

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 2: Come, Bless the Lord

Psalm 134

1. Recall a time you felt like giving up on a difficult task or during a difficult season. What encouraged you to keep going?
2. Psalm 134 is one of 15 Psalms, or Songs, of Ascents. When were these psalms used by God's people? Where were they going? For what purpose?
3. In ancient times, observant Jews traveled to Jerusalem from across the known world. In what ways does the journey to the Temple in Jerusalem parallel the journey from everyday life into worship? What are some of the barriers you experience when you are trying to get to church or transition to your weekly worship service experience?
4. James K.A. Smith says that "to be human...is to be directed toward something." What different things do you observe others' lives are directed toward? What are some of the different goals or ambitions your life has been directed toward? What different factors have influenced your direction over the course of your life?
5. Was there a point at which you intentionally chose to orient your life toward faith in, and worship of, God? What motivated that choice?
6. The first line of Psalm 134 is, "Come, Praise the Lord". What is the other translation of the Hebrew word for "Praise"? What does it mean to *praise* God?
7. Who are the "servants of the Lord" and what is the "House of the Lord" referred to in the next line? What is the new "house of the Lord"; in what ways do we do the work of those "servants who minister"?
8. In what circumstances do you, or others, spontaneously raise your hands? What does the call to "raise hands" say about our right posture in worship? What was the "sanctuary" in the Old Testament? According to the New Testament, what is the new sanctuary – the new dwelling place for God's Spirit?
9. In what ways does our praise *bless* God?
10. In addition to offering God our praise, why do God's people go to worship?
11. What are some reasons the community of the church is essential to worship?
12. What are some ways you can think of to help stay oriented to the love and lordship of Jesus?

Pray: Ask the Lord Jesus to come to you when you are discouraged and disoriented; give you encouragement to "look up" to Him; and reorient you to His love and presence.