

Monday, October 21. Read Exodus 20:1-6. We all worship something, but not every “something” should be worshiped. Have you ever really paid attention to sports fans at a game? They come dressed head to toe in paint and weird clothing. They’re yelling and screaming their heads off, booing and cheering. Occasionally, some people even get into physical fights and brawls over their teams. Some people have even gotten *killed* ... over a game that honestly has no major significance in their lives. Or, how about pop concerts? All these girls crying and screaming with arms stretched out reaching for that celebrity. Some of them even faint and pass out. Seriously! Tears are running down their faces and they’re like blowing snot bubbles out of their noses—definitely some ugly criers in those crowds. Why are people so ridiculously obsessed with those things so much that they have physical, bodily responses to them? It’s because they worship them. Here’s why: as humans, we are worshipers! Every single one of us worships. We can’t help it. It’s who we are. It’s what we do. It’s how we were made. What you spend the most time thinking about, doing, or giving the majority of your attention to is what you worship most. What do you worship?

Tuesday, October 22. Read Romans 1:25, Leviticus 26:1, Luke 4:8. Today’s reading from Romans is a really interesting verse. So let’s look at it a little closer. The NLT version says ‘They traded...’ That’s an indication that they had worshiped God but gave decided to take something else to worship. The other interesting thing about the word “traded” is that it means that they couldn’t have both. They had to give one up for the other. Here’s the thing. We’re either worshiping God or we’re worshiping something else. But we can’t worship both. We must trade one for the other. Because in its very nature, worship is how we respond to the thing we value the absolute most! There can be nothing above that thing or equal to it. The thing we spend most of our time thinking about, doing, giving the most attention to, and putting all our energy into? That’s what we worship. So here’s a question to ask yourself. What are you worshiping? What things are you putting before God? Identify anything that you’re worshiping. Challenge yourself to put that thing down where it belongs and put God up to where He belongs in your life: number one, the only one who deserves and is worthy to be worshiped.

Wednesday, October 23. Read John 4:23-24, Psalms 96:9, Hebrews 12:28. Worship is all about responding to who God is and what He’s done for us. It’s about being so into God that we can’t help responding out loud or with our actions. Sometimes worshiping God is just about focusing on Him. When we can get quiet and find a moment when we aren’t paying attention to anyone or anything else around us, life’s distractions fade away, and we can pour all our love and affection out to Him. Here’s the thing, God doesn’t require some kind of perfect, complicated worship act. It doesn’t have to be all put together. If that’s what you think, then you’re missing out on what worship is all about. He just wants it to be authentic and genuine. We should be so tuned into God that we’re seeing Him show up and move in our lives in big and small ways, so all we can do is worship and say, “Thanks, God. You’re so good, God.” It’s about who He is, what He does, and our response to those things. It’s not what we have to bring, or have to offer, or if we can get it right enough. Worship isn’t about us. It’s about Him.

Thursday, October 24. Read Psalms 95:1-6. Have you ever watched others when they worship at church ... like when we sing worship songs? Why do some people raise their hands, close their eyes, and sway while others just keep their hands in their pockets? Why do others just admit to not really liking the worship part of church because they don't really like singing? Sometimes people walk out of church saying things like, "I didn't really like the songs today," or "I just wasn't really feeling worship today," or "That singer or the band wasn't that good. It kind of took me out of it." Worship isn't about you, or the band, or the songs that you're singing. It's about carving out time in our busy lives and responding to who God is and what He's done for us. It's about a deep, inner spirit response. Some days you may feel out of it and not sure of things, or you might have questions for God. You might even feel mad at God because certain things in your life didn't work out the way you wanted them to. This doesn't mean that we should walk into church, slump down on the chair, fold our arms and have a scowl on our face. That's a great opportunity to look up at the words on the screen that are being sung and enter into a conversation with God. When you see a line that you're not agreeing with at the time, take it to Him. Pray that He will show you that He is those things.

Friday, October 25. Read Matthew 6:33, Colossians 3:17. In everyday life, there are so many things pulling you in different directions. The TV will call out for you to watch it for hours. The iPad or computer will scream out for you to give it some attention. Homework will pile back up. Friends will want to hang out. Teams will still rely on you. Parents will still require you to do housework. And before you know it, you're swept away by the busyness of life. So many things always fight for your attention. Tasks and people will be trying to claw their way up to gain your attention. Things will be fighting for your worship, and in those moments it will be easy to put God on the back burner of your life and get to Him when you have some extra time. But we have to make sure we don't let that happen. We can't reduce a huge God to a hobby—something we just do and pay attention to on our spare time. We need to keep Him in the forefront of everything we do. He needs to remain at the center of our vision. Everything else should hinge on and flow out of His being first in our lives. True worship is a whole-life response to how great you know God to be. It should be with everything we have, everything we are, and everything we do.

Saturday, October 26. Read Romans 12:1, Psalms 29:2, Matthew 22:37-38, Hebrews 12:28.

So... at first Romans 12:1 sounds a little weird. Does the New International Version of the Bible really say to, um, offer your bodies as a living sacrifice? That sounds a little creepy doesn't it? But when you seriously think about it and look at it, it's an awesome way to live life. Because God send His Son, Jesus, to die for you—because God loves you so much—because God has done great things in our lives—our only natural response to all of that should be our everything. Our whole lives. So what should living your life worshiping God all the time look like? It can be as intense as spending an hour every day in quiet time listening and talking to God. It can be something as simple as when you step out on the field or in the gym or on the stage, you thank God for what you get to do! You realize that it's because of Him that you get to do it, and you want to do it so well because He's allowed you to do it. Worshiping God in your everyday life could look like befriending that kid at school everyone else makes fun of because you know God loves that kid just as much as He loves anyone else. Worshiping God in everyday life could look like setting an example for your siblings because you want to lead them in how you know God desires for you all to live. The reality is, worshiping God and putting Him first will look different for each and every person. You need to spend time with God, pray to Him, and ask Him to show you what your life's worship should look like. Pay attention to His leadings and promptings in your life, and respond to them. Learn to prioritize your life and put Him first. Think about Him often. Pay attention to the things God is doing in your life, and get excited about them—and share that excitement with others! Worshiping God daily isn't something you do. It's the way you live.

Adapted from www.life.church