

# Worship



## Bible Study: Giving Grateful Praise

Take time to read slowly through Psalm 100:

- 1 Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.
- 3 Know that the Lord is God.  
It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
- 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.
- 5 For the Lord is good and his love endures for ever;  
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

*Psalm 100 (NIV)*

You may well be struck by the repeated encouragement to joy and delight in worship. The source of such exuberance is not to be found simply in our emotions or circumstances, nor can it be artificially constructed. Rather it comes when we recognise the truth about God.

Verse 3 celebrates God's very existence. The words "Know that the Lord is God" invite our imaginations to run riot. All that we know of this energy-filled, expanding, beautiful, pulsating, mysterious, wonder-filled universe is but a pointer to its creating source, the living God. And we, human beings, are at the heart of that creation.

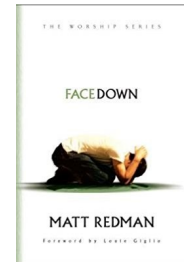
The last verse of the Psalm spells out why joy, thanksgiving and praise are at the heart of worship, for it speaks of God's character. God is good. Merciful love is the very heart of God's being, and God is truly faithful.

Questions To Ponder:

- What does it mean for you to delight in God? What helps you to do so?
- "God is good. Merciful love is the very heart of God's being, and God is truly faithful." How helpful are these words in expressing your experience of God?
- The Psalm calls on all the earth to shout for joy. What is your experience of the worship of people from other churches than our own, including in other countries? How has it enriched your own worship?

### Non-Fiction Books

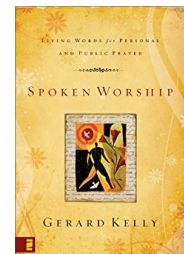
#### • FACEDOWN



Matt Redman

Matt Redman says, "When we face up to the glory of God, we find ourselves face down in worship." This is a challenging read about how we should be worshipping God.

#### • SPOKEN WORSHIP



Gerard Kelly

A book of poems to be read aloud or silently, suitable for use in worship, shared with groups or read privately. There are poems for different settings and occasions, as well as performance notes to enhance the power and contribution of poetry in worship.

# Worship Together

*“All true worship is God-centred. As we acknowledge the mystery and glory of the eternal God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we are moved to offer our praise and confess our sins, confident of God’s mercy and forgiveness. God’s acts of grace and love in creation and salvation are recounted and celebrated, and we respond with thanksgiving, intercession and the offering of our lives.”*

*Methodist Worship Book, 1999, p vii*



1. If worship involves giving our praise to God and receiving the message he has for us, how can we ensure that those who facilitate acts of worship are ‘fed’ themselves?
2. What do you think of the idea that we can choose to worship whether we feel like it or not?
3. If worship is about the things we think are of worth/ value, what does worship at your church reveal about the things you value?
4. The Bible has strong warnings against the worship of ‘idols’. Are there things in your Church that may have become like ‘idols’ – they are not of central importance but they are treated as essential ingredients of worship?
5. If worship involves ‘focusing on God’s presence with us’ are there things in your church premises or services that help or hinder this?
6. How can we continue to worship seven days a week, outside the church buildings?

Andrew Roberts encourages us to consider:

How are children and young people being nurtured to practise the holy habit of worship?

Are they passive recipients or active participants?

How might their gifts, insights and natural sense of wonder be a blessing to others?

## For Personal Reflection from Andrew Roberts

Review your rhythm of worship. How could you begin or refresh a daily pattern of worship? To what extent is worship a way of life for you?

Take some time to experience worship in different forms and from different traditions. Take a look at what some Fresh Expressions are doing. Note what you discover to be helpful and build that into your own patterns of worship. Practise being generous in your attitude towards styles of worship that you personally find less helpful.