

Living the Extraordinary Life: Worship

Trinity Fellowship Church Vision Statement:

To those hungry for the extraordinary life, Trinity Fellowship Church is a healthy family pursuing God, growing stronger, and impacting the world.

Matthew 4:8–10 NLT

Next, the devil took [Jesus] to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. “I will give it all to you,” he said, “if you will kneel down and worship me.”

“Get out of here, Satan,” Jesus told him. “For the Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.’”

Important Truth: We worship what is at the center of our lives.

Luke 18:22–25 NLT (The Rich Man)

When Jesus heard his answer, he said, “There is still one thing you haven’t done. Sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

But when the man heard this, he became very sad, for he was very rich.

When Jesus saw this, he said, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God! In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!”

Biblical worship means recognizing and honoring God’s supreme worth.

Engaging in worship means acknowledging God as the center of our lives (and repenting when we notice something else standing in His rightful place).

John 4:23–24 NLT (The Samaritan Woman)

But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.

Worship is at the very heart of what it means to be a Christian, shaping how we think, decide, feel, and live in every dimension of life.

Exodus 19:3–13 NLT

Then Moses climbed the mountain to appear before God. The Lord called to him from the mountain and said, “Give these instructions to the family of Jacob; announce it to the descendants of Israel: ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians. You know how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.’ This is the message you must give to the people of Israel.”

So Moses returned from the mountain and called together the elders of the people and told them everything the Lord had commanded him. And all the people responded together, “We will do everything the Lord has commanded.” So Moses brought the people’s answer back to the Lord.

Then the Lord said to Moses, “I will come to you in a thick cloud, Moses, so the people themselves can hear me when I speak with you. Then they will always trust you.”

Moses told the Lord what the people had said. Then the Lord told Moses, “Go down and prepare the people for my arrival. Consecrate them today and tomorrow, and have them wash their clothing. Be sure they are ready on the third day, for on that day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai as all the people watch. Mark off a boundary all around the mountain. Warn the people, ‘Be careful! Do not go up on the mountain or even touch its boundaries. Anyone who touches the mountain will certainly be put to death. No hand may touch the person or animal that crosses the boundary; instead, stone them or shoot them with arrows. They must be put to death.’ However, when the ram’s horn sounds a long blast, then the people may go up on the mountain.”

Exodus 19:16–23 NLT

On the morning of the third day, thunder roared and lightning flashed, and a dense cloud came down on the mountain. There was a long, loud blast from a ram’s horn, and all the people trembled. Moses led them out from the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. All of Mount Sinai was covered with smoke because the Lord had descended on it in the form of fire. The smoke billowed into the sky like smoke from a brick kiln, and the whole mountain shook violently. As the blast of the ram’s horn grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God thundered his reply.

The Lord came down on the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses climbed the mountain.

Then the Lord told Moses, “Go back down and warn the people not to break through the boundaries to see the Lord, or they will die. Even the priests who regularly come near to the Lord must purify themselves so that the Lord does not break out and destroy them.”

“But Lord,” Moses protested, “the people cannot come up to Mount Sinai. You already warned us. You told me, ‘Mark off a boundary all around the mountain to set it apart as holy.’”

Exodus 20:1–3 NLT

Then God gave the people all these instructions: “I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery. You must not have any other god but me.”

Exodus 20:18–21 NLT

When the people heard the thunder and the loud blast of the ram’s horn, and when they saw the flashes of lightning and the smoke billowing from the mountain, they stood at a distance, trembling with fear.

And they said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen. But don’t let God speak directly to us, or we will die!”

“Don’t be afraid,” Moses answered them, “for God has come in this way to test you, and so that your fear of him will keep you from sinning!”

As the people stood in the distance, Moses approached the dark cloud where God was.

To worship God without expecting personal transformation is to look for an experience that checks the religious box while avoiding the accountability real spiritual growth requires.

Hebrews 10:19–22 NLT

And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven’s Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God’s house, let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ’s blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.

Hebrews 10:12–17 NLT

But our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time. Then he sat down in the place of honor at God's right hand. There he waits until his enemies are humbled and made a footstool under his feet. For by that one offering, he forever made perfect those who are being made holy.

And the Holy Spirit also testifies that this is so. For he says, "This is the new covenant I will make with my people on that day, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds." Then he says, "I will never again remember their sins and lawless deeds."

Christianity without worship is merely a set of "good principles." Helpful as that may be for us, it falls far short of the Extraordinary Life Christ died to give us.

Hebrews 12:18–25 NLT

You have not come to a physical mountain, to a place of flaming fire, darkness, gloom, and whirlwind, as the Israelites did at Mount Sinai. For they heard an awesome trumpet blast and a voice so terrible that they begged God to stop speaking. They staggered back under God's command: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death." Moses himself was so frightened at the sight that he said, "I am terrified and trembling."

No, you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to countless thousands of angels in a joyful gathering. You have come to the assembly of God's firstborn children, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God himself, who is the judge over all things. You have come to the spirits of the righteous ones in heaven who have now been made perfect. You have come to Jesus, the one who mediates the new covenant between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks of forgiveness instead of crying out for vengeance like the blood of Abel.

Be careful that you do not refuse to listen to the One who is speaking. For if the people of Israel did not escape when they refused to listen to Moses, the earthly messenger, we will certainly not escape if we reject the One who speaks to us from heaven!

Small Group Guide

Opening Question

What is one thing in your life — a goal, a relationship, a comfort — that, if God asked you to release it, would genuinely be hard to let go of? What does that tell you about where it sits in your life?

Worship Is What You Do With What's at the Center

We were made to worship. Whatever sits at the center of a life will inevitably receive that life's highest devotion, deepest trust, and most consistent attention. The question is never whether we are worshipping, but what. For most of us today, the competition is not literal idols. It is the things we have quietly come to believe will give us life — career, money, influence, comfort, the approval of people whose opinion matters to us. That is how most functional idolatry works. It is not about wanting bad things. It is about trusting something other than God to provide them.

The word “worship” itself derives from the Anglo-Saxon “worth-ship” — a pledge of utter devotion to the one deemed worthy of honor. And the Greek word Jesus uses with the Samaritan woman in John 4 — *proskuneo* — means to bow down or prostrate oneself, but the meaning goes beyond a physical act. True worship, Jesus says, happens in spirit and in truth: a bowing down of the heart in submission to God in all things, a sincere expression of who He is to us. When our spirit meets God's Spirit in that posture, something happens — we are transformed, altered, shifted, becoming more like who God created us to be. This is why worship is not simply one component of the Christian life, it is the foundation of it.

The contrast in Exodus 19 and 20 is one of the most instructive moments in all of Scripture on this point. God descended on Sinai in fire and thunder and smoke specifically to meet with His people — to commune with them directly. But the people chose religion instead. They asked Moses to go to God for them. And the very next thing that happens is the golden calf — something they could see, touch, and control — because when we refuse to encounter the living God, we do not stop worshipping. We redirect. What the people missed was that God did not bring them out of Egypt to kill them. **He wanted to kill the Egypt that was in them.** Real worship has always required that willingness — to be examined, changed, and made uncomfortable by the Presence of God.

What makes this possible for us — what was not yet available to the Israelites at Sinai — is the blood of Jesus. Hebrews 10 is explicit: we can now enter boldly into the Most Holy Place, not because we have earned it but because our guilty consciences have been sprinkled clean and our bodies washed. We are welcome. We are not coming to

the thundering mountain of Sinai, where even Moses trembled. We are coming to Mount Zion — to a joyful gathering, to Jesus the mediator, to a God who has written His law on our hearts and promised to remember our sins no more. That is the invitation. And what happens when we accept it is that our hearts and minds begin to conform to His ways. Our lives change. Our priorities realign. Our desires shift. Christianity without worship is merely a set of good principles. Helpful, perhaps — but nowhere near the extraordinary life Christ died to give us.

For Discussion

1. Your notes state: “We worship what is at the center of our lives.” If someone observed your schedule, your spending, and your emotional energy over the past month, what would they conclude is at the center of yours?
2. The Israelites at Sinai chose Moses as an intermediary rather than encounter God directly. In what ways do we do the same thing today — keeping God at a managed distance while still appearing religious? What drives that instinct in you personally?
3. Hebrews 10 says we can now enter God’s presence boldly — with full access, clean consciences, and nothing to fear. Does that describe how you actually approach God? What tends to make you hold back?
4. Your notes describe worship as broader than singing — encompassing prayer, giving, serving, and gathering. Which of those expressions of worship feels most natural to you? Which feels least like worship, and why?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, You are worthy of all our devotion, all our trust, and the very center of our lives. Forgive us for the ways we have handed that center to other things, not always out of rebellion but out of fear and a failure to trust You. We choose today to reorient. Jesus, thank You that You have opened the way into God’s presence — that we do not have to stand at a distance, asking someone else to go for us. We come boldly, because You have made us clean and welcome. Holy Spirit, meet us here. Search us and know us. Show us what needs to grow, what needs to die, and what needs to change. We do not want a worship that checks a religious box. We want the encounter with You that transforms us. Make us people who hunger for the extraordinary life, and people who know that it begins and ends with You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

