

Study Guide Questions

Series: Connected

Speaker: Andrew Boone

Message: Worship to Please God

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ENGAGE THE SCRIPTURES

Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 4:8

For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

- **Read Hebrews 12:28-29.** Are there wrong or inappropriate ways to worship God? Engage the Scriptures and review the following stories: the sacrifices offered by Cain & Abel (Genesis 4:1-7). How Nadab & Abihu did not wait for God's holy fire (Numbers 26:61). Saul's improper sacrifice (1 Samuel 10:8; 13:8-14). The gift of Ananias & Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11).

There are four components to HOW God wants to be worshiped:

- *Purity in worship is confessing and repenting of the sin the Holy Spirit reveals to you. Read 1 Peter 1:14-16; Psalms 139:23-24; 1 John 1:9-10.* Is this confession of sin different from confessing your sin at the moment of salvation? Do you view confession as a regular rhythm of the Christian life? Are you asking God to reveal the sin in your life? What does John say about those who believe they do not have any sin to confess?
- *Unity in worship is the intentional act amongst believers of restoring broken relationships to harmony. Read Matthew 5:23-24 & 1 John 4:20.* Why do fractured relationships grieve God? Why does He want us to pursue harmony before approaching Him in worship? Do you have a fractured relationship with anyone right now? What steps can you take to foster reconciliation?
- *Authenticity in worship is bringing gifts and acts that flow from a genuine heart. Read Matthew 15:7-9.* Have you ever felt like you are going through the motions without your heart being in it? How do you engage your heart in worship?



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- *Worshiping in truth is aligning ourselves to what God has revealed about Himself and ourselves. **Read John 4:21-24.*** What characteristics of God have been revealed to you through Scripture? Does where we worship matter? What is more important to God than where we worship? Jesus says that true worship is done in Spirit and truth. How do you see these two components in your worship?

With **WHAT** gifts and acts does God want to be worshiped?

- *Generosity pleases God. **Read Philippians 4:18 & 2 Corinthians 9:7.*** Does generosity always refer to financial gifts? What are some ways you exhibit generosity for Christ? Does generosity please God if it is done with a grumbling heart? What heart issues are exposed when someone is not able to cheerfully give to the Lord?
- *Caring for the vulnerable pleases God. **Read 1 Timothy 5:4 & Matthew 25:40.*** Why is caring for others seen as an act of worship that pleases God? Are acts of service something you are good at performing? Has your Small Group considered serving together? Discuss ways in which your Small Group could serve together in the church or in the community.
- *God is pleased when we use music to worship Him. **Read Hebrews 13:15-16.*** In what ways have you found worship to be a sacrifice? When you worship through song is your focus on God or do you find yourself distracted? Do you struggle with singing aloud out of concern for how you sound? Since our singing is for the Lord and not for us or those around us, is this a valid concern?
- Imagine that you are God and your children represent humanity. What do you want most from your children? How does understanding what we want from our children help you understand what God wants from us?
- **Read Ephesians 5:8-10.** What are some other things that please the Lord?



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