclean.: How marvelous! How wonderful! And my song shall ever be: How marvelous! How wonderful! Is my Savior's love for me! He took my sins and my sorrows, He made them his very own; He bore the burden to Calvary, And suffered and died alone. How marvelous! How wonderful! And my song shall ever be: How marvelous! How wonderful! Is my Savior's love for me!

Amen