

# SESSION

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WORSHIP CONTINUALLY

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WHAT'S SOMETHING YOU ENJOY DOING SO MUCH YOU LOSE TRACK OF THE TIME?

THE  
**POINT** ➤

**LIVE YOUR LIFE AS AN ACT OF WORSHIP.**

## ► 2 CHRONICLES 15:10-19

<sup>10</sup>They were gathered at Jerusalem in the third month of the fifteenth year of the reign of Asa. <sup>11</sup>They sacrificed to the LORD on that day from the spoil that they had brought 700 oxen and 7,000 sheep. <sup>12</sup>And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD, the God of their fathers, with all their heart and with all their soul, <sup>13</sup>but that whoever would not seek the LORD, the God of Israel, should be put to death, whether young or old, man or woman. <sup>14</sup>They swore an oath to the LORD with a loud voice and with shouting and with trumpets and with horns. <sup>15</sup>And all Judah rejoiced over the oath, for they had sworn with all their heart and had sought him with their whole desire, and he was found by them, and the LORD gave them rest all around.

<sup>16</sup>Even Maacah, his mother, King Asa removed from being queen mother because she had made a detestable image for Asherah. Asa cut down her image, crushed it, and burned it at the brook Kidron.

<sup>17</sup>But the high places were not taken out of Israel. Nevertheless, the heart of Asa was wholly true all his days. <sup>18</sup>And he brought into the house of God the sacred gifts of his father and his own sacred gifts, silver, and gold, and vessels. <sup>19</sup>And there was no more war until the thirty-fifth year of the reign of Asa.



# THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

**FACT:**

IF YOU FEEL LIKE YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME FOR IMPORTANT THINGS, SURELY YOU COULD USE THIS AS AN EXCUSE—TIME PASSES FASTER FOR YOUR FACE THAN YOUR FEET, BECAUSE THE CLOSER YOU ARE TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH, THE SLOWER TIME GOES.<sup>1</sup>

A common cry in our culture is, "I don't have enough time!" And we do live busy lives—students have a never-ending cycle of school and practice, homework and chores, studying and family, and on and on. But have you ever noticed we find time for what we really want to do? Such as surfing the Internet for hours, spending time at the mall, an evening at the movies, or streaming our favorite TV shows.

However, sometimes we seem to have trouble finding the time to do our list of chores, take a trip to the dentist, or even do our homework. It's worth asking ourselves, "Where does our relationship with God fall?" Most Americans who "regularly" attend church actually do so only two or three times a month. Unfortunately, even for those who do attend church weekly, the tendency is to limit their worship to a few hours on Sunday mornings, but to spend very little time throughout the week connecting with God.

If how we use our time is a statement about what's important to us, what do our schedules say about the importance of worship? We're called to live our lives as a continual act of worship. As we weigh that truth, let's see the role worship played in King Asa's life.

## 2 CHRONICLES 15:10-13

**1** How do believers today demonstrate the seriousness of their commitment to Christ?

**2** How has God demonstrated faithfulness to you?





## 2 CHRONICLES 15:14-15

**3** How would you describe what it means to worship God?

**4** What does it look like to worship God with your heart and mind?

**5** When have you experienced meaningful worship apart from your church's worship service?

*True worship flows from a heart that honors God in every way, including the everyday choices we make. #BSFLgodlylife*



## 2 CHRONICLES 15:16-19

**6** What obstacles distract you from worship?

**7** How can we identify and remove idols from our lives?

**8** Why must devotion to God include both turning away from evil and turning to God?



# LIVE IT OUT

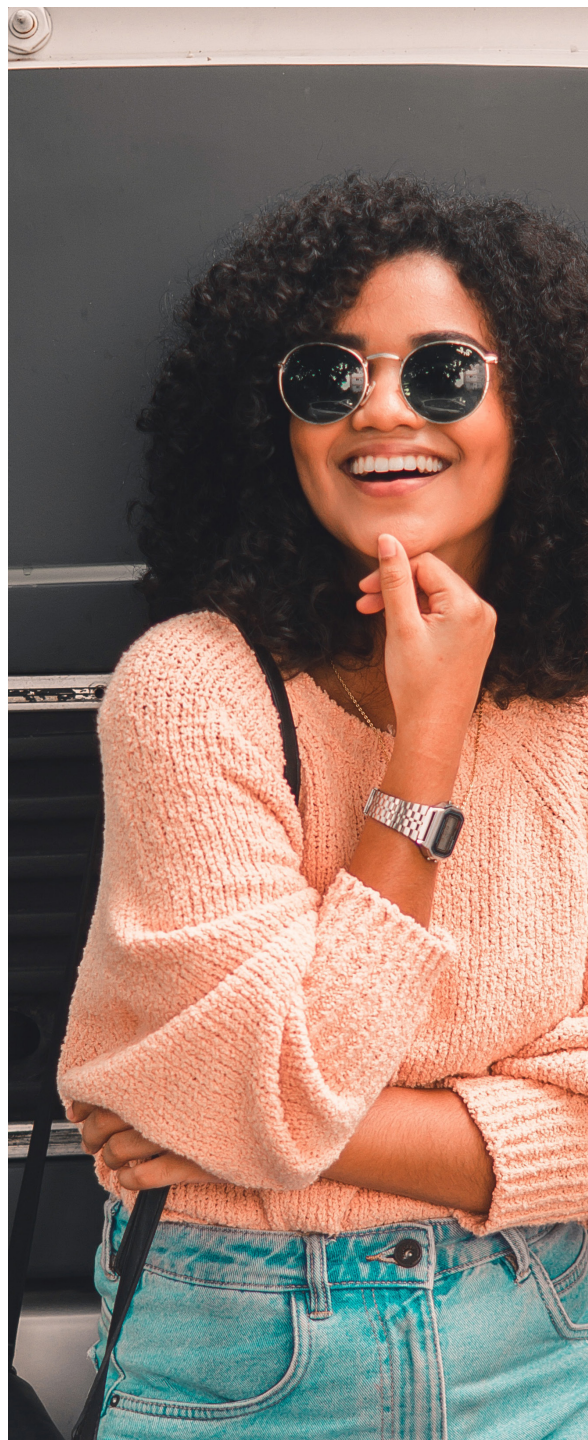
## ► CHRIST

The Bible teaches that without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sin (Heb. 9:22). In the Old Testament, faithful people worshiped God by offering sacrifices as an act of obedience. Today, we are called to the same things.

**9** How is your love and worship for God characterized by sacrifice?

**10** How is your life of worship characterized by obedience to God?

**11** This week, what will you change in your life in order to worship God through sacrifice and obedience?



## ► COMMUNITY

Jesus taught that the way we treat the “least of these,” specifically God’s children who suffer for their faith (Matt. 25:40), is actually the way we treat Him. When we sacrifice as an act of love toward people in our church family who are struggling, this is an act of love and worship toward God.

**12 Who in your church has needs you can help meet?**

**13 How will you sacrifice in order serve others?**



## ► CULTURE

Worship involves sacrifice and submitting to God in obedience. This runs counter to the culture of our world, which pulls us toward self-indulgence (the opposite of sacrifice) and independence (the opposite of obedience).

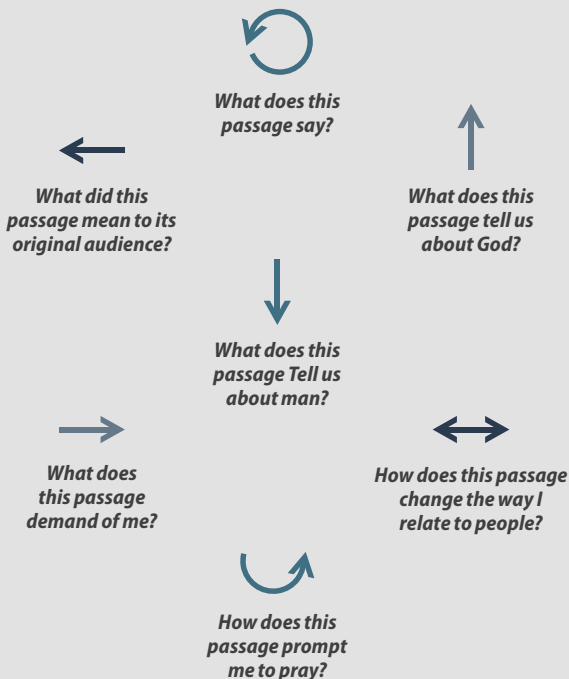
**14 What in our culture tempts you and draws you away from a life of sacrifice and obedience?**

**15 How will you share with a non-believing friend the reasons you’re willing to sacrifice for God as a reflection of the sacrifice of Jesus?**

# DAILY DEVOTIONS



## THE 7 ARROWS OF BIBLE READING



## DAY ONE ROMANS 12:1a

Romans 11 ends with a hymn of praise in which Paul proclaims the greatness of God—His wisdom and knowledge are far beyond our grasp, and He is worthy of all honor. Then Paul says, “therefore”—this means God’s greatness calls for a response. When we go to church and spend time with our church family, express praise to God through singing, and hear from God’s Word, we may be stirred in the moment, and we feel God calling us to make changes in our lives. However, we walk away and nothing really changes. When we truly understand God’s greatness and, in light of who He is, see our own brokenness, we simply can’t remain the same. When we understand the mercy God shows us, we’ll be moved all the more toward a deeper devotion to God. Today, let’s make sure the “therefore” actually makes a difference in your life.

- **How specifically have you experienced God’s greatness?**
- **How has God shown mercy to you?**

## DAY TWO

# ROMANS 12:1b



There are many ways we could respond to the glories of God. For instance, when the Pharisees saw the character of God in Jesus, they hated Him because He upset their system. Many of the Jews were excited because Jesus healed them or fed them, but they didn't love Him. However, the true disciples gave up their lives in order to follow Him. The only appropriate response to God's goodness and mercy is to give our entire lives as a sacrifice to Him—to devote ourselves to lives of purity and obedience in order to reflect God's character. This is the very reason we were created, and it's also the reason we are saved.

- **How have you seen people respond to God?**
- **What specifically would it look like for you to give your life as a living sacrifice?**

## DAY THREE

# ROMANS 12:1c

Today, when we think of worship, we most commonly think of singing at church, and this is certainly an important part of worshipping God. From a broad perspective, worship means declaring the "worth-ship" of God, and we do this as we demonstrate how much God is worth to us in the ways we live. In the Old Testament, worship consisted of the sacrifices offered continually by faithful people. Today, the principle is the same, though we are no longer to offer animals on the altar. Instead, we are to give our own lives as a sacrifice to God. And honestly, in light of God's holiness and the goodness He's shown to us, this is the least we can do. God is looking for worshipers who will worship in spirit and truth (John 4:23-24). When we give all we are (spirit) in light of all God has revealed about Himself (truth), this is the true worship God deserves.

- **How is singing a form of true worship according to the "living sacrifice" perspective?**
- **What truth(s) about God move you to worship in spirit?**

## DAY FOUR ROMANS 12:2a

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*One bad apple spoils the bunch.* We've all heard this phrase, and while Scripture isn't the origin of this phrase, it is the origin of the idea—"A little leaven leavens the whole batch of dough" (Gal. 5:9). The idea is, if good things are continually in the presence of bad, eventually the bad characteristics are going to spread. And this doesn't apply only to apples or bread. It applies to people too. Proverbs 13:20 says "The one who walks with the wise will become wise, but a companion of fools will suffer harm." We live in a world characterized by rebellion against God, and if we're not careful, we'll be influenced to live in disobedience, as well. The world is actually continually putting pressure on us to deny God. However, when we "walk with the wise," allowing other faithful people and the truth of Scripture to influence our lives, instead of being conformed to worldly values, we'll be transformed into the image of Christ.

- **How does the world put pressure on you to live in ways that dishonor God?**
- **What specifically has God used to transform the ways you think and live?**

## DAY FIVE ROMANS 12:2b

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Many people today, specifically teens, want desperately to know God's will for their lives. We think, if God would just make His will known to me, I'd be happy to walk in it. Then I could be happy, and God would be glorified through me. This is a great place to be; however, it misses out on one important truth. God has made His will known to us—obey Scripture in order to be like Christ. When we talk of God's will, we often refer to where he'd have us go to school or who we should date. However, the truth is this—when we pursue God in Scripture and wholeheartedly obey all that's clear, our thinking is transformed, and God's will becomes more and more clear.

- **When have you questioned God's will for your life?**
- **Why is it so important to obey what God has made clear, in order to understand God's unspecified will for our lives?**