

## Called to Worship Small Group Guide

**Warm-up Question:** (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Have you learned anything new about yourself during the past couple months of “social distancing”?
2. What are some of your favorite songs to worship to?

**Read the following passages:** Psalm 29:1-2, Psalm 100:1-4, and 1 Chronicles 16:23-29.

Throughout the scriptures, we are told to worship God in many different ways. In the sermon on Sunday, worship was described as “an act or outward expression of love; devout affection. This expression conveys to the recipient—in our context, God—their great worth to the giver and a heart posture of deep reverence and submission.” Worship is an active and intentional means through which we glorify God. Although we are called to *give* worship, we see indication through the Bible that through appropriately directed worship (that is, worship directed to the Lord), we also *receive* as we are transformed by his power and presence in our lives.

**Questions for Discussion** (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. What are examples of ways in which we can worship God? Do you ever find it difficult to do this?
2. Read Colossians 3:1-10. What are some ways our lives change as we “set our minds on things on things above” (3:2) and “put on the new self” (3:10)?
3. Read James 1:3-4. God allows us to experience a “testing of our faith” in order to grow our character as disciples. How can a “wilderness season” in life lead to greater personal maturity?
4. Theologian Gregory K. Beale writes that “What people revere, they resemble, either for ruin or for restoration.” Everyone worships *something* in life—whether they realize it or not. Name a few examples of things people sometimes worship above God. Have you ever caught yourself putting your faith or security in something other than God? How did you come to this realization and what did you do about it?
5. Jesus himself spent forty days in a wilderness before starting his public ministry. The book of Hebrews tells us, “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every

way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.” (Hebrews 4:15) Have you ever experienced a “wilderness” season in your life? If so, in retrospect, has it helped lead you in some way? How so?

6. Read John 16:33 and 1 John 4:18. What would it look like for you to fully live in the security of knowing God has already won the victory on your behalf? How would your thinking, emoting, and living change if you believed this more deeply?

**Pray**