

Small Group Discussion Questions

Spirit and Truth: Rediscovering Christian Worship

These questions are designed to invite group reflection on today's Bible passage and life application of the themes introduced in today's sermon.

Week 11: Praise and Glory

Numbers 6:22-27

1. Recall a time someone influential in your life said something that impacted – positively or negatively – the way you saw yourself. Do you still carry some of the impact of those words today?
2. Today's passage tells the story of God first introducing "the Benediction". What key statement does He make after giving it?
3. What does the term "Benediction" mean? How is God's "word" different from anyone else's?
4. In the ancient world, who typically pronounced blessings, and under what conditions? What two things did the blessing declare?
5. Why is the Book of Numbers called "Numbers"? Why was it important for God to *number* the entire nation of Israel. What material thing does God identify as Israel's "inheritance"? In offering Israel an inheritance, what kind of relationship is God establishing with Israel?
6. What is the first line of the Priestly Blessing? What does it mean for God to *bless* someone? What two things are implied in being "kept" by God?
7. What is the second line of the Blessing? What does the expression "make His face shine on you" mean? What does it mean for God to be *gracious* to us?
8. What is the third line of the Blessing? What is God's posture toward His people? Is this dependent on their performance or merits? What is the Hebrew word we translate "peace"? What are some components of its full meaning?
9. When God says "I will put my name on my people", what name is He talking about? What does it mean for someone to give someone else their name?
10. How does God place His name on us?
11. When Jesus starts His earthly ministry, He gives His own list of blessings – the Beatitudes. What kind of people does He address in these?
12. What does Jesus do to guarantee our "inheritance" – the full benefits of God's blessing to us? And what is the true inheritance we receive through Jesus Christ? Who do we become, as recipients of the Priestly Blessing?

Pray: For God to "put His name on you", claiming you as His child and covenant partner; to experience the full benefit of His blessing (God's protection, provision and peace); to become an agent of God's blessing in the world.