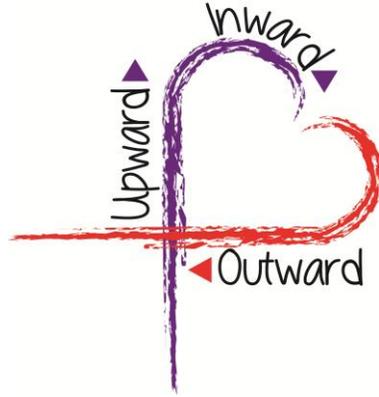


worship@home

Student's Personal Study Guide

Written by: Lisa Jones

Dear Friend,
Devoted Hearts & Homes is committed to helping our church family and community to be devoted followers of Jesus Christ, loving Him with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and to live our faith in Jesus at home, passing our faith to the next generation. The home is intended by God to be the primary place for spiritual formation and growth. We, as a church, want to diligently follow His will for us.



Devoted Hearts & Homes is helping our families by providing two campaigns a year which specifically teach a spiritual discipline. We prayerfully choose our campaigns by the Lord's direction. We kicked off our first campaign with **752pray@home**. Our second campaign was the **word@home** and now it is with excitement we introduce to you **worship@home**.

You can learn more about Devoted Hearts and Homes and each campaign by going to our Tallowood website at www.tallowood.org. Click on Resources and then click Devoted Hearts & Homes.

Let us begin our study of worship@home. To begin to understand worship, I'd like for us to explore our thought life.

Personal Reflection:

"Worship is everything we think, everything we say, and everything we do, revealing that which we treasure and value most in life." Quote by Josh Riley

Question: What do you think about in your unguarded moments, your free time?

You may think about the tasks for the day, the hurts or wounds of the past, maybe a challenging relationship, or fantasize with the "if only's", or maybe your mind is in neutral and there is nothing on your mind." It is in the free moments that we need to be on guard to what can capture our attention to draw us away from the Lord.

I was once asked this question by my bible study teacher. "*What do you spend most of your time thinking about during your day?*" She challenged her class to take notes about our thought life. John and I had been married a few years, we had our first house and our first child. I took my teacher's challenge. At that time in my life, I was focused on my house and I'm ashamed to say that I was comparing my home to my friends' homes. I wanted to keep "up with the Jones's" and I know they were not keeping up with the real Jones's—that would be me☺. The

challenge definitely showed me that I needed to be content with what I had and that I was chasing after temporal things. The things of this world were overshadowing my love for Jesus, my family and all that God was doing in my life.

A question we need to honestly ask ourselves is “What do I truly worship?”

“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” 2 Corinthians 4:18.

In my next Bible study class, my teacher continued to share that we can learn what we truly value and worship by looking at our thought life. Our thoughts will reveal our cares and our desires. Our thought life will be reflected in conversations and decisions we make during the day. There is a saying that goes like this,

“Our thoughts become words, our words become actions,
our actions become habits and our habits become our destiny.”

Learning what we truly worship in life will send us on a course that will slowly erode or solidly pave our destiny and our family’s legacy.

I want to ask you to take the same challenge,

“
What do you spend most of your time thinking about during your day?”

Take a day to write notes about your thought life. At the end of the day, reflect on how your thought life was reflected in your conversations and decisions. Then answer the following questions:

1. What did you discover about your thought life?
2. Did you thank and praise God at some point during the day? If so when and how did you praise Him?
3. Did you take a few minutes in your day to reflect on your character and how you can make positive changes in your life to reflect God and his word?
4. Did you go out of your way to serve, help or encourage someone in your life?

Choices...Every day we make thousands of decisions with the words we speak and the actions we make. Each of these decisions reflect our thought life, our core being—our heart, our soul, our mind, our strength.

Ponder these words from God:

- “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Luke 12:34
- “As water reflects a face, so a man’s heart reflects the man.” Proverbs 27:19
- “A wise man’s heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction.” Proverbs 16:23
- “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord our God with all your heart and with all our soul and will your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them

when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.” Deut 6:4-9

Thank you for taking some time to reflect on your own life. It can be challenging to take a look at our own life, but God will honor your courage and will give you wisdom in the application of His truth. Let us take a moment to pray before we continue in our study on worship.

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for your glorious word and truth. Thank you for our study on worship. I know that before I can begin to learn how to worship you, I need to see where I put my time and attention. Please forgive me when I turn my eyes off you and put my eyes on things of the world. I pray to live as Paul wrote to the Colossians, “Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.” (Col 3:1-2).

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We typically think of worship as an activity we participate in during our worship services. And it is true, we do worship. But, through scripture we are going to learn that worship is loving God. Loving God is worship. **worship@home's** definition of worship is: Worship is loving God in all of our life. Pastor Brooks will be preaching in our services that worship encompasses our heart, mind, soul and strength. Bible study departments will be teaching the application lesson on how to worship with upward, inward, and outward worship.

“Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess His name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” Hebrews 13:15-16

In preparation for your Bible study lesson in your department, we would like for you to spend time reading the verses that teach us about worship. Your Bible study teacher will be defining some of these verses in his/her lesson.

False Worship vs True Worship

Please look up in your Bible the following verses on worship. After reading the verses, complete the questions that follow:

- 1 John 2:15-17
- John 4:23-24
- Romans 12:1-2
- Hebrews 13:15-16
- Deut 6:4-6

Answer the following questions:

1. These verses teach us about false worship and true worship. Write *False Worship* next to the verses that indicate False Worship and write *True Worship* next to the verses that teach us about True Worship.
2. According to John 4:23-24 how are we to worship God?
3. Romans 12:1-2 states that we are to “offer our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, for this is our spiritual act of worship”. Take a few minutes to reflect on these verses and then respond to God. Ask Him what He would like to share with you about these verses.
4. Hebrews 13:15-16 gives us more specifics about worship. Take a few minutes to list how you can worship God in the following areas:
 - Offer God a sacrifice of Praise:
 - Thank Him for another day.
 - Praise Him for _____.
 -
 -
 - Do not forget to do good:
 - Give a compliment to _____.
 -
 -
 -
 - And to share with others:
 - Share a meal with someone in need.
 -
 -
 -
 -
5. Deut 6:4-6 is our Devoted Hearts & Homes key verse. Reread these verses. Offer praise to God for your family and the legacy of your faith. Family is broad. Your family will be your children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews, god-children, children you mentor. We leave a legacy of faith. Spend time in prayer offering praise and thanksgiving for your family. And then ask Jesus to share with you how you can imprint your faith on your family. **worship@home** is designed to support your faith and give you tools to share your faith with your family through fun, interactive ways. We hope you enjoy the study!

Blessings to you!