

ALTARS

Title: **ALTAR OF TRUE WORSHIP**

Date: MARCH 17, 2024

Leader's Notes:

1. Start and end the life group on time.
2. Facilitate discussions with your group and **give all attendees opportunities to share their thoughts**. Encourage participation.

Life Group Discussion Proper

WORSHIP: (15 mins)

Option 1: In person - Home gatherings

Suggestions: Assign someone to lead worship or play two praise & worship songs from You Tube.

Option 2: In person gatherings at a public place (park, school, café) or Online home gathering (via Zoom).

Suggestions: Ask people to share testimonies of answered prayers or ask the question: Ask the group, "What are you thankful to God about this past week?"

Main Text: "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." **Romans 12:1-2 NIV**

Intro: The practice of offering animal sacrifices on altars ended in the New Testament, yet we are still encouraged to present something to God in acknowledgment of His mercy we received through His Son Jesus Christ. In Romans 11, Paul wrote about how God cut off the Jewish people and grafted the Gentiles (non-Jewish people) in His mercy. Christ served as the ultimate sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins and our deliverance from it's consequences.

WELCOME:(15 mins): IWC - Introduce yourself. Welcome guests/first-time visitors. Cheerfully call someone to do the same.

Ice-breaker Questions: Ask for participations.

Q: Do you know your "love language?" (Words of Affirmation, Acts of Service, Receiving Gifts, Quality Time, and Physical Touch.)

Q: How do you show or express gratitude to someone who is nice to you?

WORD (30–45 mins)

In response to His lovingkindness, He commands us to offer something on the altar of our relationship with Him as an expression of our gratitude and worship. Here are two things we can do:

1. Fully surrender our life to Him—

Have you ever wondered why Paul commanded Christians in Rome and all the Christians who will read the Book of Romans, to surrender their bodies? Why not our spirits or our souls? Because the body, which has become the temple of the Holy Spirit, reveals the condition of our inner lives. And God wants us to glorify Him with our bodies.

"Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies." 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 NIV

Application:

So, a fully surrendered person to Christ is the one whose life as expressed in his/ her body, lives a holy life and pleasing to God.

Discussion Questions:

Q: What does the word "surrender" mean to you?

Q: What areas of my life do I struggle to surrender to God?

Q: What steps can I take to surrender control over my life to God on a daily basis?

Continuation:

2. Let go of our worldly mindsets to embrace the thoughts/ will of God

Part of a fully surrendered life to Christ is the renewing of our minds. Renewing our minds starts with repenting of our worldly/ carnal mindsets and replaced with the thoughts or the will of God.

Read this passage together with your group:

“For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. 4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. 20 On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” Romans 12:3-21 NIV

Application:

We as whole-hearted followers of Christ are to be known for our obedience to Christ in humility and love.

Discussion Questions:

Q: How does surrendering our lives to God impact our relationships with our family, our friends, others?

Q: How does giving my life to God affect the way I make choices in life ? In what way or ways?

Conclusion/ Challenge:

We have relegated worship to an hour and half every Sunday in a building which we wrongly call as the church. But true worship is a life fully surrendered and consecrated to God and His will. Are you a true worshipper or not? If not, surrender your life to God today and give the true worship that God deserves. And what you offer or surrender to God will be replaced by what God thinks is best for you. He transforms us from the inside out and puts us in a position where we have the favour of God, an open heaven above us, and see the wonders of God more and more.

LG Leader: Ask everyone to read this text on The Message Version

“So here is what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Do not become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You will be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.” Romans

12:1-2 The Message

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST TAKE-AWAY FROM THE LESSON?

Tell your group to partner with someone and ask this question to their partner.

Q: What impacted you the most from this lesson?

WORK: The Challenge & Closing prayer (15 mins.)

1. Memorize a verse from your devotions this week and be prepared to share it on our next gathering.
2. Please take time in your smaller groups to pray for one another. If there are specific needs, take time to lift them up to God in prayer as well. Ask each other, **“what can I pray for you?”**

Leader’s Notes:

1. Please remind your group of your next gathering and ask them to invite a friend.
2. Please encourage the group to remember to pray for one another during the week.