

# LIFE GROUP

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Congregational Worship: Give God Our Best May 31, 2026

#### Summary

In today's message, Pastor Heather explores what it means to give God our best in worship—not just outward participation, but hearts that are fully engaged with Him. Looking at the warnings in Malachi, Isaiah and Jesus' conversation with the woman at the well, we see that God is not interested in empty routines or "good enough" worship. He desires worshippers who come to Him in Spirit and truth, offering their full attention, honesty, reverence and love.

Because of Jesus, worship is no longer about a location, but a relationship with God. Since worship matters deeply to God, we are challenged to intentionally prepare our hearts and choose to fully engage when we gather together for congregational worship.

#### Scripture

The Lord says:

"These people come near to me with their mouth  
and honor me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me.

Their worship of me

is based on merely human rules they have been taught. Isaiah 29:13 (NIV)

"A son honors his father, and a slave his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?" says the Lord Almighty.

"It is you priests who show contempt for my name.

"But you ask, 'How have we shown contempt for your name?'

"By offering defiled food on my altar.

"But you ask, 'How have we defiled you?'

"By saying that the Lord's table is contemptible. When you offer blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice lame or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?" says the Lord Almighty.

"Now plead with God to be gracious to us. With such offerings from your hands, will he accept you?"—says the Lord Almighty.

"Oh, that one of you would shut the temple doors, so that you would not light useless fires on my altar! I am not pleased with you," says the Lord Almighty, "and I will accept no offering from your hands. My name will be great among the nations, from where the sun rises to where it sets. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to me, because my name will be great among the nations," says the Lord Almighty.

"But you profane it by saying, 'The Lord's table is defiled,' and, 'Its food is contemptible.' And you say, 'What a burden!' and you sniff at it contemptuously," says the Lord Almighty.

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“When you bring injured, lame or diseased animals and offer them as sacrifices, should I accept them from your hands?” says the Lord. “Cursed is the cheat who has an acceptable male in his flock and vows to give it, but then sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord. For I am a great king,” says the Lord Almighty, “and my name is to be feared among the nations. Malachi 1:6-14 (NIV)

“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.” John 4:23-24 (NIV)

### Let’s Start

When you were younger, what music would have been blasting in your room while getting ready?

### Gratitude and Prayer

How has God been at work in your life since we last met?

### Let’s Talk

1. What stood out to you most from the sermon or passages this week? Why?
2. In Malachi 1, the people offered God less than their best. What are some modern-day ways believers can slip into “good enough” worship?
3. Why do you think people often become defensive when confronted about spiritual apathy or inconsistency?
4. Read Isaiah 29:13. What does it look like to honor God with our lips but have hearts far from Him? How can we guard against that?
5. Jesus said true worshipers worship “in Spirit and in truth” (John 4:23-24). What do you think it means to **worship God fully** in everyday life and congregational worship?
6. How do the three truths Pastor Heather shared—God deserves our best, God wants all of us and we’re in control of how we show up—challenge the way you approach worship each week?
7. How does remembering who God is and all He has done for us motivate us to give Him our best in worship?

### Let’s Act

What are one or two intentional ways you can prepare your heart to worship God fully and give God your best in congregational worship in the coming weeks? Here are some tips:

- Protect Sunday morning worship as an important commitment.
- Set your alarm with extra margin and prepare needed items ahead of time.
- Help your family prepare calmly and intentionally for church.
- Use prayer or worship music to prepare your heart on the way to church.
- Plan ahead so small details do not become distractions or make you late.
- Pause before entering and offer yourself fully to the Lord in worship.
- Greet others warmly as you enter the worship space.



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