

Announcements for CREW April 28, 2004

VBS workers are needed. If you want to help with VBS please sign the sheet that is going around now in the area you want to work in. WE need to know so we can purchase shirts for you. If you have any questions please see Mrs. Peggy. An all VBS workers meeting is coming up soon.

Don't forget that small groups have started and meet at 5:30pm on Sunday nights. Jr, High you are at Pastor Jeremy's house and Sr. High you are at Lona Davidson's house. If you need a ride to either place please be at the church no later than 5:15pm on Sundays you can get a ride there. Small groups are over about 7:30pm and you may also get a ride back to church if necessary. If you have any questions please see Pastor Jeremy.

Youth Choir is singing on Sunday. If you are in youth choir please be upstairs at about 10:15am to get ready to sing. If you are not please come and sit up front to show your support for those who do.

Purpose Driven Life books, if you don't have one and want one please pick up a copy. There are about 5 books down here tonight for you to get if you need to. Otherwise you need to go up in the gym and pick one up from the table. Please only take one if you are going to read it.

Game

Steal the Bacon outside. Split them up into four different teams.

Prayer Time

Break them up into groups that have all the different grades in it and pass out index cards for the groups. Have them right down a prayer request and name, phone number etc. This will be their groups for the next couple of weeks. I want one person in your group just to take an extra index card and write down each name of those in the group and hand it to me.

Welcome to the Planet
It's All about Time!
Pastor Jeremy Spence
April 28, 2004

Okay well I hope you guys are enjoying yourselves so far tonight and are ready to see what kind of thoughts come out of my head and mouth but before we get started in our lesson for tonight I want to share with you some mindless facts. Like did you know:

A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.

A Crocodile cannot stick out its tongue.

A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.

A “jiffy” is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second

A snail can sleep for three years

It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open

Our eyes stay the same from birth, but men's noses and ears never stop growing.

Women blink about twice as much as men.

Your stomach has to produce a new layer of mucus every two weeks; otherwise it will digest itself.

Your generation spent over 170 billion dollars last year.

Some of those are pretty stupid in all honesty and have nothing to do with what we are talking about except for the last one. In fact, tonight's lesson has every bit of impact on what you may buy and what you do with your life. Last week we began our journey by looking at the different purposes for our lives. They are summed in five words that you see on our title slide each week. Honor, Connect, Grow, Discover, and reach. These five words will change your life if you allow yourself and commit to coming each week to discover what each one has to do with your purposes. In fact about 90% of you last week said you were going to commit to being here and allowing God change you in the process. That is amazing and I am proud that you all can do that. The others of you said you would commit to at least some aspect of our study together but knew you couldn't do it all because of other time restrictions. That is okay and I am glad you are back tonight as we dive into our first purpose.

As I said earlier, you guys as teens in America spent over \$170 billion dollars this past year on “stuff”. In fact I can tell you where the majority of your money went to: movies, eating out with friends, clothes, cell phones, and last but not least CD's or things of the like. The other interesting thing I read this week was that you ladies as a whole will spend about 17 million dollars on beauty products this year. The question that comes to my mind: Is it really worth all that money? I might be crazy but I don't think so.

Also our study tonight as everything to do with one of the hottest TV shows out there. In fact I believe it is in its 5th season or something like that. Can anyone guess what show it is? That's right it is *American Idol*. In fact, this phenomenon is so great that if you live in the city limits of Fairfield you can be a part of *Fairfield Idol*. This TV show is making great fame. Who one the last *American Idol*? How well do you know that person? Could you call them up later tonight and they actually talk on the phone to you? Could

you just pop over to their house and have dinner? The funny thing is that this show that attracts more than 20 million people (those are the ones who vote) each week really does nothing to foster that relationship between the viewer and the *Idols* themselves. Well, tonight we are talking about one of our purposes that help us and will foster our relationship with God. But first look at this video clip from *Indian Jones and the Lost Ark*

Show clip 1:41:45 through 1:43:45

Okay I want you guys to answer these questions: Who/What is the object of Indian Jones worship? If you were the girlfriend right now what would you be feeling? Do you think that Jones truly loves the girl more than anything? Why or Why not?

I believe that this clip shows us a couple things very important about worship. The first truth is this: **Worship Happens!** It is something that is going to take place in our life regardless if we are intentional about placing our worship on something or someone. I could ask you tonight what are some things that people in general worship and we could make a laundry list of objects, people, places, etc. The underlining theme for it all is that **worship** happens. You see on the screen some other words that we may use instead of the “churchy” word. They can include: value, idolize, honor, respect, reverence, adoration, and so on.

Now how do you know what or who you are worshipping? Well if you don’t know let me help you out tonight by giving you a little test. It only consists of 3 questions so you don’t have to worry about how long it will take you. In fact, I won’t even see your answers, this is a test just to help you understand what you worship, or honor.

The first question is this: What do you spend your free time doing? I realize that you may say you don’t have any free time but that isn’t necessarily true. Yes there are something that you must do like go to school, do homework, sleep, and eat. Beyond that there is little else you must do. Those other minutes of our day is filled up with what we want to do. What takes the majority of that time? If you have 5 extra minutes what are you doing? Whatever you answer to this question is will help you in deciding what object you are worshipping. We honor something by giving our time and energy to it.

Our second question for trying to determine what we are worshipping is this: Where are you spending your money? I just told you at the start of our journey tonight how much money teens in general spend, what about you? Do you go blow your money on the latest CD, clothes, cell phone accessory, food, and so on. Or you do you make sure that regardless of the money you receive a portion of that is going back to God. It is easier to give when you don’t have money than it is when you have it all around you. Regardless of what camp you may find yourself in this fact remains the same, you show what you honor by the money you put into it. Read with me what Christ said concerning our money and treasures; “²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Our treasure lies into what we spend most of our money on, however little that may be.

The last question on our quiz tonight is: What are you thinking the most about? If I were able to go inside your brain and just look around and read your thoughts what would be the theme. You know besides schoolwork and what 25 times 25 is what are you thinking about? This is the one aspect of who you are that cannot be controlled by someone else. I mean your parents can tell you and force you to some extent to spend your money and time in a certain way but they can't for the life of them control your thoughts. Your thoughts are just that:

The last question on our quiz tonight is: What are you thinking the most about? If I were able to go inside your brain and just look around and read your thoughts what would be the theme. You know besides schoolwork and what 25 times 25 is what are you thinking about? This is the one aspect of who you are that cannot be controlled by someone else. I mean your parents can tell you and force you to some extent to spend your money and time in a certain way but they can't for the life of them control your thoughts. Your thoughts are just that: **YOURS**. However, because of this, the question of our thoughts can sometimes be the best indicator on what we value, honor and therefore worship.

Now I want to give you just a minute to rate yourself on those three areas of you life on a scale of 1-10. 1 being just terrible when it comes to God and 10 being that every single part of who am I and all day long I think about nothing but God and what he wants.

Alrighty, let's talk about worship and discover more about honoring God. We just have figured out, or have learned some questions to help us figure out if God is what we are worshipping, let's segway into what it means to honor God.

What is it?

Worship is giving God Worth. The very first use of the word worship came from the words "worth" and "ship" or when someone said the word they were just stating that fact that this object was worthy of honor. Last we talked about how God is telling us through his word that we matter to him, worship is our way of saying that "God you matter to me." You see whatever object you answered the 3 questions with is what matters to you.

Can anyone tell me what the first commandment is in the list of 10 that God gave Moses? Your right it is: ***You shall have no other gods before Me. Exodus 20:3.*** The funny part about this command is with it being first God was in essence saying how important it was for them to understand and obey them. The other interesting part is out of all the commands listed in Exodus this is the one command that the rest of the Old Testamena and New Testament shows that the Israelites and people in general have the hardest time obeying. I believe that is why Satan tempted Chrsit in the same way. Our response should be the same as Christ "***Jesus said to the devil, "Worship the Lord your God and serve him only." Matthew 4:10.*** I believe that is also why elsewhere in Matthew Christ says that we cannot serve two masters.

Another part of worship is giving God our focus. How many of you have your driver's license? How many of you are driving? How many have your permit? Have you ever had someone say to you this, "Watch where you're going! Keep your eyes on the road.

Pay attention to what you're doing." How many of you have heard that while you're in a car? From either a parent or driving teacher? Here's why. Because we drive where we look. That's just the truth. You will drive where you look. If you're looking off to the side, before long the wheel just goes that way. If you're looking over at the kids in the back seat that are with you, you start going that way. Wherever you look that's where you'll go.

And that's true in your life. You have a certain crowd at school, you want to be like them. You keep your eyes on them. You see what they wear. You see how they act. Soon you start dressing like them, acting like them because you go where you look. It's a matter of your focus.

The fact is wherever we are focusing we will go towards. If you are focusing to be the best at something then that is where your energies and time is. If you are focused on sex as some people in our world is, then that is where you will put your energies and will end up doing. We do what we focus on. If we focus on Christ and God then it is only a matter of time before we start moving that way. Show me where you are focusing right now and I will tell you where you will be in 5 years.

A third part about worship: It is getting God's strength. Why do you think the Bible says on a regular basis you should get together with other people and you should worship God? Because God gives us strength. We will look at other reasons as well later on in our study in the next couple weeks but one thing remains true, when we worship God, God gives us strength. How are you going to handle that crummy situation in your family? How are you going to handle the pressures that you face sometimes from your friends? How are you going to handle the disappointments that come when other people hurt you? The Bible says God will give you strength. That happens when we worship God. It's an important thing. Worship is honoring God.

Now that we know the "what" about worship and honoring God, let's look at two reasons on "Why" we should honor God. The first reason is simple; we should worship God in order to experience God personally. If you need help with experience God then you need to do some more worshipping. Like I said last week we need to be the "Waffle Houses of Worship". When you start to worship you can't help but start to feel God closer to you and experience something more about Him. When you worship and start to tell God why you are honoring something great happens, we experience him. You can't experience something if you aren't putting in the time to get all out of it. You can't say you experienced King's Island if you have never been there. The same is true with God, you can't experience Him if you don't worship Him.

Part of this reason for honoring God comes down to whether or not we truly trust him. Look at this clip from another one of *Indian Jones movie*.

Play clip 1:47:00 to 1:48:35

Worship is liking trusting what you know to be true. We must take that step of faith in essence when we start to worship God. Soemtimes that is easy other times it isn't. If you don't believe just sit with me for a while and allow me to tell you some of the times in my life when it wasn't easy to worship. Or read some of the Psalms and you will see people that worshipped God when it wasn't easy. It all comes down to how much do you trust God.

Another way to look at it comes from the dating relationship. It feels like telling somebody you love them for the first time. I don't know how many of you have ever believed you're in love. But if you have been and you know that moment when you build up the courage and say, "This is the day I'm going to say to this person, I love you." You know what you want to hear back. You want them to say back to you, "I love you, too." You're so scared that they're not going to say it. Your palms are sweating, you're sick at your stomach. You hope they'll say, "I love you too."

It wouldn't be that comforting if you told the person you loved "I love you" and have them say thanks, I appreciate that, would it? When you get the courage to tell someone for the first time that you love them you expect to some extent that they will respond in the same way.

The bible tells us that this is exactly what God did to you and me. He said "I Love You" first and is waiting for us to say it back to him. That is part of what worship is, saying I love you back to God. The problem is that most of us live our lives with just saying thanks and not truly experiencing God.

The second reason we should honor God and worship Him is to have our Hearts changed. It is a fact of life, as sure as each month as a full moon, when we worship God, He changes us. Whenever you love anybody your heart changes. It grows. It gets more full. You can just sense something different about you. And when you love God your heart will change. Here's how you'll know. You will move from "I *have* to do these things for God," to "I *want* to do these things for God." You can do all kinds of stuff and not really love God. You say, "I'm here on the weekend, Brad. That proves I love God." That doesn't prove you love God. You could be here on the weekend because you know the hot guys, hot girls, or your parents made you. There could be a dozen reasons you're here that has nothing to do with loving God. "Brad, I sang the songs and the songs said, God, I love you and I want to worship you." You can say words to songs.

God is not as interested in what you do as He is in why you do it. The Bible says God's not looking on the outside. God's looking on the inside. He knows what you're thinking. He knows what you feel. He wants to know that it's really coming out of your heart.

Nobody can make you really worship God. They could hold a gun to your head and say, "You've got to sing. You've got to pray. You've got to read the Bible." They could force you to do that. But they can't force your heart to love God. You've just got to choose to do that. Here's what the Bible says in *1 Corinthians 13:2*, "*If I have no love, I am nothing.*" God wants to know that you love Him.

Finally let me briefly state how we can do that. These are just the principles and I want you in just a minute to in your groups come up with the specifics. Here are your principles

1. Give God Your **LOVE** (Love is spelled- T.I.M.E.)
2. Give God Your **PRAISE** (that's admiration and thankfulness)
3. Give God Your **DEVOTION** (that's loyalty)

You see up on the screen our memory verse for this week. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."

Mark 12.30 This sums up the whole lesson and everything there is about Honouring God. You do this by loving him with all that we have.

I just want to leave you with a couple more thoughts. When you love someone you normally don't want to keep it a secret do you? No, instead you normally make sure it is known by everyone. Why do you think you put it on folders, cloths, walls, and so forth. You want to let the whole world know that you love that person. Is it the same with God? Do you hide your love for God? If you do, are you truly loving Him?

Secondly, remember that God is more interested in who we are than what we do. God doesn't care as much about what ministries you do or how you worship instead on the reasons behind why you worship. God is more interested in personally changing you than he is in how you worship or what things you do for Him.

Lastly and you see this up on the screen. Final Thought Our goal should not be to know God but to be known by God. Let me close with reading Romans 1.21-25

RO 1:21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

RO 1:24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵ They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen."

Does this verse describe you, if so change and allow God be the object of your worship. Let's Pray.

Welcome to the Planet:
It's All About Time

Worship _____.

Other words we use:

-
-
-

Test:

-
-
-

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be” Matthew 6:21

1. What is it?

- Giving God

- Giving God
- Getting God's

2. Why honor God?

- To Experience God

- To Have Your Heart

“If I have no love, I am nothing” I Corinthians 13:2

3. How to honor God?

- Give God Your _____ (Love is spelled- T.I.M.E.)

- Give God Your _____ (that's admiration and thankfulness)

- Give God Your _____ (that's loyalty)

Final Thought “Our goal should not be to know God but to be known by God.” Yours Truly