

# Discovery Group Church Practices

## 1 - Worship. Acts 16:16-34

### Connect & Encounter

- \* Check-in, Accountability, Prayer, Worship

### Receive God's Word: Acts 16:16-34

- \* Read the passage aloud and then retell it in your own words.
  - ~ What do we learn from the passage about God?
  - ~ What do we learn about ourselves as people?
  - ~ What do we learn about worship?
- \* Read the article on the other side.
  - ~ What does it mean to worship?
  - ~ Why is worship so important? Why is the worship of idols so hated by God?
  - ~ How can we better be a people of worship?

### Respond in Obedience

- \* Obey: What is Jesus calling you to *do* in obedience this week?
- \* Abide: Study and meditate on the following scriptures:
  - Exodus 20:1-6; Deuteronomy 6:1-19;
  - John 4:19-26; Romans 12:1-21

# Worship

Worship, clearly, is a central theme of the entire Bible. In our story, Paul and Silas worship in an unlikely situation and God reveals Himself.

“Jesus answered, ‘It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”  
— Luke 4:8

“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth..” — John 4:23

“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.” — Romans 12:1-2

Worship is both a way of life and an activity. We worship by doing all that we do for the glory of God and by orienting all of life around the object of our worship. We also engage in specific acts of worship: singing, speaking praise, giving, celebrating Communion, kneeling, etc. Consider the following:

1 Worship God only. Do not orient your life around anything else. Not around the idols of our context (money, power, comfort, security, success, etc). Not around our own pleasures, desires, passions or dreams. But around God alone.

2 Worship God in the Spirit. True worship comes from a person genuinely filled with the Spirit of God. It is an overflow of God’s life - His very breath - from within.

3 Worship God in truth. Worship God as He is - not as you would have Him to be or as your culture portrays Him to be. And worship Him in the manner He demands: in holiness and reverence, in faith and humility.

4 When you engage in practices of worship, you give God your full attention and you encounter Him. You can experience God in such times. You feel His presence. Your emotions are involved. You hear His voice speaking within. You burn with the conviction of sin or with zeal for His glory. You are aware of His love. It is good to have an expectancy of such experiences as we worship.