

GOD'S RADICAL PEOPLE Week 7

These weekly studies are loosely based on the previous Sunday's sermon. If you missed it, you will find a recording on our website (www.knaphillbaptist.org.uk). They are designed for both Home Group discussion and/or personal reflection. Don't necessarily try to cover all the questions and discussion topics in your group at one sitting. You may like to think about them later in your own time.



Read Acts 2:46,47a

This is the seventh in our series of studies entitled *God's Radical People* from Acts 2:37-47 looking at the life and witness of New Testament Church. Here we find the principles that show us what sort of church God wants us to be. This week we see that they were a Worshipping People. Worship is the central act of the Church's life. Our English word 'worship' comes from the Anglo-Saxon word 'worscrip' which means to 'declare the worth of something'. In worship, therefore, supremely we 'declare God's worth' and that God is worthy of our devotion and service. Throughout Scripture we find believing people worshipping the living God, from the brilliant kaleidoscope of Old Testament worship and the full-orbed worship of the Psalms to the freer, simpler, but nonetheless meaningful, worship of the New Testament Church and then on to the breath-taking, overwhelming worship of heaven as revealed in the Revelation of John.

Questions and pointers for discussion/reflection

1. What are the principles of Christian worship that should govern our attitude and approach to worship?
2. Worship is primarily for God's benefit, not ours alone. Discuss. Have a look at Psalm 95:6,7; John 4:23; 1 Chronicles 16:29. How does this change the way you think of worship?
3. Worship must be '*in Spirit and in truth*' (see John 2:24; Revelation 1:10). What do you think this means?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 14:26-40. Should there be a discernible pattern to our worship? Should it be fixed or flexible? Ordered or anything goes?
5. The New Testament church met regularly to praise and worship God (v.46). How important is the church's gathering for worship to you? Can you take it or leave it? (see 1 Corinthians 14:26; Hebrews 10:25).
6. The message translates verse 46 as, '*They followed a daily discipline of worship in the temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God.*' In what way/s can our worship of God be a daily discipline? What impact might this then have on our worship time together on a Sunday?
7. 'When worship is pallid, slow, anaemic and uninspiring, the spiritual health of the people is also! But where worship is vital, alive and vibrant, so too are the people!' Discuss.
8. Psalm 122: 1, '*I was glad when they said to me, 'let us go into the house of the Lord.'*' The New Testament church was enthusiastic about worship. How can we be more like them – glad and sincere, exuberant and joyful?
9. There are three wrong ways we can come to worship:-
 - a. We just come to receive and not to give.
 - b. We just come out of habit and with no expectation.
 - c. We come without any preparation of heart and mind.

Jesus said, '*With the measure you use, it will be measured to you*' (Mark 4:24). How can we enter into worship more fully? What we put in, we get out. It is more about giving than getting; the more we bring to worship the more we get from it. A Jewish saying goes, 'they pray best together who first pray alone'. In what ways do you need to improve both your prayer life and your approach to worship? And what ways do we as a church?