

Let's Discuss...Worship

PART 2_Holy Ordinaries



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Scriptures mentioned:

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

John 15:4 ESV

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Hebrews 13:8 NLT

Sermon on the Mount
Matthew 5-7

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:3 NIV

See end of study notes for some biblical examples where God turned ordinary moments into extraordinary moments...

Hey Group Leaders!

Consider this flow for the study time together with your small group:

1. See if anyone wants to share on what came up for them as they reflected on this since the last gathering:

This week, take time to notice which parts of yourself you bring to God when you engage with Him. Does it feel natural to come as your most authentic self—with your highs and lows, frustrations, gratitude, anger, and joy? Or do you find yourself offering a more polished or idealised version of what you think a “good Christian” should look like? Reflect on whether you invite God into both the big picture and the small details of your life, or if there are areas you try to handle on your own. Simply be mindful of the version of yourself you consciously present to Him—and know that He desires all of you.

2. Watch this week's video, **Let's Discuss...Worship PART 2_Holy Ordinaries**.
3. Choose a couple of the “Let's Discuss...” questions below to discuss in your group.
4. Go over this week's reflection prompt with your group.
5. Choose someone in your group (try to pick someone different each week) to close in prayer, using the prompt below as a guide. Additionally, see if there are any other prayer requests amongst the group and allow your group members the opportunity to pray for each other.

Summary

In a culture obsessed with speed and spectacle, this conversation calls us to something different: to slow down and recognize the sacred in the ordinary. We explore worship as a way of life, not limited to church gatherings or moments of musical expression, but expressed through authentic, whole-life devotion to God. As Joe says, we're invited into a life of *holy ordinaries*.

Definitions

μένω (menō)

abide: to remain, stay, dwell, or be present in a given place, state, or relation

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Let's Discuss...

- When we say that worship should seep into every aspect of our lives, every part of our day, what does this practically look like?
- Pete talks about giving God the best of our time and efforts. How can we honour God in this way? For example, consider how we can make the most of our set aside times of prayer and Scripture reading; give God the best of our workday; glorify Him through the way we interact with friends and family;
- Have you ever experienced a time when something seemingly small or routine turned into a powerful moment with God? How did that moment unfold?
- How do we cultivate faith to see miracles without diminishing the holiness of the mundane?
- Why do you think Joe says that being called to lives of "holy ordinary" is countercultural in a society that is so fast paced?

Let's Reflect This Week...

This week, look for opportunities to be more available and attentive to God's presence in your everyday routines. If it helps, consider using visual reminders such as sticky notes, a wallpaper on your phone, or a personal item (such as a ring or bracelet) as a cue to re-ground yourself in an attentiveness to Him. Notice, what effect does this intentionality have on you - your mood, efforts, thoughts, etc.?

Let's Pray...

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

John 15:4 ESV

- Let's ask God to help us abide deeply in Him, seeing even the most ordinary moments as sacred and allowing this worldview to help us bear lasting fruit for Him.

Let's Go Deeper...

- **Elements of Worship** by Judson Cornwall [book]
- **One Thousand Gifts** by Ann Voskamp [book]
- **Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life** by Tish Harrison Warren [book]
- **Liturgy of the Ordinary - Tish Harrison Warren** by redeemeru [video]
- **Cultivating Attentiveness to God's Presence** by Dr. Tom Schwanda/C. S. Lewis Institute [article]

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Ordinary moments turned extraordinary...

Ordinary → Extraordinary

1 Samuel 17:17-51	David, a young Israelite shepherd, goes to deliver bread and cheese to his brothers on the front line of battle between the Israelites and the Philistines.	David singlehandedly kills the Philistine champion and giant, Goliath, with nothing but a sling and a stone and scares off the rest of their army.
Acts 2:1-41	Disciples of Jesus gathered for the Jewish festival of Pentecost	Suddenly, the Holy Spirit filled the room with the sound of a rushing wind, tongues as of fire rested on each of them, they began speaking in other languages, and about 3,000 were baptised and added to their community of faith that day.
Acts 3:1-10	Peter and John were headed to the temple for their usual 3pm prayer time.	They get asked by a man who'd never been able to walk for some money. Peter says he doesn't have money, but declares healing over him in the name of Jesus and the man gets up and walks! He goes to the temple with them and the locals were amazed to see his miraculous healing.
Acts 5:12-16	The believers met regularly at Solomon's Colonnade.	Their community grew in numbers and began to bring people who were sick and those who were tormented by evil spirits, and they were all healed.
Acts 9:1-31	Saul was traveling to Damascus with the intent to persecute Christians.	Suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him, and he heard the voice of Jesus asking, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" This encounter led to Saul's conversion and transformation. (He was later renamed Paul, a pivotal figure in the spread of Christianity and author of much of the New Testament.)
Acts 9:32-43	Peter was traveling to visit other believers.	During his travels, God used Peter to heal a man who had been paralyzed for eight years. Then they brought him to pray for a woman who had died, and she was raised back to life!
Acts 10:9-48	While waiting for lunch to be prepared, Peter went up on a rooftop to pray.	God gave Peter a vision that shifted his perspective and prepared him to share the Gospel beyond the Jewish community – to Jews and Gentiles alike. Right after the vision, three men arrived to bring him to the house of Cornelius (a Gentile/non-Jew who'd been seeking God). There, Peter preached about Jesus, the Holy Spirit came upon all who listened, they spoke in tongues, and were then baptized.
Acts 12:5-19	Peter was asleep in prison.	An angel appeared in Peter's cell, his chains fell off, and they pulled off a smooth prison break!
Acts 16:25-34	After having been humiliatingly imprisoned, Paul and Silas were up at night praying and singing hymns.	An earthquake opened the prison doors, their chains came loose, they decided NOT to immediately escape but instead they shared the Gospel with the jailer who then took them home for a meal – and his entire household were saved and baptised! Paul and Silas were freed the next morning (after a bit of drama about the way that it'd all gone down, LOL!).
Acts 28:1-10	After being shipwrecked, Paul was putting wood on a fire.	Driven out by the fire's heat, a viper bit his hand. He shook it off unharmed, which astonished the locals and opened the door for Paul to heal many on the island.