

Closer | Worship is love expressed

Carl Johnston

START TALKING - Find conversations starters for the group or with a friend.

Over the course of the month, outside of working and sleeping what do you think you spend the most time doing? What do you enjoy about that?

KEEP READING - Read the Scripture and ask a question to get the group thinking.

Luke 19:37 - 40

• What stands out to you these verses?

Psalm 113:1 - 3; 138:1; 103:1, 63:3 - 4; 50:23; 92:1 and 34:1

Pastor Carl shared with us how the original Hebrew language is more expansive than our English translation, for instance, the word 'Praise' has seven words for our one word.

- Halel to rave, boast, celebrate, clamoursly foolish
- Yadah to acknowledge in public
- Barak to bless by kneeling or bowing
- Shabach to address in a loud tone
- Towdah to lift hands in adoration
- Zamar making music to God with strings
- Tehilah exhuberent singing
- 1. Why is understanding this important for how we worship?
- 2. What stands out to you?
- 3. If worship is love expressed, does something need to change in how you express your worship?

KEEP TALKING - Choose questions to create openness.

Mark 12:28 - 30

As part of the message we look at this famous passage where Jesus gives us the greatest commandment. Pastor Carl shared that without love we will find it difficult to follow Jesus. Jesus goes further and shows us how to worship:

- All your heart and soul
- All your mind
- All your strength

Ask yourself these questions in light of what Jesus says:

- 1. What receives your affection (heart and soul) the most?
- 2. What do you focus (mind) on more than anything in the world?
- 3. What do you do (strength) the most?

KEEP MOVING/GOING -Commit to a step and live it out this week.

This week I am going to intentionally invite God into my day to day life and let him know that I am thinking about him. I am going to find new ways to express my worship and love to God.

Why not share as a group some fresh commitments for this week ahead.

KEEP PRAYING

Spend some time in worship as a group. Resist songs that are about you and choose songs that declare who God is - make Jesus the centrepiece. As you worship, pray for one another that hearts may be strengthened and for relationships with the Lord to go deeper.