

Small Group Notes

Date: 01/01/23

Key verses: Psalm 96

Thought Blub

We didn't have a Sermon this Sunday because we had our New Year's day worship evening. Let's in Small groups think about focusing on Worship as we start the Year.

What is worship // Read together Psalm 96

- Psalm 96 gives us a really helpful context for the importance of meeting together to worship, and highlights 3 points: worship is a sign of what's to come, it's a signpost to the world, and is a sign of hope.
- Worship is a sign of what's to come: As we worship together, we experience part of our destiny, which is an eternity spent joining with all creation, all God's family, and all of Heaven, to give to God the praise that He's worthy of.
- Worship is a signpost to the world: Worship songs are a great format for sharing the gospel's truth. As we come together to collectively declare who God is, those who don't know Jesus are told about Him and witness the faith of many believers. Who could you invite to come and experience this collective worship?
- Worship is a sign of hope: All of us are on a journey, and as we worship together, we stand by each other, and share in each other's joys and burdens. The faith of those around us lifts us up, our load gets lighter, and we can have collective joy over good news, all on our journey towards Jesus through worship.
- What does that mean for us as individuals? It invites us to come having prepared our hearts, being expectant to meet with God, and listening to God for how He might use us to encourage others.

Group Discussion Questions

Welcome

If you don't eat together as a small group then you might want to start the group with some kind of ice breaker question. Remember to introduce yourselves when there are new people.

Worship

Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.

(Small group worship resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship)

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:

- What has God been speaking to you about this week? (*Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it*)

Word

- **Romans 12:1 says that our ultimate worship is laying down our whole lives. What practical ways can you think of to worship God throughout your life? What does laying down our whole lives look like?**
- **How would you describe worship, what other ways do you worship other than sung worship?**
- **As we start the year, what rhythms of worship do you want to set? Either sung worship or practical ways you can worship God throughout your life?**
- **How do you worship most naturally? How can you lean into doing that more consistently through this year?**

Witness

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?