

Summer of Personal Worship

WEEK 1 – PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP

We start our journey focusing on our own personal connection to God. He has invited us into a relationship with Him and requires intentionality on our part to engage with our whole heart, mind, soul and strength. Over the next 7 days you are encouraged to examine your relationship with God and seek to grow it. A large part of that connection involves prayer; talking with God.

As we start this journey it is ok to admit that sometimes we struggle when we worship as we get distracted or are even uncertain what to do or say. Let the Holy Spirit be your guide this week. Be straightforward with God and tell Him your thoughts and ask Him to guide and inspire you.

Review the scripture, reflection video, praise song and prayer below to prepare yourself for the upcoming week. Reflect on each activity and speak with God about your relationship with Him. Ask Him to reveal areas you can grow this week.

SCRIPTURE - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 New International Version (NIV):

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus”.

REFLECTION VIDEO - *Why pray?*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I2r0K7Gntaw>

PRAISE SONG - *Lord I need you*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rR_Rdb1CTE&list=PLo4pJXb5b4pp3fWcKbzwNMVTn85Rv61-n

PRAYER - Consider adopting this as your daily prayer for the week.

God—you’re my God! I can’t get enough of you! I’ve want to have a hunger and thirst for you as I go about my day. So here I am in the place of worship, eyes open, drinking in your strength and glory. In your generous love I want to really live. Draw me close to you. AMEN (modified Psalm 63)

Day 1 - Revival

Is it possible that our fire for Jesus does not burn with the same intensity as when we first sought to be His follower. Read the following scripture and talk with God about how it may apply to you.

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land”. 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)

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Day 2 - Repentance

Our relationship with God is affected by our willingness to acknowledge our shortfalls including not giving Him full acknowledgement as to who He is. Read the following scripture and meditate on it and then speak with God.

“Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.”³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” **Luke 5:31-32**

Day 3 - Resisting temptation

Everyone is vulnerable to temptation. If we choose not to acknowledge its potential to cause harm we can make choices that are not right for us. These choices create a barrier between us and God because He wants what is good for us not what harms us. When we make these bad choice we are telling Him that His advice is not good enough for us.

It is possible to know our weakness and so we should seek to avoid them. We can share with a friend who can help us in our struggle and we can call on God’s power.

Read the following scripture and reflect on it. Know that God will provide a way out. Talk with Him about the things that derail you and then ask for His strength and protection.

“No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it”. **1 Corinthians 10:13**

Day 4 - Forgiveness

We live in a world where people intentionally or unintentionally do things that offend others. Sometime we can move on, but it becomes more difficult to do so when the person who offended us is a friend or family member. Carrying an anger and bitterness against that person tends to harm us more than them and it affects our relationship with God. We are called to love one another as Jesus loves and that requires forgiving those who have hurt us. Forgiving does not mean the other person actions were acceptable. They must deal with the consequence of their actions, however we must not allow their actions to continue to bother us. Forgiving does not necessarily mean you will forget and so we must seek the fellowship of those who love us to help us overcome.

Read the scripture below and ask yourself whether you need to forgive another. Talk with God about your situation and possibly seek the counsel of a wise and trusted friend to help you deal with your forgiveness.

“Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you” **Ephesians 4:31-32.**

Day 5 - Addiction

When we think of the subject of addiction we generally think of items such as gambling, alcohol, or drugs. However the world has managed to entice with many more cravings that prevent us

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from having a relationship with God, family, friends, colleagues and community. These addictions prevent us from having life to the full and include things such as but not limited to: television, Internet or other social media, work, foods, appearance, sex, and video games.

Read the following scripture and mediate on it reflecting on whether anything other than God is the master of your life. Speak with God about this.

“I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but I will not be mastered by anything” **1 Corinthians 6:12**

Day 6 - Worship

How do you honour God? We are in week 1 of 9 of a journey focused on worship, however have you thought about how you worship God. There is no doubt that we have preferences linked to our personalities and characteristics. This suggests that some can connect with God by walking in the woods or getting up at 4:00 AM to pray while others cannot. God designed us to worship Him with our whole lives, and there are actually spiritual habits that we can build into our lives that help us worship God more deeply. Habits such as: prayer, scripture reading, sing songs of praise, being obedient, being good stewards of our resources (tithing for example), building relationship with other believers, sharing our faith, serving others, being thankful, or turning new parts of our life over to God. We need to examine what we are doing now and find out how we can worship God with all of us.

Read the scripture below and reflect on how you worship God. Ask Him to show you how you could become the living sacrifice that worships Him with all of you. .

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will”. **Romans 12:1-2.**

Day 7 - Mindset

The people who forcefully grab hold of the kingdom have a heavenly mindset. This is very important for advancing the kingdom in our personal lives here on earth. It is for this reason that Satan is always attacking our minds with doubts, fears, and worldly thoughts, etc. Satan wants to keep believers from focusing on what really matters, and that is God and his kingdom.

Read the scripture below and take some time to meditate on it and talk with God about your struggles to keep focus on Him.

“Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming”. **1 Peter 1:13**