

THE WHY OF WORSHIP

A SEVEN DAY DEVOTIONAL

INTRODUCTION:

Earlier in the year, The Lord put it strongly on my heart to study worship. Not really knowing exactly what that was supposed to look like, I started by asking myself a simple question, “What is worship?” I’ve been in worship ministry for over twenty years and I’ve been asked that question more times than I can count. I would always give a very basic and typical answer. Even though I was probably correct in whatever my answer was, it was very shallow. I didn’t want to just give a simple answer anymore, I wanted to share MY answer.

Through time in scripture and in the presence of God, I found my personal definition of worship. I believe that when we better understand what worship is and why it is so important, we grow in our calling and see deeper levels of relationship with our Father. That’s what I want for you. In this devotional, I want to help you, through both the Word and His voice, find your personal definition and “why” for worship. I want to see you grow as a worshiper and follower of Christ.

-Hollis Moore



DAY 1: WORSHIP WITH UNDERSTANDING

Before we dive into personally defining worship and finding our “why”, we need to ask “what. What is worship? Psalm 47:7 says that we should “worship with understanding”. There are 503 instances of worship in the Word. The word worship is found in the Bible 8629 times. I’d say it’s pretty important and worth understanding! So, with that, I did what I always do when I begin to study out a word....

dictionary.com! The word worship is derived from the Old English word “weoroscope” which means to see worth (weoro-worth; scipe- see).

The Hebrew word for worship and what is found through all of the Old Testament is “shachah”, which means “to bow.” Jose Diaz with Heart of David Ministries describes this word with a more literal translation, “to bow the head below the heart”

I love the picture that paints for us. Worship isn’t always about literally bowing down, although it can be, but more about the posture of our heart. Worship reminds our flesh who is on the throne of our heart and who has complete control. Worship in essence is humbling every single part of who we are before an Almighty and Worthy God.

Activate: Read through Psalm 138:1-2 and Psalm 99. Both of these passages are examples of shachah. Spend time meditating on what it looks like to “bow your head below your heart” today. If you are physically able, spend some time bowed before the Lord in worship.

Worship reminds our flesh who is on the throne of our heart and who has complete control.



DAY 1 : READ

Psalm 138:1-2 (ESV)

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

2 I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.

Psalm 99 (TPT)

Yahweh is King over all! Everyone trembles in awe before him.

He rules enthroned between the wings of the cherubim.

So let the earth shake and quake in wonder before him!

2 For Yahweh is great and glorious in the midst of his Zion-people.

He is exalted above all!

3 Let everyone praise this breathtaking God, for he is holy.

4 A lover of justice is our mighty King; he is right in all his ways.

He insists on being fair to all, promoting true justice and righteousness in Jacob.

5 **So everyone, exalt the Lord our God facedown before his glory-throne, for he is great and holy.**

6 God has his praying priests, like Moses, Aaron, and Samuel, who all interceded, asking God for help. God heard their cries and came to their rescue.

7 He spoke to them from the pillar of clouds and they followed his instructions, doing everything he told them.

8 God, the great forgiver, answered their prayers.

Yet he would punish them when they went astray.

9 **Keep exalting the Lord our God facedown before his glory-throne, for he is great and holy!**



DAY 2: DOXO-WHAT?

That's when God spoke to my heart and said, "That's what I want from you."

Have you ever been reading or studying and your brain sort of goes off on a rabbit trail? That definitely happens to me a lot more than I'd like to admit. One day, as I was engaging in a time of studying the Word and worship (I couldn't tell you now exactly what it was I was studying), I got off on yet another rabbit trail. This time though, I'd like to believe it was a Spirit-led rabbit trail. I randomly started looking into the word doxology. I've known "doxology" as sort of the time of worship for some church's liturgy. I also recognized it as the title of a hymn I had sung on multiple occasions. But for some reason, I was curious to know more about this thing called doxology. So down the rabbit hole I went.

The English word doxology derived from the Latin word doxologia, means, "a word of glory" (doxa – glory; logia – to speak). I found that doxologies are found all throughout scripture. For example, in Ephesians 3, Paul spends most of the chapter sharing on the mystery of the Gospel and the power we find in Christ. But then, at the end of the chapter, he finishes his thought in verse 21 by saying, "To Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen." It's as if Paul couldn't move on to his next thought or point without pausing first to give glory to the Lord. That's a doxology. Have you ever been in conversation with someone, perhaps sharing your testimony and just stopped in the middle of your story to say, "God is just so good!"? That's doxology. The New Testament is filled with doxologies. There are even 5 chapters in the book of Psalms that are considered doxologies.

As I'm studying all these things, The Lord prompts me to look back at the definition of the word. So, I look again. Doxa means glory and ology means to speak, but this time God highlights something that I had missed before. The "ology" in doxology also means, to study. We see this in words like "biology" or "radiology." That's when God spoke to my heart and said, "That's what I want from you." My spirit lit up.

What would it look like to be a person who studies the glory of God? A person who seeks out the best and proper way to give glory to the Lord? A lifestyle of worship goes beyond singing a few songs to Him or even confessing His Lordship in a conversation every now and then. Our walking, breathing, every-day living worship looks like an endless pursuit of magnifying the Lord and constantly seeking to know Him more in the fullness of His glory.

Could we all become Doxologist? Malcolm Gladwell discussed in his bestseller, “Outliers” to become an expert at something, it takes 10000 hours (or approximately 10 years) of deliberate practice. I don’t know about you, but I want the next 10 years of my life to be in constant practice of glorifying the Lord and eventually becoming an expert at lifting up His holy name. I don’t fully know what that looks like yet, but I know the journey starts with asking and seeking. It starts on our knees in His presence and with time in His word. So, I’m on the path of becoming a Doxologist. Are you with me?

Activate: Read through Romans 11:25-36 and Psalm

150. Spend time today looking for opportunities to lift your own doxologies.

What are steps you can take today in becoming a Doxologist? Write them down and begin walking them out.

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DAY 2: READ

Romans 11:25-36 (ESV)

25 Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, “The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob”; 27 “and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins.” 28 As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. 29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. 30 For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, 31 so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. 32 For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all. 33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! 34 “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” 35 “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” 36 **For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.**

Psalms 150 (NIV)

Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens.

2 Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness.

3 Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre,

4 praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe,

5 praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals.

6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.

DAY 3: EXPRESSIONS OF WORSHIP

Being a musician and vocalist, I love to worship the Lord through singing and playing. I can sit at a piano for hours and just pour out my heart to Him. It has to be my favorite place to be. But maybe, like me, you've said, "If only I had the time in the day to spend hours at a time at my instrument, playing and singing before The Lord." Or maybe you're reading this saying, "I don't know how to play an instrument! I'm still trying to figure out how to make my joyful noise unto the Lord sound decent!" Well, I've got wonderful news for you. There are so many other ways outside of music that we can express our worship unto the Lord. Worship goes far beyond music. In fact, praise could technically be considered the musical expression of worship. You can have worship without praise, but you can't have praise without worship. That's why worship has always been talked about as a lifestyle we live and not just an activity we engage in. So, what would we consider to be other expressions of worship? Let's start with prayer.

Prayer is one of the core ways in which we can worship. It's the act of communing with God. It's our relationship in motion. By simply praying, we are engaging our faith to say that we believe that He is God, He is true, and He is here.

Prayer postures our heart to seeing and knowing God.

Jeremiah 29:12-13 says, "Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

When we pray, we are positioning ourselves to seek and find the Lord. Worship is an act of intimacy and longing for the Lord, and prayer sets our heart toward worship.

Obedience is another form of worship. Luke 6:46 says, "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?" Just the same, John 14:15 says, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." Our obedience to the Lord reflects worship unto Him by saying that we trust Him, His Lordship and His rule and that we love Him so much that we

By simply praying, we are engaging our faith to say that we believe that He is God, He is true, and He is here.

want to do what He says. Our worship acknowledges that we are willingly under His authority because we desire to know Him and be more like Him.

Now this may be a tough one, but what about forgiveness? Ephesians 4:32 says, “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” If walking out a lifestyle of worship says we want to model His authority, that means we do the things He does. So, when we humble ourselves and forgive others, we align our hearts with Him to say His way is better. There are so many other expressions of worship.

To sum it all up, the constant everyday worship we seek to live before the Lord looks like a life of spiritual discipline before the Lord. Every part of our Christian walk, this better way for living, is our worship reflected in the day to day. So, you can't play an instrument or carry a tune? No worries, you've still got this!

Activate: Read Romans 12:1-2 and 1 Timothy 4:7-8. Think of a few different areas in which you can express worship for The Lord today. Be intentional in your daily disciplines to view it as worship and not duty.

DAY 3: READ

Romans 12:1-2 (ESV)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.** 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

1 Timothy 4:7-8 (ESV)

Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. **Rather train yourself for godliness;** for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

When we humble ourselves and forgive others, we align our hearts with Him to say His way is better.

DAY 4: 3 REASONS WHY

We have spent the past 3 days defining worship, discovering what it is, and how it looks to live from that place in our day to day. As important as it is, we understand the “what” of worship, we must also understand the “why.” Why do we worship? Why is it important to God’s heart that we worship? Over the next 3 days, we are going to dive into 3 primary reasons why we worship the Lord. So, without further ado, let’s jump right in.

We worship God because He is absolutely worthy of it! Mind blowing, I know, but without this simple understanding we can never truly begin to take on the proper posture of a worshipper. We serve an almighty God who holds the highest name and sits on the highest throne. The highest King who paid the highest price deserves the highest worship. Worship is the only appropriate response worthy of the worth of God. Seeking to see the Lord in the fullness of His glory matures us in our worship. We begin to go from a place of worshipping The Lord because of what He has done and can do for us to a place of worshipping Him because of who He is! In Psalm 27:4, David prays, “One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.” I pray this would be our hearts cry, as each of us grow in our worship, that we would begin to search and see more clearly the beauty and worth of the Lord. That we would grow to a place of worshipping Him simply because He is infinitely worthy of all worship and praise for eternity.

Activate: Read Revelation 4. This is a glimpse into heavenly worship and the Glory of God. Today as you worship, respond not to what He can do, but who He is. Take some time to focus on His worth. What did you see and hear? How did this make you feel or affect your worship? Journal these things and reflect on them.

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from a place of
worshipping
The Lord
because of what
He has done
and can do for
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worshipping
Him because of
who He is!

DAY 4: READ

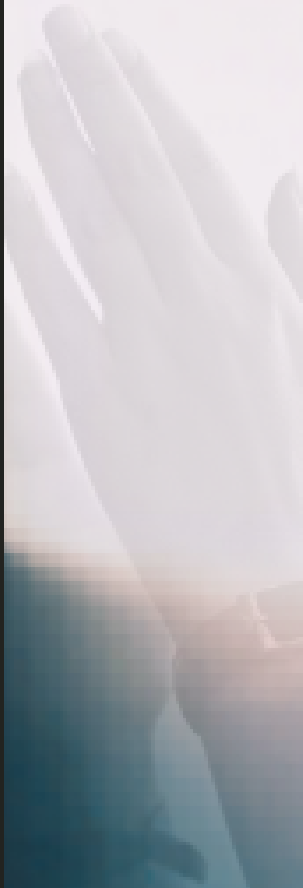
Revelation 4 (ESV)

After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” 2 At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. 3 And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald. 4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads. 5 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, 6 and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: 7 the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. 8 And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say,

“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!”

9 And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, 10 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, saying,

11 “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.”





DAY 5: I COMPLETELY AGREE

We are still talking about why we worship, and today we hit reason number 2. Now I'll say on this particular point, I originally heard this from worship leader, Rick Pino, but it bears repeating and sharing because it's so true.

Another reason we worship The Lord is because we agree with Him, His rule and His reign. When we worship, we are submitting ourselves to His Lordship and coming under His kingdom. Our worship of Him says, "I trust You. I believe You. I agree with You." It aligns our hearts to what His word says. I love what Rick says in describing this, "Worship brings our mindsets, our situations, and our reality into agreement with God's mindsets, situations and realities."

I know personally when I have faced difficult seasons in my life, it becomes so easy to buy into the lies and doubts and anxieties that the struggle can bring. When I instead choose to worship, I am choosing to buy into His promises and His victory. We worship because we believe that His covenant with us is based in better promises, and that it supersedes

anything of this world or what we could do in our flesh. Psalm 22:3 says that God is, "enthroned on the praises of His people." That means where we praise and worship God, His kingdom, His authority and His promises are released there. His throne is made right there when we submit our hearts in worship. Worship is how we partner with Christ's Lordship, and see His kingdom advanced on earth.

So today, I encourage you to know that there is power in your worship! Today, wherever you find yourself, the kingdom and power of God is being released through your worship. What are you praying and believing for? What are you expecting? Let your worship be your statement of faith that says, "God, whatever you say, I completely agree!"

Activate: Read Psalm 145 (AMP). Reflect on the glory and the Kingdom of God. Think of something you've been believing for and then respond with agreement through worship.

We worship because we believe that His covenant with us is based in better promises, and that it supersedes anything of this world or what we could do in our flesh.

DAY 5: READ

Psalm 145 (AMP)

I will exalt You, my God, O King,
And [with gratitude and
submissive wonder] I will bless
Your name forever and ever.
2 Every day I will bless You and
lovingly praise You; Yes, [with
awe-inspired reverence] I will
praise Your name forever and
ever. 3 Great is the Lord, and
highly to be praised, and His
greatness is [so vast and profound
as to be] unsearchable
[incomprehensible to man].
4 One generation shall praise Your
works to another, and shall
declare Your mighty and
remarkable acts. 5 On the glorious
splendor of Your majesty and on
Your wonderful works, I will
meditate. 6 People will speak of
the power of Your awesome acts,
and [with gratitude and
submissive wonder] I will tell of
Your greatness. 7 They will
overflow [like a fountain] when
they speak of Your great and
abundant goodness and will sing
joyfully of Your righteousness.
8 The Lord is gracious and full of
compassion, slow to anger and
abounding in lovingkindness.
9 The Lord is good to all,
And His tender mercies are
overall His works [the entirety of
things created]. 10 All Your works
shall give thanks to You and praise
You, O Lord, and Your godly ones

will bless You. 11 They shall speak
of the glory of Your kingdom
And talk of Your power, 12 To
make known to the sons of men
Your mighty acts and the glorious
majesty of Your kingdom. 13
Your kingdom is an everlasting
kingdom, and Your dominion
endures throughout all
generations. 14 The Lord upholds
all those [of His own] who fall
And raises up all those who are
bowed down. 15 The eyes of all
look to You [in hopeful
expectation], and You give them
their food in due time. 16 You
open Your hand and satisfy the
desire of every living thing. 17
The Lord is [unwaveringly]
righteous in all His ways and
gracious and kind in all His works.
18 The Lord is near to all who call
on Him, to all who call on Him in
truth (without guile). 19 He will
fulfill the desire of those who fear
and worship Him [with awe
inspired reverence and
obedience]; He also will hear their
cry and will save them. 20 The
Lord keeps all who love Him,
But all the wicked He will destroy.
21 My mouth will speak the praise
of the Lord, and all flesh will bless
and gratefully praise His holy
name forever and ever.

DAY 6: YOU WERE MADE FOR THIS!

We are wrapping up the 3 reasons why we worship God today. This one is written all throughout scripture. Simply put, we worship because we were created to worship. Have you ever had the Lord tell you to ask Him a question? Seems a little odd and it took me back a bit when it happened to me. During time worshiping and studying, I heard Him say, "Ask me why I didn't replace Lucifer when I kicked him out of Heaven." In both Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28, we find account of the angel Lucifer, who was considered the cherub, or worship leader of Heaven, kicked out of heaven along with a third of the angels for trying to exalt himself above The Lord and sit on His holy throne. We now know Lucifer as Satan. I had never thought about the question the Lord presented to me. I mean, God assigned Lucifer to lead all of Heaven in worship. That seems like a pretty important job. So, I asked, "Why did you not replace Lucifer when you kicked him out of Heaven?" Then the Lord immediately answered me, "I DID! I created man to lead all of creation in worship."

Wow! In that moment I got so excited but also felt the weight of that responsibility. We know in Genesis 1:28 when God told Adam, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." God called man to steward the earth. Pair that with 1 Peter 2:9 that says, "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." We were chosen by God and called out to proclaim His praise. We are called to steward all creation in worship. That's why Jesus said in Luke 19:40, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

1 Peter 2:9 that says, "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

Everyone one of us, regardless of musical talent, have the calling of worship leader on our life. We were hand crafted and designed by The Lord with a longing to worship Him. That desire to glorify Him is the deep calling unto deep that David writes of in Psalm 42:7. You may not find yourself leading worship from a stage in front of a congregation, but your life postured in worship before the Lord is leading someone and something. Maybe your family or your coworkers, maybe the stranger you pass on the street or in the store. Maybe your worship is leading rocks and rivers and God's creation in worship. So, let me encourage you to wear your call of a worship leader like a badge of honor. Study worship. Become excellent at worshipping, because you were created for it!

Activate: Read Isaiah 43:6-7, Isaiah 43:20-21, and Ephesians 1:11-12. Today, reflect on the role and responsibility of stewarding worship in your world (your family and friends). Take some time to journal new ways you can lead others around you in worship.

DAY 6: READ

Isaiah 43:6-7 (ESV)

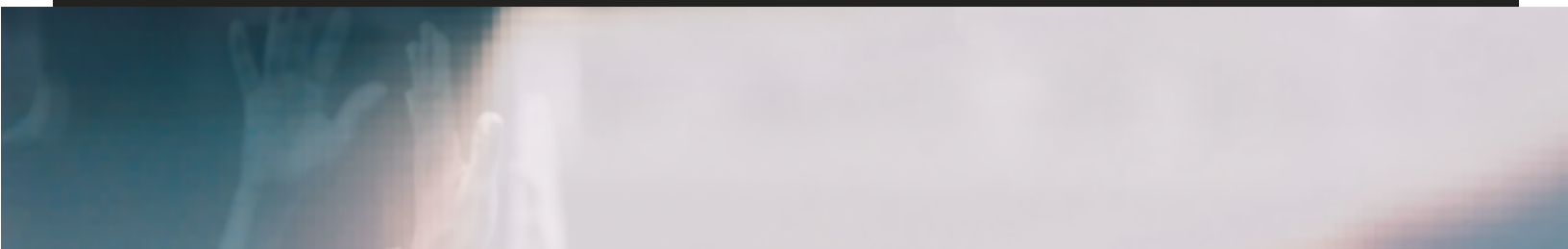
6 I will say to the north, give up, and to the south, do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, **whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.**"

Isaiah 43:20-21 (ESV)

20 The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, 21 the people whom I formed for myself **that they might declare my praise.**

Ephesians 1:11-12 (ESV)

11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 **so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.**



DAY 7: WHAT'S YOUR WHY?

We find ourselves on the last day of this worship journey. When I started my journey, I wanted to discover what worship is and why it is important to me. I'd say through my study, seeking, and praying, worship has come down to two main elements: Intimacy and Lordship. Worship is rooted in intimacy. Intimacy requires humility and vulnerability.

Worship positions us in a place where we lay ourselves before Him because we love Him, and we trust Him. James 4:8 tells us to, "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you." God loves us so much, that He sent His son Jesus to pay the ultimate price with His own blood to tear the veil that divided us, in half. Because of Jesus, we have full access to His presence. It's that love that allows us to worship and see the worth of God. Intimacy reveals the fullness of who He is, and who He is, is Lord. He is the King above all Kings, clothed in glory and majesty. All of Heaven is exalting Jesus on the highest throne, and worship leads us to join in that song. When we worship, we are bowing ourselves before Him and bringing ourselves under His rule

and Lordship. Worship is an act of submission. It brings honor to whom honor is due.

So, with revelation through the Word and time in His presence, I found my personal, clear and precise definition of worship. "Worship is the intimate response to the worth and Lordship of Jesus." This has become my "why" for worship. I believe that when we better understand why we do something, it gives us more clarity, direction and purpose. Every time I come to worship now, I have one primary goal, to intimately respond to the worth and Lordship of Jesus.

Everything comes down to that. I can honestly say that my worship has elevated to new heights since I first started diving into this study. I hope my definition and study of worship is helpful to you, but

Worship is the intimate response to the worth and Lordship of Jesus.

more than that, what I want for you from this week of rediscovering worship, is to inspire you to find YOUR personal definition of worship. I want you to study the Word and to ask the Lord questions. I want you to worship and spend time at His feet so that you can find your why. This was just a glimpse into where my personal journey has led me. Where will yours lead you?

Activate: Read Psalm 63:1-8 and Matthew 7:7-11. Begin the journey of discovering your personal definition of worship. Search through the Word and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you. Make your definition short and precise, something that you could begin to memorize and easily quote.

DAY 7: READ

Psalm 63:1-8 (MSG)

God—you're my God! I can't get enough of you! I've worked up such hunger and thirst for God, traveling across dry and weary deserts. 2-4 So here I am in the place of worship, eyes open, drinking in your strength and glory. In your generous love

I am really living at last! My lips brim praises like fountains. I bless you every time I take a breath; My arms wave like banners of praise to you. 5-8 I eat my fill of prime rib and gravy; I smack my lips. It's time to shout praises! If I'm sleepless at midnight, I spend the hours in grateful reflection. Because you've always stood up for me, I'm free to run and play. I hold on to you for dear life, and you hold me steady as a post.

Matthew 7:7-11 (ESV)

7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. 9 Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? 11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!