

Worship is *Biblical* // Exercise 1

Directions:

1. Break up into three groups of three
2. Assign a manager, a recorder, and a spokesperson
3. Read **silently** 2 Samuel 6:1-19 (NRSV)
4. Answer the following questions:

Basic context

- a. How did David transport the ark the first time (v. 3)?
- b. Was this according to God's instructions? (See Ex. 25:12-15.)
- c. How did God respond when Uzzah touched the ark (v. 7)?
- d. What was David's response (v. 8-9)?
- e. How did David transport the ark the second time (vv. 12-15)?

Reflection

- f. According to this story, what might it mean for worship to be *biblical*?
- g. Look up the following passages. What are some worship practices that God instructs us to do?

Passage

Practice

Psalm 33:2-3

Colossians 3:16

1 Timothy 2:1

1 Timothy 4:13

- h. How would you respond to a friend who says, "It doesn't matter how we worship; God accepts whatever we think is best"?

Worship is *Biblical* // Exercise 2

Prayer of Confession

Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD,
and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
Do not remember the sins of our past
or our transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember us,
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!
For your name's sake, O LORD,
pardon our guilt, for it is great.
Turn to us and be gracious to us,
for we are lonely and afflicted.
Relieve the troubles of our hearts,
and bring us out of our distress.
Consider our afflictions and our trouble,
and forgive all our sins.



Branch, Stump of Jesse
by Elizabeth Steele Halstead

The First Place

Jesus, the perfect picture of the unseen God.
Maker of things we cannot comprehend.
Wisdom, the earth displays your strength and beauty.
Sovereign, yes, every throne knows you are God.

*Every inch of this universe belongs to you, O Christ.
For through you and for you it was made.
Your creation endures by the order of your hand.
So you must have in all things the first place.*

Victor, over sin and death you triumphed.
First-born, you've shown us life beyond the grave.
Bridegroom, we long for you in expectation.
Jesus, your church rejoices to proclaim.

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1. *Match* the three pieces for worship above (art, prayer, song) with these three passages:

Isaiah 11:1-2

Colossians 1:15-20

Psalm 25:6-7, 11, 16-18, NRSV

2. Based on your observations in the matching task, what else might it mean for us to plan worship that is *biblical*?
3. Using *Lift Up Your Hearts*, identify three songs that use texts from the book of Isaiah. (Hint: Use the scripture index on p. 1070.)
4. Using any one of a few provided resources, identify a visual art that captures well (in whole or in part) Isaiah 25:6. (Hint: Make use of indexes)

Worship is *Biblical* // Exercise 3

Directions:

1. Read silently Hebrews 10:19-22 (NRSV)
2. Answer the following questions:

Basic context

- a. Where do we have confidence to enter (v. 19)?
- b. The “sanctuary” is the “Holy of Holies” (see Hebrews 9:3), the innermost part of the tabernacle where the high priest approached the presence of God with the blood of goats and rams to make atonement on behalf of the people (see Hebrews 9:6-7). By whose blood do we have confidence to enter (Heb. 10:19)?
- c. Who is the great high priest spoken of in Heb. 10:21? (See Heb. 9:11.)
- d. Jesus is *both* the high priest who enters the presence of God AND the sacrifice (i.e., the blood) for our sins. (Take a moment to think about how awesome that is!) Because of Jesus, how can we approach God (Heb. 10:22)?
- e. Jesus is the great high priest who enters the presence of God and offers the perfect sacrifice for us. Who ultimately leads us into the presence of God? Who offers perfect worship on our behalf?

Reflection

- a. If worship is to be *biblical*, who should be our focus in our planning and leading?
- b. Jesus leads us into the presence of God. Through him our sacrifices are perfected. How is this good news for us as human worship leaders?
- c. It is common to hear that the role of worship leaders is to lead people into the presence of God. What do you think about this description?
- d. Come up with a two- or three-sentence welcome to Friday chapel that highlights the person and work of Jesus as our worship leader.