



David – A life of worship

Week 1 (19 June): Created for worship

1 Samuel 16

David is anointed king not because of his military prowess or physical strength, but because of his tender heart (v7). When in Saul's service, Scripture notes he is 'skilful in playing the lyre' (v18), which suggests he has played from a young age. David seems to know he is created for worship and doing this generates in him a pure and tender heart.

Discussion questions:

- What impact does this passage suggest sung worship can have on our hearts?
- When did you first experience sung worship? Can you recall how it made you think and feel?
- In what ways/places do you worship most easily?
- What do you make of v.23 and the impact musical worship had on Saul?
- If we're created for worship but don't worship God, what are we worshipping instead?

Other themes:

- We were created to worship (Ps 19:1, Col 1:16)
- If God is the author of all things, all glory belongs to him (Romans 11: 36)
- When we worship other things, our hearts harden and God rejects our worship (Isaiah 29:13 – note Jesus quoted this – Matt 15/ Mark 7 / also Amos 5:21 MSG)
- Worship refocuses us on Jesus – we are 'brought back' to Eden and right relationship with God – turning our attention and affection towards him

Week 2 (26 June): Devoted worship

Psalms 63/Psalm 84

David's heart was for close encounter with God. Many of the psalms are intimately written – revealing his hunger and thirst of God's presence.

Discussion questions:

- What do you notice about the language used in both these psalms? How is it different/the same as the lyrics we sing in worship?
- How easy/difficult do you find it to sing these intimate words in church worship? Why might that be?

ST. STEPHEN'S

Church Office, 30 Crown Road, Twickenham TW1 3EE
020 8892 5258 office@st-stephens.org.uk www.st-stephens.org.uk

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- Where have you/do you most experience God's presence in worship?
- There is language in these psalms of 'longing and yearning' – how do you / can you relate to that in your own spiritual life?

Other themes:

- To worship is a command – the Bible ends with this (Rev 22:9)
- As we devote ourselves to Jesus, so we humble ourselves (Jn 3:30)
- To devote ourselves in worship is often a sacrifice (Heb 13:15)

Week 3 (3 July): Unfiltered worship

2 Samuel 6

David danced unashamedly before the Lord in worship to celebrate the ark being brought back to Jerusalem. He was mocked for this by Michal, but was unperturbed, pushing past the opinion of others.



Discussion questions:

- Recount the narrative in this chapter - what place does musical worship play in the story?
- What do you make of David's worship being described as 'undignified' and 'humiliating'? (v22). Why do you think he did this? What does this tell us about how he viewed God?
- How easy/hard do you find it to express your sung worship physically? Do you think it is necessary be abandoned in worship? Why/why not?
- Does it help you to consider worship as a sacrifice that sometimes costs you?

Other themes:

- Worship is the right response to what God has done in Jesus (Lk 7: 15-17)
- Making a noise is biblical! (Ps 98 'shout')
- Lifting up hands/bowing or kneeling down – using our bodies in response
- Songs as a way to bear witness: a way in which we tell our story

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Week 4 (10 July): Constant Worship

Ps 19, Ps 20

David worshipped in the fields, in war and after battle. He never stopped!



Discussion questions:

- What is the difference between Psalm 19 and 20 in terms of style/context?
- What does this show us about the place of sung worship in David's life?
- Can you give examples of other psalms written at particular times in David's life. Which resonate most with you and why?
- What battles might you be facing in your life? What would it look like to worship before and after, like David?
- How can a vision of the (eternal) worship we will give Jesus in heaven inspire us in the here and now?

Other themes:

- The more we worship, the more we are transformed (Rom 12)
- God is deserving of our continual praise (Ps 113:3)
- Worship and prayer flow seamlessly into one another – they provoke the other and should naturally dovetail
- When we glimpse the glory and holiness of God – constant praise can be our only response (Rev 4:8)

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