



I'm telling you, once and for all, that unless you return to square one and start over like children, you're not even going to get a look at the kingdom, let alone get in. Whoever becomes simple and elemental again, like this child, will rank high in God's kingdom. What's more, when you receive the childlike on my account, it's the same as receiving me. Matthew 18:3-5 (MSG)

- The wonder of God is experienced in simply **trusting** God.

I pray that the God who gives hope will fill you with much joy and peace while you trust in him... Romans 15:13 (NCV)

- The wonder of God is experienced in the **love** of God.

May you be able to feel and understand, as all God's children should, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high his love really is; and to experience this love for yourselves... Ephesians 3:19 (TLB)

9 God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. 10 This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. 1 John 4:9-10 (NLT)

- We can't celebrate God's love **for** us until we **accept** God's love **to** us.
- God's love for us will always get a **response** from us.

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him." King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this.... Matthew 2:2-3a (NLT)

Herod was furious when he realized that the wise men had outwitted him. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, based on the wise men's report of the star's first appearance. Matthew 2:16 (NLT)

- We'll always **fight** God for what we're not willing to **give** God.

...the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 2:9-11 (NLT)

- The wonder of God leads us to **worship** God.
- Worship is our **response** to who God is.

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 forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. Psalm 100:2-5 (NIV)

- We need to make time to **worship** Jesus.

Worship is the expression of our love to God that turns a **holiday** into **Holy day**.

2 "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him." Matthew 2:2 (NLT)

#### Why worship is important:

- Expresses our **affection** to God.  
13 "These people make a big show of saying the right thing, but their hearts aren't in it. Because they act like they're worshipping me but don't mean it... Isaiah 29:13 (MSG)
- Focuses our **attention** on God.  
23 But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. 24 For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth." John 4:23-24 (NLT)

- Expresses our **wonder** of God.  
28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, 29 for our "God is a consuming fire." Hebrews 12:28-29 (NIV)

16 Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted! Matthew 28:16-17 (NLT)

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#### Action Steps:

- Make **time** to **worship** God.
- Give your **best** to God.
- Love on **God**.



## TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

#### Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- What was the best part of your Christmas? Did you make the holiday a Holy Day? Explain.
- Were you able to get away and worship Jesus on Christmas? (No Guilt)
- How do we experience the wonder of God through God's love for us?
- What does the statement mean to you: "We'll always fight God for what were not willing to give God". Give an example if you can.
- Why is worship so important in our expression of love to God? What does worship look like to you?
- Do you agree that God's love for us will always get a response from us? (whether good or bad)
- How does worship express our affection to God?
- How does worship focus our attention on God?
- How does worship express our wonder of God?
- How does giving God your best express worship to Him?

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Information available in the courtyard.

OTHER NOTES:

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Today's Talk..



**Joy**