

# WEEK 4 - TOGETHER & ALONE

Fall Focus 2023 // Canopy Guide

On Purpose // Spiritual Disciplines

## CONVERSATION STARTERS

Use the questions below to kickstart a community building, all-play conversation that connects to our weekly topic. If your group meets for dinner, these might be great questions to share around a table.

- What feels more effective for you.....going to God in solitude or going to God with a friend or group? Why?
- How do you set aside personal time for devotion in your schedule?
- In what ways does worshipping with others shape you?

## YOUTUBE VIDEO INTRO

[Click here for the YouTube video intro!](#)

## STUDY GUIDE

Worship is a difficult discipline to define because it can be done in so many different ways. We sing together in corporate worship on Sunday mornings and alone in our cars on the way to work. We may lift our hands or bow in confession together or alone. We worship through serving with our time, resources, and money. Sometimes our worship is audible and in celebration; other times it is in lament and silent. Worship is our response to who God is and to what he has done. Worship puts into perspective our struggles, our joys, and our own agendas. Worship reminds us that we are not in control - God is, and worship is our response, in any form, to that truth.

### Scripture to Read

Compare and contrast Psalm 145 and Psalm 130. How are both of these Psalms a part of

worship?

Read Psalm 103. How does knowing the story of Scripture lead to worship?

### **Deeper Discussion Questions**

1. What other forms can worship take, other than singing on Sunday mornings?
2. Why is individual worship important? What are some ways that you engage in this practice?
3. How comfortable are you with corporate worship and personal devotion? How does your schedule reflect this priority?
4. How has experience with corporate worship in the past shaped your view of worship today?
5. In our worship, both individual and corporate, it may be helpful to note and consider how many first person pronouns we use in prayer, compared to our focus directly on God. True worship should be focused more for God's benefit than entirely ours. How do you respond to this thought?

## **PRAYER**

Make sure to claim some time as a group each week to pray specifically for each other.

## **EXTRA RESOURCES/ARTICLES/RESEARCH**

1. James Bryan Smith provides an excellent conversation on the discipline of worship <https://apprenticeinstitute.org/2019/03/27/wired-for-worship/>
2. Grandview's Deep Dive Podcast - "Work as Worship" with Ryan Bader <https://open.spotify.com/episode/2LGqssVQjkilxXbqvPoasE?si=0H5InJ43Q2CI164--8r32w>
3. Easy to Read Blog: "Discipline of Worship: The Key of Balance" by [Fred Gladney](#) <https://trochia.org/discipline-of-worship-the-key-of-balance/#:~:text=Jesus%20said%2C%20%E2%80%9CWorship%20the%20Lord,and%20the%20key%20of%20balance>.
4. Blog reflecting on the Worship chapter in Richard Foster's *Celebration of Disciplines* <https://onelifeleaders.com/blog/celebration-of-discipline-week-10-worship>