

HERE I AM TO WORSHIP

(Adapted from an online devo by Tim Hughes, the songwriter)

*Light of the World, You stepped down into darkness.
Opened my eyes let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore You.
Hope of a life spent with You.*

Whenever we worship it always comes out of a response. In **1 John 4:19** it says, *We love because he first loved us.* We can only worship God when we see what it is that God has first done for us... For those who encountered Jesus and whose eyes had been opened, their response was to acknowledge Him as Lord. As the centurion at the foot of the cross said, *Surely this man was the Son of God!* (**Mark 15:39**)

When is the first time you remember seeing & feeling God's love? Can you name a time when you remember beginning to grasp His salvation, understanding what Jesus did?

*King of all days, Oh so highly exalted.
Glorious in Heaven above.
Humbly You came to the earth You created.
All for love's sake became poor.*

Despite this however, sometimes it can be so easy to lose the wonder of it all. As G.K. Chesterton said, *Sometimes our religion is 'more a theory than a love affair'.* In other words, we may know a lot about God, but we may not know God.

Where are you in that spectrum? Do you know more "about" God, or do you feel like you "know" Him?

Read Philippians 2:6-11. What do you think is the most amazing part of that description?

*So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down.
Here I am to say that You're my God.
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy.
Altogether wonderful to me.*

When we take time to really consider the sacrifice Jesus took upon himself for our sake, and allow the mystery of it to sink in to our hearts, the response will be worship.

TO PONDER DURING THIS SONG: What things do you think are wonderful about God? WHY do you worship Him? Can you think of lines from worship songs from church or Bible verses that express your strongest feelings and thoughts about God?

LEADERS' GUIDE

Run off the first sheet of this lesson and giving a sheet to each student. Heavily emphasize that you want them to keep the handouts. Perhaps make **folders** or give them **binders** to hang onto these sheets. Ask them to bring the folder or binder each week to small group. Maybe even include a couple of blank sheets for prayer requests.

I'd also recommend **getting this song on a CD** and playing it in small group when it comes at the appropriate time of the study. It breaks up the talking, and they will "hear" the words much more clearly by focusing on it. Go to www.worshiptogether.com if you don't know where to find it.

Contact Melanie Pearlman (melanie_pearlman@hotmail.com) if you have further questions about this study, or Kelly Soifer if you have questions about the tips in the Leader's Guide.

THIS STUDY:

I'd recommend doing an interesting **discussion opener** at the beginning, before they even know what you're going to be discussing.

Ask them: How do you prepare for church? Do you do anything to "get ready" to go to church? Is it ever "hard" to get yourself to go? Why?

My guess is that almost everyone, students included, do nothing to prepare for church. No time of prayer, Bible reading, silence or confession before going to worship with God's people. They just show up as they are – which in some ways is just great. But this study will hopefully cause them to think about coming prepared to be with God and His people, and to be expectant that God WILL meet them there.

"To ponder..."

In response to the question, *Can you think of lines from worship songs from church or Bible verses that express your strongest feelings and thoughts about God?* It would be great for you to equip them a bit here. Print out the lyrics of several songs you know that they like (or think they might). Try to have at least 4-6 on one sheet in front of them. Then encourage them to use lines from these songs in a prayer time of worship.

It is my hope that they would make an important connection: that the songs we use in church give us words that perhaps we wouldn't have on our own in our prayers and worship. This is also one of the roles of scripture. We recite these lyrics or verses back to God as ways to express what we want to say to God!