

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE. HOPE FOR THE FUTURE. PRAISING HIM LIKE HEAVEN

DAILY DEVOTIONAL



Set the Tone: Preparing Your Heart for Worship

What comes to mind when you hear the word worship? Do you get excited, or does it feel routine? Do you see worship as just music, or do you realize that it's the very purpose of our existence? However you've viewed worship before, Revelation 4 gives us a powerful glimpse of what happens when everything else is stripped away and all of creation declares the worth of Jesus.

Before you begin this study, pause and pray. Ask God to open your heart and help you see how worthy He is of your worship. My prayer is that this week, you will realize that worship is never a waste of time—it's the reason we were created.

Grant

STUDY TIPS:

If you're having a hard time with this week's reading, try reading it in a different translation like the New Living Translation (NLT) in the Bible App or the ESV.

Sometimes, a fresh perspective makes all the difference!

Part 1: Connect with God

Monday

PRAY:

Ask God to open your heart to true worship—worship that is not based on emotions or circumstances but on who He is.

Pray that He would help you see distractions that keep you from worshiping in spirit and truth.

READ REVELATION 4:1-11

How do the **four living creatures** respond to God in worship? What stands out to you about the words they use? (Revelation 4:8)

What do the twenty-four elders do as an act of worship? (Revelation 4:10-11)

How would worship look different if we focused completely on **who God is** rather than our own feelings or situations? (Revelation 4:8-9)

When was the last time you worshiped God for **His greatness** rather than just thanking Him for what He has done?

Describe a time when you felt fully **focused on God in worship**. What made that moment different? If you have never had a moment like that, why do you think that is?

What distractions keep you from worshiping God? (Matthew 15:8-9)

How can you shift your focus from self-centered worship to God-centered worship this week? (Revelation 4:8-9)

MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE:

"Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created." Revelation 4:11

Tuesday

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

How can you worship God more fully and freely this week? (Revelation 4:10-11)

What distractions keep you from focusing completely on God?

How can you remove distractions and shift your worship to **be about God, not just an experience?** (Revelation 4:10-11)

What would your life be like if you thought ONLY about what God thinks rather than what other people think?

WORSHIP CHALLENGE:

Worship isn't just music—it's how you live. You were created to bring God praise in everything you do (Revelation 4:8-9).

This week, choose one way to worship God outside of church:

- Start and end your day with Him Pray before you check your phone and end the day in His Word.
- Honor God at school Work hard, stay positive, and handle stress with faith.
- **Encourage someone** Be intentional about showing kindness, even when it's not easy.
- Let your life reflect Jesus What you listen to, post, and say should point to Him.

PRAYER:

Father, You are worthy of all my worship. Just like the elders in Revelation 4, I want to lay everything at Your feet and honor You with my whole life. Help me remove distractions that pull my heart away from You, and show me how to worship You not just in church, but in my daily life—through my words, my actions, and my thoughts.

This week, I accept the challenge to worship You outside of church—whether through how I start my day, my attitude at school, how I treat others, or what I choose to listen to and say. Teach me to focus on what You think, not what others think, and help me live in a way that points to You. I commit to seeking You first in everything I do, because You alone deserve all glory, honor, and praise. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Wednesday Small Group Discussion

MAIN IDEA: Worship is not just music—it's a lifestyle. Revelation 4 shows us that real worship is fully about **God's presence**, **His worth**, and our response.

HIGHS & LOWS (5 MINUTES)

What was the best and hardest part of your week?

READ REVELATION 4:1-11 NLT (5 MINUTES)

"Then as I looked, I saw a door standing open in heaven, and the same voice I had heard before spoke to me like a trumpet blast. The voice said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this." And instantly I was in the Spirit, and I saw a throne in heaven and someone sitting on it. The one sitting on the throne was as brilliant as gemstones—like jasper and carnelian. And the glow of an emerald circled his throne like a rainbow. Twenty-four thrones surrounded him, and twenty-four elders sat on them. They were all clothed in white and had gold crowns on their heads. From the throne came flashes of lightning and the rumble of thunder. And in front of the throne were seven torches with burning flames. This is the sevenfold Spirit of God. In front of the throne was a shiny sea of glass, sparkling like crystal. In the center and around the throne were four living beings, each covered with eyes, front and back. The first of these living beings was like a lion; the second was like an ox; the third had a human face; and the fourth was like an eagle in flight. Each of these living beings had six wings, and their wings were covered all over with eyes, inside and out. Day after day and night after night they keep on saying,

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty—

the one who always was, who is, and who is still to come."

Whenever the living beings give glory and honor and thanks to the one sitting on the throne (the one who lives forever and ever), the twenty-four elders fall down and worship the one sitting on the throne (the one who lives forever and ever). And they lay their crowns before the throne and say,

"You are worthy, O Lord our God,

to receive glory and honor and power.

For you created all things,

and they exist because you created what you pleased."

What words or images stand out to you in this passage?

Wednesday Con't

Leader Note: The Key Takeaways are meant to spark discussion, not to be read as a lesson. Use them as a guide to encourage conversation and help students process and apply the message for themselves if needed.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM SUNDAY'S MESSAGE + QUESTIONS (10 MINUTES)

WORSHIP IS ABOUT GOD'S PRESENCE, NOT JUST AN EXPERIENCE

- Revelation 4 shows us that all of heaven revolves around God's throne. Worship isn't about emotions, music, or tradition—it's about responding to who God is.
- Worship is not waiting for the right mood—it's recognizing that God is always worthy of worship, regardless of how we feel. The elders in heaven don't worship when they "feel like it"—they worship because they see God clearly.
- Question: How can we make worship more about who God is instead of just how we feel in the moment?

2 WORSHIP IS MORE THAN JUST MUSIC—IT'S HOW WE LIVE

- In John 4, the Samaritan woman thought worship was about a specific location, but Jesus corrected her, saying that true worship isn't about a place—it's about the heart.
- Worship happens in daily choices—in how we treat others, handle stress, and focus on God. If we truly understand God's greatness, we won't hold back our worship.
- Question: What's one way you worshiped God outside of church this week? If you haven't yet, what's one way you can worship Him in your daily life this coming week? (Check Tuesday's Worship Challenge for ideas!)

3 WORSHIP SHOULD BE PREDICTABLE

- In Revelation 4:10, the 24 elders fall down before God every time—not just when they feel like it.
- Illustration: Chick-fil-A is predictable in closing on Sundays—what if our worship
 was just as consistent? Worship should be part of our daily lives, not just when it's
 convenient.
- Question: Is your worship predictable, or do you only worship when it's convenient?

4 WORSHIP REQUIRES SURRENDER

- Revelation 4:10: The elders cast their crowns before God, showing complete surrender. Worship is about laying everything down—our pride, distractions, and plans—to put God first.
- True worship means letting go of anything that competes with God in our hearts. If worship is about declaring God's worth, what do we need to surrender to make Him our highest priority?
- Question: What's one thing you need to give up to worship God more fully?

Wednesday Con't

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: Choose 1-2 questions that best fit your small group's needs. These are designed to lead students to action

What is one practical step you can take to **prepare your heart** for worship before you even walk into church? (Example: Praying before service, reading Scripture beforehand, or removing distractions.)

How do your **daily habits** reflect (or not reflect) a life of worship? What small change could you make this week to align your life more with true worship?

We often worship when life is going well, but how can we make worship a response **even in hard times?** How does Revelation 4 challenge your perspective on worship?

If worship is surrender, what's one thing this week that you can physically do to show God He is **first in your life?** (Example: Giving up a distraction, prioritizing prayer, setting aside time to worship daily.)

How can our **small group help each other** stay consistent in worship? What's one way we can **hold each other accountable** this week?

GROUP CHALLENGE: WORSHIP IN ACTION

Choose **one intentional way** to worship God outside of church this week (prayer, worship music, reading Scripture, etc.) and share your commitment with the group.

PRAYER:

Ask God to help us worship Him with our whole hearts—not just when it's convenient, but as a daily response to His worth. (Revelation 4:11)

Pray for the courage to **surrender anything that competes** with true worship and to keep God at the center of our lives. (Revelation 4:10)

Ask God to **deepen our understanding** of worship, so it becomes more than just a moment—it becomes a way of life. (John 4:23-24)

Thursday

SCRIPTURE:

"And before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal." (Rev. 4:6)

"Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you." (Psalm 89:14)

"and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness." (Exodus 24:10)

"The Lord reigns; he is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed; he has put on strength as his belt. Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved. Your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting." (Psalm 93:1-2)

"Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" (Psalm 46:10)

REFLECTION:

What gets you excited when you think about being around God's throne one day?

What are some things you know you will not have to worry about when you are in the presence of God one day?

Are there any people in your life who you know will be in heaven one day?

Are there people in your life who you know will not be in heaven one day?

How can you help your friends or small group worship God without distractions?

ACTION STEP:

Take **5 minutes today** to worship God without distractions—no music, no phone, just **praising Him.** This might sound or feel uncomfortable and thats okay. This can be as simple as pausing and reflecting on who God is and how He has shown up in your life in the past.

Friday

"FROM THE THRONE CAME FLASHES OF LIGHTNING, AND RUMBLINGS AND PEALS OF THUNDER, AND BEFORE THE THRONE WERE BURNING SEVEN TORCHES OF FIRE, WHICH ARE THE SEVEN SPIRITS OF GOD." REVELATION 4:5

INTERPRETIVE NOTES:

The seven torches symbolize the **fullness of the Holy Spirit**, representing His complete and perfect work. **Isaiah 11:2** describes this fullness through seven attributes: the Spirit of the Lord, Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Might, Knowledge, and the Fear of the Lord.

REFLECTION:

Are there differences in the way you imagine God's throne and how it is described in verse 5?

What does the lightening and thunder show you about God?

ACTION STEP:

Spend time today reflecting on God's power. Ask Him to guide you with His Spirit as you walk HIs way.

Saturday

""THE TWENTY-FOUR ELDERS FALL DOWN BEFORE HIM WHO IS SEATED ON THE THRONE, AND WORSHIP HIM WHO LIVES FOREVER AND EVER. THEY CAST THEIR CROWNS BEFORE THE THRONE."" REVELATION 4:10

INTERPRETIVE NOTES:

The crowns represent **earthly rewards** that are surrendered to God.

The 24 elders represent christians from all of human history who have been saved by the blood of Jesus.

Worship is about **giving God the glory**, not keeping it for ourselves.

REFLECTION:

Why do the elders **cast their crowns before God**?

What does this show about **humility and surrender in worship**?

ACTION STEP:

Ask God to show you **anything in your life** that you need to **surrender in worship**.

STAY CONNECTED:

Watch the sermon on **YouTube, Spotify, or Apply Podcast** if you missed it. Memorize Revelation 4:11 and share what God is doing in your life in small group.

NEXT WEEK:

We'll dive into Revelation 5, looking at how Jesus is worthy to open the scroll and what that means for us. Get ready!

I am praying for you. I have been praying each week of our study for every person who joins. I pray that your life would transform as a result of your time in His word and you would have hope in the one who holds your future. - Grant