



Extravagant Worship

AIMS AND OUTCOMES

- To think about why we worship.
- To consider the primary aim of worship.
- To reflect on our own worship and daily response to Christ.

RESOURCES

You will need:

- A computer and data projector and a copy of the Powerpoint presentation. If the group is very small you could print out the Powerpoint presentation.
- Bibles
- Copies of questions cards, one per person
- Pens and slips of paper
- A large bottle, if you can find something coloured or ornate great, if not a large plastic bottle will suffice.
- Some broken unglazed pots soaked in perfumed oil, enough for each person to take a piece home.

Make sure you have a working version of the presentation before the session and that the technology and the space you plan to use are appropriate for your audience.

SESSION PLAN

In 2's or 3's discuss what 'Worship' means.

Plenty of people have plenty to say about Worship

Show slide 1

Explain that 'worship' comes from the word 'worth-ship';
Click meaning to ascribe 'worth' to what we value most.

In the New Testament, the word commonly used for worship can also be translated, 'I come towards to kiss.' A kiss is a sign of love! Worship is our only fitting response to God's love for us.

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Paul summed it up thus. *Romans 12:1*

Read *Luke 7:36-50* together.



NOTES: Simon was a Pharisee - a respected member of the community. He did not consider himself a sinner and therefore, had not sought God's forgiveness. He did not even extend the normal courtesies of a host to his guest (water to wash feet; oil to anoint head; kiss of greeting).

The woman was a sinner- and publicly identified as such. But she recognised her sinfulness and experienced Jesus' love and forgiveness. She responded to Jesus' acceptance by 'coming towards' Jesus to wash, anoint and kiss his feet.

Discuss in 3's

- What was the woman's primary aim?
- In what way were the woman's actions 'extravagant'?

The primary aim of the woman's actions was to honour Jesus - this must be the primary aim of our worship.

The woman's actions were extravagant because she had gone beyond what she could afford as an expression of her love - likewise our offerings should be costly and should demonstrate that Jesus is more important to us than anything else.

Although she had an audience, the woman was not interested in what other people thought - it was all about Jesus.

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The woman's worship was passionate (she gave herself physically, emotionally and spiritually), public, pricey, extravagant (expensive perfume) and perilous (she risked being thrown out of the house or punished).

Use this picture to reflect on the questions on the individual cards. (you may want to play some quiet music in the background)

Give out **question cards**.

How does our worship compare?

- Do we worship God with all our heart, soul and mind? (Matthew 22:37)
- Are we ashamed of the gospel of Jesus? (Romans 1:16)
- Are we willing to bear the cost of discipleship? (Luke 9:23)
- Do we acknowledge Jesus even when it is risky? (Matthew 10:32,33)

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Give everyone a slip of paper and a pen or pencil. Invite participants to write on the slip of paper what Jesus is worth to them.



Pass around the large bottle, asking people to roll up the piece of paper and place it in the bottle to remind them of the bottle of expensive perfume with which the woman showed how much Jesus was worth to her.

Spend some time together praying.

Invite everyone to collect a piece of perfumed broken pot as they leave, to remind them of how much Jesus is worth and that his worth should be reflected in both our corporate worship and our daily lives.