

Songs of Joy – Psalm 95

Getting Started

- What does it mean to worship?
- What are the core elements that need to be part of a church service? What bits are optional extras?

Read Psalm 95 together

On a blank piece of paper (butchers paper for the whole group to do together or each person working with their own page) divide the page into 3 columns with headings as follows:

Encouragements and commands to worship	Reasons for doing this	How we do this at church	How might we do this better?

As a way of engaging with the passage work through the columns one at a time from left to right asking questions like the following:

- What encouragements, exhortations or commands are there in this passage for our worship? (e.g. let us sing, let us shout aloud)
- What reasons are given for worshipping in this way?
 - What do we learn about God's character and actions in these reasons?
 - Is there anything here that you don't understand or don't like?
 - If people get stuck on verses 8-11 then you might need to go back and read Exodus 17:1-7 where this incident is described
 - If people want to explore further the challenge of entering God's rest then you can read Hebrews 3:7-4:11 and discuss how this is applied to Christians
 - What excites and motivates you here to really worship!
- How do we follow these encouragements & commands to worship in our church and Life Groups?
 - Are these encouragements unique to ancient Israel or are they things we should do now?
 - Which things are we better at than others at our church or in our group
- How we might we worship God better as we respond to these encouragements to worship?
 - Write down some practical ways to do this better as individuals or together

Pray together

- Use the list of reasons for worship to praise God for who he is and what he has done
- Ask God to help us as a church and you as an individual to worship him more fully using some of the ideas from your last column