

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

1/14/18 | ISAIAH 25:6-9

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

Watch this short video together:

youtube.com/watch?v=EbqVPt8zzWQ

Then read this article by David Lose about the video:

davidlose.net/2014/01/humor-god-and-the-one-minute-worship-service/
(The links in the article no longer work but you'll get the idea.)

What do you think about this video? Funny, or not so much? How serious is worship supposed to be? How serious are you about worship? What does that mean?



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? _____

In today's text Isaiah envisions a huge, inclusive feast that brings people together after years of struggle. We're reading this text as a call to participate in worship the way we'd participate in the feast that Isaiah describes. (Or, as Lutherans, the way we'd participate in a potluck!)

Read this short article, and particularly the comments that follow it, to get your juices flowing as you think about what worship means to you: davidlose.net/2013/10/what-is-worship/

WHAT DO YOU THINK? _____

What does worship mean to you? Is it a time to give thanks? To learn? To be quiet? To be loud? To let go of your inhibitions and wave your arms? Or sit still and be on your best behavior? Is worship solemn? Is it a celebration? Of what?

Is worship supposed to manipulate your emotions or make you cry? Why, or why not? Should it make you feel insignificant or ashamed? Should it make you feel worthy or empowered? Is it about you? Is it a performance? Do you ever attend worship as a consumer, expecting to be "fed" or entertained? Is it okay to need that if you feel empty?

Do we come to worship to take or to give? Is worship a time for all of us to refuel, or is it a time for us to express our love and gratitude to God? Does your answer change each week? Do you have something to offer to the "potluck" of worship? What could you bring with you, and what difference would it make?

What does it mean to come to worship prepared? Do you need to read the scripture in advance, or clear your mind of any worry or frustration? Does being ready to worship mean that you have to leave your doubts, your hard questions, or your intellect at the door? What happens if you can't do those things? Are you welcome anyway?

Is worship a priority for you and your family? Why, or why not? Should it be a priority? Is attending church a rule that we have to follow in order for God to love and forgive us? If so, why? If not, then why do we go?

Can you worship when you're not in church? Where, when and how? What does that mean? What would it look like to live in a constant state of worship? Is that possible? Is there a difference between attending worship and making it an integral part of your life?

WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP? _____

Continue to write in your journal this week about what worship means to you. The next time you attend worship, take the time to prepare for it in advance, whatever that means for you. Write it down, and then reflect on how that preparation affected your worship experience. Did it lead to more aliveness, to a stronger connection with God and with others?

LOOKING FOR MORE? _____

Worship change the way we relate to others throughout the week. Watch this video and think about how worship could impact issues of justice and community, and write your ideas in your journal: youtube.com/watch?v=vDuA9OPyp6I

REGISTER YOUR GROUP FOR THE PRINCE OF PEACE FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN EVENT: popmn.org/mission/fmssc/