

The Power of Collective Worship

Acts 13:1-3

Introduction

Worship is the recognition of who God is and what He has done. In more simple terms, worship is simply making a big deal about God. When we worship together through coming together in a corporate worship service or making the time to serve together, we make it possible for God to increase his work in our lives.

In Acts 13:2, the Bible says, "While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said..." There are times when we will only see God work, hear Him speak, or experience His power, because we are worshipping God together. While we can study the Word on our own, and pray on our own, and worship on our own, doing these activities together within the context of community puts us in a position to experience God in a unique way. We can receive illumination given by the Holy Spirit and application to our individual experiences through the power of our collective worship.

Getting Started

1. *What one point resonated with you from this morning's sermon?*
2. *What is your reason for attending corporate worship?*

Let's Get Personal

1. Collective worship is the process of gathering with others to spend time together in community, focused together on God's presence, and sharing our gifts and resources towards a unified goal of praising God. Worship then encompasses our time, focus, and resources. *Based on this definition, take a look at where you spend your time, what receives your focus, and where you allocate your gifts and resources. What does this say about who or what truly receives your worship?*
2. Just like the rulebook in football, the Bible is written to be a standard. Similar to the playbook of a football team, the specific direction we receive from the Holy Spirit is written to be adjustable based on our life circumstances, situations, etc. *Have you ever experienced God taking the Word and making it come alive to you for a specific circumstance you were facing in life? Share this experience with your group.*
3. In Acts 13 we see a variety of people from different walks of life with different gifts (Barnabas was an encourager, Simeon was a person of service, and Saul was a teacher) worshipping together and hearing from God. Collective worship allows us to use our unique gifts and backgrounds to benefit the body of Christ. *Take some time in your group to affirm other members in your circle for the way that God has used their gifts to minister to you.*

Take the Next Step

1. Information without application will lead you to frustration. *Are there instructions from God's Word that you do not quite know how to apply in your life? Share this with your group.*
2. During the month of August, make it your priority to attend and participate in corporate worship. It's tempting when the Pastor is out of town for many people to skip service and to come back in full force when he returns. However, our collective gathering is not about following a man but rather about coming together to worship God and to experience God together!

Renew Your Mind

"While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said..." Acts 13:1-3
