

LIFE GROUP LESSON

Don't Forget to Remember • Week of September 10

Introduction

Don't forget to remember *God*. So many things in your day vie for your attention. Think about it – personal goals, hectic schedule, job/work, kids' schedules, trying to make ends meet, desire for wealth and entertainment; yes, even trying to please and appease your spouse and family, can vie for your attention. But who gets you – the deep place of *you*? Each of us has been created in God's image, and God created us to worship. If we don't worship God, we will worship someone or something. But today we remember that God alone is worthy of our truest adoration, deepest devotion and reverence. The Bible declares: "He alone is your God, the only one who is worthy of your praise, the one who has done these mighty miracles that you have seen with your own eyes" (Deuteronomy 10:21).

Christ Church's fourth core value – represented by the "I" in C-H-R-I-S-T is this: *Inspirational and incarnational worship is at the heart of who we are as we seek to connect people to Christ each weekend.* Worship is giving God first place in our hearts by acknowledging His presence and meeting Him in spirit and in truth. We are called to ascribe to the Lord His qualities worthy of our attention. We remember that He alone is holy and righteous. As His people, we choose to gather corporately, like a big family, and "come before Him, singing with joy" (Psalm 100:2b). As His dearly loved children, God's Spirit beckons us to meet with Him in the secret place (Psalm 27:8). Worship is a posture of the heart because God alone sees the heart. Yet, worship can engage us physically, as well as, we experience His love and forgiveness. For example, we stand, shout and sing, dance before Him; or we bow humbly in prayer, even lying prostrate, face down in awe of His glorious presence. Worship is a response to the Lord's goodness and faithfulness.

Background

The book of Isaiah is a collection of messages God gave to His servant, Isaiah. Isaiah was a prophet during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah (Isaiah 1:1), thus, Isaiah had a long ministry (circa 740 – 685 BC). Isaiah *forth*-spoke God's truth to the leadership in his day, whether it was a message concerning Israel, Judah, or one of the surrounding nations (sometimes enemy nations). Isaiah also *fore*told coming events as the LORD gave him insight and revelation – sometimes Isaiah would speak of events that would unfold in the near future; other times, Isaiah would tell of glorious events relating to the far distant future. An im-

portant overarching theme in the book of Isaiah is how God desires to dwell among His people, as in the days of the Tabernacle (Exodus 25:8). When God shows up – first, humbly as Son and Suffering Servant; then as Savior, Redeemer, Holy One of Israel – He is Emmanuel, *God with us*.

Some of the most well-known prophecies revealing the coming Messiah are found in the book of Isaiah (see Isaiah 7:14, 9:1-7, 11:1-10, 42:1-9, 52:13 - 53:12, 61:1-3). Isaiah also gives us one of the most remarkable firsthand, eyewitness experiences of being in God's presence. In Isaiah, chapter six, after giving the setting and timeframe, Isaiah describes the train of God's robe 'filling the Temple' and tells how mighty seraphim attending the LORD had six wings – with two wings they covered their face, with two they covered their feet, and with two wings they flew. Isaiah tells how the seraphim cry out words of worship and glory unto God, their voices shaking 'the Temple to its foundations' and the Temple being filled with smoke. Isaiah describes how he immediately realizes the weight of his sin – how he is doomed because he is sinful, has filthy lips and lives among people with filthy lips, yet he sees the King – but then how one of the seraphim takes a burning coal from the altar with a pair of tongs and touches him, signifying his guilt removed and his sins forgiven.

Read: Isaiah 6:1-8

1. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. How can we help you?

Worship is both inspirational and incarnational. When we worship our focus shifts toward faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. We begin to recall and magnify His goodness and faithfulness, instead of the problems we are facing. Worship transforms our hearts and minds. As we confess our sins before the Lord, and to one another, we are cleansed and even healed (James 5:16). As we worship by bringing our tithes and offerings, our perspective on life's monetary difficulties and challenges begin to change. We remember all we have, every good and perfect gift (James 1:17), is a gift from God. As we worship, the Lord's very presence becomes the greatest reward, and His Spirit inspires us to turn from the old

way and live into a new direction – God’s direction for our life. As we worship, the Lord’s presence becomes incarnational as He shows up in our day and helps us in ways so personal, we know undeniably that He *is* Emmanuel, *God with us*. Truly, He is worthy of our highest praise, deepest reverence and adoration!

Closing:

God blesses so that we can also be a blessing to others. Think about how generous God is, in that He provided a way for us to enter His Presence. God loved us enough to send His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to take our place in death. As ‘the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world’ Jesus paid a price we could never pay. Christ’s physical resurrection from death proves He alone has defeated the grave and all sin can now be forgiven in His name. The psalmist speaks words of the coming Anointed One when he says: “Look, I have come. As is written about me in the Scriptures: I take joy in doing your will, my God, for your instructions are written on my heart” (Psalm 40:7-8). Worship is giving worth and highest praise to our Lord. Live life fully surrendered to the Lord. Take joy in obedience. Respond to His love, grace, and forgiveness by declaring with Isaiah: “Here I am, Lord. Send me!”

One Year Bible Reading

Sept. 10: Isaiah 6:1-7:25, 2 Corinthians 11:16-33, Psalm 54:1-7, Proverbs 23:1-3

Sept. 11: Isaiah 8:1-9:21, 2 Corinthians 12:1-10, Psalm 55:1-23, Proverbs 23:4-5

Sept. 12: Isaiah 10:1-11:16, 2 Corinthians 12:11-21, Psalm 56:1-13, Proverbs 23:6-8

Sept. 13: Isaiah 12:1-14:32, 2 Corinthians 13:1-14, Psalm 57:1-11, Proverbs 23:9-11

Sept. 14: Isaiah 15:1-18:7, Galatians 1:1-24, Psalm 58:1-11, Proverbs 23:12

Sept. 15: Isaiah 19:1-21:17, Galatians 2:1-16, Psalm 59:1-17, Proverbs 23:13-14

Sept. 16: Isaiah 22:1-24:23, Galatians 2:17-3:9, Psalm 60:1-12, Proverbs 23:15-16

DON’T FORGET TO REMEMBER

“I” - Inspirational and Incarnational Worship is at the Heart of who we are as we seek to connect people to Christ.

Text: Isaiah 1: 9-13 and Isaiah 6: 1-8

PLAIN TRUTH

Incarnational Worship inspires cleansing of sin: from “burning _____” to the victorious _____.

1. _____: Worship begins with the recognition of our _____ and our need for _____.
2. _____: Worship brings the adoration of the majesty of God
3. _____: Real and Relevant worship _____ a _____ to the Love of God.

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