



Worship 101: God Seeks

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Head: Understanding the Bible

“From ghoulies and ghosties, and long-leggedy beasties, And things that go bump in the night, Good Lord, deliver us!”

- 1) Worship is war. Do you believe this? How is corporate, gathered worship a spiritual battle?
- 2) Read Genesis 4:1-16. Why does God regard Abel and his offering and reject Cain? What weapon did Abel bring to worship that Cain did not? (See Hebrews 11:4)
- 3) The offering given by Cain and Abel is a dedication offering. It’s an offering that functions as a symbol of the giver’s allegiance and affection towards their God. How is giving faithfully to God an act of spiritual warfare?
- 4) Reflect on the image of a lion crouching and seeking to master us. What is God telling us about sin, found in all human beings? How is this reality change the way we approach Sunday morning worship? What are we fighting?

Heart: Using the Gospel on Our Affections

“Worship pronounces the end of our attempts at self-justification and puts a stop to our self-salvation projects by declaring Christ as the only One who can justify us before God. It proclaims death to the Old Adam in us who desperately wants to stand before God on his own two feet and present his own works as worthy of God’s pleasure. Worship assaults [our sin] by forcing it to cower in fear.”

~Zac Hicks, Worship by the Book, 83.

- 5) How does one overcome a crouching lion who wants to rule over us? Keep in mind the Bible’s description of human beings. We are called “sheep.” What is God using to try and get Cain’s and our affection and allegiance?

- 6) How does God seek our affection and allegiance? Meditate on Hebrews 12:24, on what it means to come to a better blood than Abel’s, the blood of Christ, our Savior.

Hands: Applying the Gospel to Our Lives

Nothing in my hand I bring, Simply to the cross I cling; Naked, come to Thee for dress; Helpless look to Thee for grace; Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Savior, or I die.

~Augustus Toplady, “Rock of Ages,” Trinity Hymnal #499

- 7) We regularly confess sin together in a gathered worship service. In light of Genesis 4, why is this important? What effect should regular confession of sin have on our relationships? Do you confess your sin in your own prayer life? What do you use as a guide?

- 8) Read Hebrews 3:12-14 & James 5:16. Where else should confession of sin take place? Do you do this? How does the kindness of God make this possible among Christians?

- 9) Take time to pray for one another in the war against sin. Pray for Christ, our Captain and King, to lead us not into temptation and to deliver us from evil.