

In Jesus Steps

Disciples for Life

Unit 2: Christian Leadership

How to positively influence the attitudes and actions of others for Jesus Christ.

Lesson 17

The Leader in Worship

Day One

What is Worship?

Throughout the lessons in this unit, we have looked at various aspects of Christian leadership—defined as influencing the attitudes and actions of others for Jesus Christ. In our last and final lesson of Unit 2, we will study and put into practice the most important action for a Christian leader—worship.

Worship is tied to love. Recall from Lesson 16: *The Tender Heart of a Leader*—any love that is not based on God’s love will be tainted (flawed) and self-serving. Our leadership will become about us, our gifts, and abilities. We will desire to lead for our own self-satisfaction, emotional support, and ego.

One of the ways to keep our love pure is to be a worshiping leader. Being a true worshipper is to recognize and adore the one, true, and living God (Hebrews 11:6). When our hearts are filled with love and adoration for God, we will want to please Him and not ourselves. We will shine the spotlight on our triune God and do our best to keep out of sight.

The word “worship” has a range of meanings. You may be familiar with some of the definitions but may be surprised at other meanings. We are going to look at fuller descriptions of the word “worship” to sharpen our knowledge and enthusiasm for the Lord.

Definition (Old Testament):: One of the verbs in Hebrew that English translates as *worship* is *shachah* (שָׁחָה). It means to prostrate or bow down. It also means to pay homage to God and reverence His name.

Definition (New Testament): The Greek word used most frequently in the New Testament for *worship* is *proskuneo* (προσκυνέω). It means to express in attitude or gesture (motion) one’s complete dependence or submission to a high authority figure. It also means to fall down and *worship*, do obeisance (respectful gesture), to prostrate oneself before (lie face downward), revere (be in awe of) and to welcome respectfully.

Both the Hebrew and Greek words for worship, defined above, are similar in meaning. Worship is expressing devotion to God with a reverent attitude and bodily gesture. Examples of these definitions of worship from the Old Testament and New Testament follow.

Read Genesis 24:48 and answer questions 1–2:

... and I bowed down and worshiped the LORD. I praised the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me on the right road to get the granddaughter of my master's brother for his son. Genesis 24:48

1. How did Abraham's servant thank God for a successful mission?
2. What did God do for Abraham's servant that caused him to worship God?

Read Matthew 2:11 and answer questions 3–6:

On coming to the house, they [Magi] saw the child [Jesus] with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Matthew 2:11 (Magi are wise men or astrologers.)

3. How did the Magi react when they saw Jesus?
4. Even though Jesus was a child (1–2 years old), what did the Magi recognize about Him (See Matthew 2:2–4)?
5. The Magi bowed down, submitted to Jesus as king of the Jews, and possibly the Messiah. What other act of worship did they carry out?
6. How do *you* personally express your dependence and submission to God?

Accountability: Be prepared to share your answers #3–6 with your discipleship team.

I have two simple ways that I express in attitude (feeling) and gesture (body movement) my dependence and submission to God. In the morning, I kneel with my body and face turned downwards to the floor (prostrate) and acknowledge God as King, Ruler, and Creator. I confirm that I am His servant, slave, and creation.

At night, I kneel by my bed and tell my Father, Jesus, and Holy Spirit good night. I tell them how much I love them and thank them for leading me this day. I also thank God for the things and circumstances that He has brought about in my life and ministry.

Definition: In addition to moving the body to express deep respect, *obeisance* means to pay *homage*. In paying *homage*, we show deep respect and reverence. *Homage* is also defined as a formal public acknowledgement by which a feudal tenant or vassal declares his fealty to his lord.

Definitions: *Fealty* is the loyalty and duty owed by a *vassal* to his *feudal* lord. In case your medieval history is a bit rusty, a *vassal* is a person who held land from a lord or superior, and in return the *vassal* gave help in war or some other service. *Feudalism* was a political and economic system of Europe from the 9th to 15th century.

7. Please share a time when you made a publicly acknowledged of your loyalty to God.

Accountability: Be prepared to share your answers #7 with your discipleship team.

Believers' are not only vassals but adopted sons (includes male and female) in war. We are to be steadfast, unswerving, and totally dedicated in our allegiance to God and His kingdom. The beauty of our relationship is that God's kingdom is now our kingdom. His cause is our cause. No matter how we feel or what we face, we must stand up and acknowledge our King. This is an integral part of leaders in worship.

Declaring and acknowledging God can be simple or life threatening. Jesus worshipped His Father at all times. When Jesus died on the cross, He was steadfast, unswerving, and totally dedicated in His allegiance to God and His kingdom.

Martyrs follow Jesus' example into death. No matter how they feel or what they face, martyrs acknowledge God. They have the same cause as God—to make the gospel known to all humanity. Like Jesus, martyrs are obedient to death—the ultimate act of worship.

A worshiping leader is completely dependent on God and submits (yields) to His high authority in life or in death. We may have genuine concerns and inquire of God respectfully, but we never question His rule or authority in our lives. He welcomes our curiosity, but not our interference.

The apostle Peter thought he knew better and tried to keep Jesus from going to the cross (Matthew 16:22–24). Jesus rebuked him saying he was a hindrance because he was concerned with human things rather than the things of God. Jesus continued by saying that if anyone wanted to follow Him, they must take up their cross daily.

Remember that all forms of worship begin with dependence and submission to God through Jesus Christ. In fact, anything we do in God's will with a loving and reverent attitude is worship. Service or ministry in any form fall into this category as the following definitions reveal.

Definition (Old Testament): Another Hebrew word that is translated *worship* is *abad* (עָבַד). It means to work and to serve.

“The ancient Hebrews understood a human being as an indivisible totality.”¹ Mind, spirit, and body were involved and responded to God in worship. This meant that all the separate parts of life, such as work, worship, recreation, prayer, and leisure, were combined to form a whole sacred life dedicated to God.

¹ Samuel Balentine, *Torah's Vision of Worship* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Fortress Press, 1999) 110.

Definition (New Testament): Another Greek word, *latreuo* (λατρεύω), which is also translated *worship*, means to serve and minister. In our dependence and submission to God as our Leader, we serve and minister according to His will.

The following Old Testament verse, Jeremiah 2:20, is an example of the Hebrew word *abad* for worship. It is translated “serve” by a number of English translations.

8. Read Jeremiah 2:20. What did God’s people, the Israelites say to Him?

“Long ago you broke off your yoke and tore off your bonds; you [Israelites] said, ‘I will not serve you!’ Indeed, on every high hill and under every spreading tree you lay down as a prostitute.” Jeremiah 2:20 (The high hill, tree, and prostitute phrase indicates idol worship.)

If we are unwilling to serve God, we are guilty of serving or worshiping idols. There are only two choices: 1. Serve and worship God or 2. Serve and worship idols. Anything we serve, including ourselves, is an act of idolatry.

When we think about it, God would not be true to Himself if he let us mere creatures serve or worship anyone or anything else. God is so far above His creatures and creation, that to worship anything else is ludicrous. We were created to serve and worship God.

The three New Testament verses, Luke 2:37, Romans 1:9, and Hebrews 9:6 following, translate *latreuo*, worship, serve, and ministry.

9. Read Luke. 2:37. In contrast to the Israelites in Jeremiah 2:20, how did the widow worship?

... and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Luke. 2:37

10. Read Romans 1:9. How did the apostle Paul serve and worship God?

God, whom I serve in my spirit in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you. Romans 1:9

11. Read Hebrews 9:6. The priests carrying on their ministry in the Temple was considered worship. True False (Underline One)

When everything had been arranged like this, the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry. Hebrews 9:6

Definition: In English, the verb *worship* is to ascribe (assign) worth. Ascribing worth is to honor, reverence, and love God. It also means to regard with adoring esteem and devotion.

Worship is a lifestyle of love and devotion to God. Like we learned from the ancient Hebrews earlier, human beings are an indivisible totality. Our minds, spirits, and bodies should be involved and respond to God in worship at all times. All aspects of our lives are holy and sacred and should absolutely rise up to God as a sweet, fragrant offering (Romans 12:1). Considering this and the previous definitions covered, here is a summary of worship.

Definition based on Greek, English, and Hebrew: *A true worshipper and Christian leader in worship* is one who loves the triune God and is fully dependent and submitted to Him constantly in prayer, praise, thanksgiving, obedience (His Word), loyalty, and good works with great reverence and awe using our minds, spirits, and bodies for His glory.

Throughout unit one, we have covered many aspects of worship. For example, lesson 14, *Knowing God's Will* helped us in our dependence and submission to God's plans while lesson 12, *The Praying Leader*, helped us in worshiping God through various kinds of prayer. In regard to obedience to God and His Word, the Bible has been central to units one and two—and will continue to be central in our study material. We also covered reverence and loyalty to God in lesson 9, *The Name* and good works or service in lesson 3, *Fruit and Leadership*.

Praise, listed in our general definition of worship, seems to be synonymous with worship. We automatically think of praise and worship music—and most likely singing in a church service. Standing together and showing our respect and love for God publicly is pleasing to God. He likes us to gather together as the body of Christ and raise melodious (musical) voices in one accord.

We may also praise God by streaming Christian music, watching videos, listening to Christian radio, or through other kinds of media. We may listen quietly or sing out loud—the only requirement is to have our hearts centered on God. He is not interested in rituals and rules but in our free expression of loving worship (Mark 7:6–7).

Praise is also telling others about God. We can talk about His attributes, what He has done in our lives, how He answers prayer, protects, heals, and all the many ways God works in our lives. God deserves our praise because no one is more worthy or has done so much for us. Recall from unit one, God is good, mercy, love, sovereign, and holy—just to name a few reasons our Creator is worthy of worship. If God did not demand and accept praise, He would in effect be denying Himself. In other words, it would be like saying that He is not worthy, and He is not God.

Thanksgiving is an expression of gratitude. We may start by thanking God for our salvation and the many blessings Jesus' death brought into existence. Every good and perfect gift come from God (James 1:17) and so we should never be without a prayer of thanksgiving in our hearts and on our lips. Food, clothing, shelter, health, family, friends, and all the things that happen in the course of 24 hours.

Then again, we thank God in all circumstances, no matter what they look like. Why? Because God is working them out for our good in making us in the image of His Son (Romans 8:28–29). Job taught us the lesson of thanking and praising God no matter what—*The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised* (Job 1:21). Practice thanking God in all circumstances today.

Action Step

12. Read and meditate on Psalm 65 from a Bible. What do learn from David's Psalm of praise?

13. We defined worship as loving the triune God and being fully dependent and submitted to Him constantly in prayer, praise, thanksgiving, obedience (His Word), loyalty, and good works with great reverence and awe using our minds, spirits, and bodies for His glory.

In which of these ways of worship do you excel, and which ways need attention? For those ways that need attention, share how you will improve in those areas.

14. Read and meditate on Psalm 96 from a Bible. Think about why you love God. With these words in your heart, talk about your love and loyalty to God and share with others. Make talking about your love for God a way of life. Share how this assignment brought you closer to God:

Accountability: Be prepared to share your answers #12–14 with your discipleship team.

—End Day One—

Day Two
Equality in Worship

Why do we worship? We worship because God made us for this extraordinary purpose . . . and extraordinary privilege.

. . . the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise. Isaiah 43:21

If we are not loving and serving God, we will be loving and serving someone or something else. Satan is trying to get our worship one way or another. That is, he either gets worship for himself directly or tempts us to value someone or something more than God. He even tempted Jesus who gives us the correct faith response.

Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Mathew. 4:10

Worship was always part of God's plan for His people. God states clearly and emphatically in the book of Exodus that He saved the Israelites for the purpose of worship. The Lord had Moses go to Pharaoh and repeat *eight* times, "Let my people go, *so that they may worship me.*"² God wanted to make it clear to Moses and to the Israelites as well as Pharaoh and the Egyptians that the reason He wanted His people to be released from slavery was for the express purpose of worshipping and serving Him.

Read Exodus 4:22–23a and answer questions 15–16:

Then say to Pharaoh, This is what the LORD says: Israel is my firstborn son,²³ and I told you, "Let my son go, so he may worship me." Exodus 4:22–23a

15. What was the reason the Lord wanted Pharaoh to release the Israelites?

16. How does God describe Israel in verse 22 and 23a?

Read Galatians 3:26–29 and answer questions 17–23:

You are all children [sons]³ of God through faith in Christ Jesus,²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3:26–29

² The 8 times Moses declared God's words to Pharaoh about letting His people go so they may worship: Exodus 4:22–23, 7:16, 8:1, 8:20, 9:1, 9:13, 10:3, 10:7.

³ Although in some cases, the Greek word *vios* (υἰός) may be translated children, in this context it should be translated sons as the brackets indicate. In this passage, Paul is talking about being heirs according to the promise. Sons were heirs. The Greek word *vios* is defined as male offspring or descendants and an adopted male.

17. How does Paul describe Christians (v. 26)?

18. How did you become a son of God (v. 27)?

19. What is the difference in Christian sonship between a believing Arab, believing untouchable (lowest person in India), believing Jew, or believing female (v. 28)?

20. As a son of God through faith in Christ are you Abraham's seed, and heir according to the promise (v. 29)? Yes No (Underline One)

A person becomes a son of God by faith *in* Jesus. Worship depends on being *in* the family of God. Think of a human family. You do not become part of a particular family by going to their home or talking nicely to them. You become a member of that family by either being born into it or being adopted into it. A person must be born again or born a second time to be adopted into God's family.

Once born into God's family, our role as a son means that we have an active participatory role. We have direct access to God and do not need to go through a priest or mediator. In fact, we are priests ourselves (1 Peter 2:5; Revelation 5:10).

The Galatians were being influenced by certain Jewish believers (Judaizers) who were insisting that Gentile (non-Jewish) believers needed to observe the Torah (Law). Paul is making the point that the life of God's people is meant to be centered on Christ and not on the Torah.⁴ The point is still critical today. Center your life on Christ and not laws.

The Bible was written so that we may know and love God. It does this by pointing us to Christ. As we study God's Word, He reveals Himself and graciously gives us satisfying work to do in His kingdom. As Christian leaders and disciples, our work is always done out of love for our heavenly Father. What pleases God, pleases us. Following rules and regulations is not the same as submitting and depending on God. It is *not* worship.

Definition: *Prejudice* is an irrational dislike of somebody—an unfounded hatred, fear, or mistrust of a person or group, especially one of a particular religion, ethnicity, nationality, gender, or social status.

21. Have you ever been the victim of prejudice? Please explain.

Accountability: Be prepared to share your answers #21 with your discipleship team.

⁴ Longenecker, Richard N., Word Biblical Commentary, Galatians. General Editor Bruce Metzger, Word Books Publisher: Dallas, 1990, 151.

It is difficult when we are treated unfairly for being a specific race, social class, or gender (male or female). Injustice in any form is not only emotionally harmful but it can be physically dangerous as well. In God's kingdom there is no prejudice, discrimination, narrow mindedness, bigotry (discrimination), chauvinism or sexism (sense of gender superiority). We are sons of God and heirs according to the promise (Genesis 12:2–3).

This means that our race, social, and gender meld together spiritually as one in Christ Jesus. How others view our physical differences or circumstances has no effect on our relationship with God and our place in His kingdom. We are equal in every sense of the word.

God uses the terminology of sons to reveal a *spiritual* reality. During the period of time when the Bible was written, sons or adopted sons were the only ones who inherited the family property and wealth. However, there were two notable exceptions: Zelophehad's daughters (Joshua 17:3–4; Numbers 27:1–8, 36:2) inherited their father's land and Job's daughters inherited along with their brothers (Job 42:13–15). The Books of Numbers and Job end with this foreshadowing (hint of future) truth—in Christ all are sons and heirs.

Usually, it was the firstborn son who would receive the estate and manage it. He would also have privileged access to his father and his experience. Fathers would often give preferential treatment toward this son because he would be the one carrying on the family name and reputation.

Understanding this truth is important to our worship and how we will lead others. Jews had the preeminent position of being the only true worshippers of God. Israel was considered God's firstborn son. In Christ all are sons and all are true worshippers. That is, no one has any advantage in their relationship with God or in their participation within the kingdom.

As a son and true worshipper, we love the triune God and are fully dependent and submitted to Him constantly in prayer, praise, thanksgiving, obedience (His Word), loyalty, and good works. We do this with great reverence and awe using our minds, spirits, and bodies for God's glory. Not only are we a son and true worshipper, but we recognize other believers' preeminent (outstanding, distinguished) position of worshipper. In loving and honoring God, we love and honor His other "sons."

22. How does this understanding of your place in the kingdom, no matter your social, cultural, or gender status affect your relationship with God and your responsibility for His directives?

23. What is the meaning of "baptized into Christ" (v. 27)?

Baptism is a symbol of the new reality of sonship in Christ. Our immersion in water signifies that we share in Jesus' death and have died to our old and sinful ways. Coming up out of the water signifies that we are raised out of death from sin into a new birth in Christ and into God's family. The phrase "baptized into Christ" also signifies the spiritual reality of our rebirth or regeneration by the Holy Spirit at the time of salvation (1 Corinthians 12:13)

As sons of God, we clothe ourselves with Christ. We become like Him by taking on or putting on His characteristics, virtues, and intentions.⁵ Sonship is our full identification with the Son of God, our model and blueprint, for life and worship. Remember, as God's Son, He always sought His Father and ran the estate (earth) according to His plans and purposes.

Galatians 3:28 represents three areas of inequality that have come to an end in Christ Jesus. Studies show these verses were part of the confession (profession, declaration) of the early church, particularly used at baptism. Early Christians were praising God that through Christ the old racial, cultural, and gender divisions had been healed.⁶ *There are no second-class citizens in God's kingdom!*

24. How will *you* seek unity and harmony in serving God with others who are different from you (either racially, socially, or in gender)?

Galatians 3:29 says that if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed and an heir according to the promise. If you are unfamiliar with the story of Abraham, read Genesis 12–25. Briefly, after Adam and Eve sinned God promised that He would redeem humanity (Genesis 3:15) and He fulfilled that promise through Abraham's seed. Our Redeemer, Jesus Christ, was a descendent or the seed of Abraham's earthly line (Galatians 3:16).

If we are an heir to the promise, we are blessed with salvation! We are saved from our sins and have entered into a relationship with God in Christ. But the promise also says that we will be a blessing! That means that we have the ability to share Christ with others. We bless others by helping them come into a saving and vibrant relationship with the Messiah (Genesis 12:2) and becoming sons themselves!

Action Step

25. Read and meditate on Psalm 71:8. With your mouth filled with God's praise, pray for an opportunity to share your excitement about God and the good news about His Son, Jesus. Write about your experience.

My mouth is filled with your praise, declaring your splendor all day long. Psalm 71:8

Accountability: Be prepared to share your answers #22–25 with your discipleship team.

—End Day Two—

⁵ Ibid, 156.

⁶ Ibid, 157.

Day Three
Heart of Worship

26. Read and meditate on Psalm 84:2. How is this verse a statement of worship?

My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. Psalm 84:2

The sons of Korah, of the priestly line of Levi, wrote this psalm of worship to God. This psalm reveals a worshipper fully and constantly devoted to God. It is not a trivial seeking but an earnest and total longing for God. The worshipper's whole being—his mind, spirit, and body seeks the Lord.

“Courts of the Lord” is synonymous (equal) with being with God. During the time of the Old Covenant, God's presence was with His people in the temple. With the New Covenant, God's Spirit is with each individual believer.

27. Read and meditate on Romans 12:1. How is this verse similar to Psalm 84:2 cited above?

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Romans 12:1

Whether you are studying the Old or New Covenant, you will see that God is concerned with your true feelings toward Him. He wants all of you, mind, spirit, and body—to love and worship Him. He has never been pleased with laws, sacrifices, and rituals (Isaiah 29:13). God desires a heart fully committed out of love and not out of duty.

28. Read Mark 7:6–7. What will *you* do to show God that *your* worship of Him is from the heart?

He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: “‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.’⁷They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.” Mark 7:6–7

Accountability: Be prepared to share your answers #26–28 with your discipleship team.

Be the leader that God calls you to be and respond with a heart of worship. Your thoughts, words, and actions are harmonized for God. No matter the assignment, easy or hard, significant or insignificant, your whole being leaps for joy to submit, serve, and honor your God.

Bruce Olson was such a worshipper. In 1961 he responded to go into the jungles of Colombia, South America. After hearing a missionary speak on his work in New Guinea, Bruce had

nightmares of a native beating him and screaming, “My blood is required of you. My blood is required of you.” Bruce woke up in a cold sweat.

He thought, “That can’t be right. God’s not like that. He’s a God of love. He loves me.”

“But do you love Him?” the question came. “Yes, I love Him. Of course I love Him. How could I not?”

“Won’t you serve Him, then?”

“Serve Him? I am serving Him. I study the Word. I’ve shared with all my friends what He means to me. Isn’t that serving Him? Why can’t I be your servant in Minneapolis?”⁷

God did not want Bruce in Minneapolis—He wanted him to reach the stone age tribes of the Yukos and Motilones. This call would take a leader with a heart of worship. The call was for one who would not give up easily or turn from danger.

Bruce applied to a mission board but was rejected. Friends and family made a case for finishing college in his chosen field of linguistics.⁸ But a worshipper responds to God with his whole being and not what makes ‘good sense.’ A worshipper is attuned to God’s wisdom and not people’s.

So, at 19 years old, Bruce purchased a one-way airplane fare to South America and went alone. When he finally reached the Yuko Indians, he was beaten and whipped and in danger of being killed. Similarly, when he found the stone age Motilone Indians, he was shot with an arrow and taken prisoner. To add to the terror of his circumstances, he did not know the language.

Bruce became very ill from the infection caused by the arrow and also from lack of food and water. He imagined a future of torture, loneliness, and death. As he wondered why he was trying to reach a bunch of primitive savages who didn’t want his help, he remembered Jesus. He remembered that He had also faced primitive savages (humanity) who did not want His help. Jesus had died for all people. He died for these people and loved them dearly.

He lay quietly and prayed, “God, I will give You what I can. I give You my strength, my life. I’ll put up with anything, any trouble. I’ll even die if You will let me communicate about Your Son to the Motilones.”⁹

Although the Motilones did not kill Bruce, his condition grew worse, and he felt he would die without medical attention. One night, he slipped out of the village and followed a river toward the mountains. He ended up safely in Columbia. After he healed, he promptly went right back to the Motilones. The Motilones could not believe he returned after the way they had treated him. This time he was accepted into the Motilone community.¹⁰

⁷ Bruce E Olson., *Bruchko* (Altamonte Springs, FL: Creation House, 1973), chapter 4, Missionary.

⁸ Linguistics is the scientific study of languages and their structures.

⁹ Bruce E Olson., *Bruchko* (Altamonte Springs, FL: Creation House, 1973), chapter 8, Almost Killed.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 50, 55.

God gave him a compassion for the tribe, and he strove to learn their language. It would be years before they knew their Savior. However, when God spoke to the Motilone about Jesus, He spoke in their language and through their culture. That was another lesson that Bruce learned. God made a variety of cultures, and He loves the people in them. Trying to make a people group fit into Western ways is wrong.

Unable to clearly pronounce Bruce's name, the Motilones called him Bruchko. God did not forget that He had given Bruchko a talent and interest in languages. When the time was right God had Bruce take a language that was only spoken and transform it into a written one.

Bruce developed an alphabet and taught it to the Indians. Then Bruchko translated the New Testament into their new written language. Having the New Testament helped them grow in their faith.

The Motilones would not remain isolated forever. Settlers made their way into their lands and this made modern plans necessary. Therefore, Bruchko helped them develop health, agricultural, and educational programs. Some Motilones are even attending boarding schools and colleges in larger cities.

One of these students who had visited the U.S. was asked a question about his faith in Jesus. "What is the difference between your Jesus Christ (Saymaydodjira Ibatairadacura) and ours?"

The Motilone student replied, "Saymaydodjira Ibatairadacura lives within us all the time, not in sculptured buildings."¹¹

29. How did Bruchko live a life of worship and Christian leadership?

Bruchko loved God and was fully dependent and submitted to Him. He listened and acted on what God told him to do. He did not make excuses about his age, circumstances, or the terrors of the jungle. He was not a part-time or legalistic worshiper and leader. He totally immersed himself in the people and culture to which he was called. He used his mind, spirit, and body to follow Jesus. His leadership influenced whole people groups for Christ and they in turn are influencing others. A Christian leader is a worshipper—it is impossible to be one without the other.

As of a 1995 update, Bruchko was still with the Motilones. The Motilones had thirty missionary teams in Colombia. They were in contact with other Indian tribes sharing the gospel in twenty-two languages. Eighteen tribes have already embraced Jesus Christ as Savior.¹²

As sons and heirs of God, the whole earth is the estate that must be worked. Everyone needs to know Christ and become a true worshipper. But we need to ask the Father where He wants us to serve. A heart of worship longs to serve God in the way He ordains (orders, decrees).

30. Where and how has God called *you* to serve?

¹¹ Bruce E Olson, *Bruchko* (Altamonte Springs, FL: Creation House, 1973).

¹² Bruce E. Olson, *Bruchko*, (Seattle, WA: YWAM Publishing, 1995) 207.

Accountability: Be prepared to share your answers #29–30 with your discipleship team.

God has a plan for you in whatever circumstance or situation you find yourself. It does not matter where you are or how old you are. God had an overarching purpose for Joseph in saving many lives during the famine in Egypt. However, he had to live through many injustices and challenges until this greater purpose was realized (Genesis 37–50).

Joseph took one day at a time, serving God as a servant in Potiphar's house and then as a prisoner in the Pharaoh's dungeon. Joseph worshipped God, using his gifts and talents in whatever situation God allowed. Through his faithfulness and service, when the time was right, God lifted him to a high position in Egypt in order to collect the grain in the years of plenty and distribute it in the years of famine.

God was able to trust both Joseph and Bruchko with little things and therefore He could trust them with bigger things (Luke 16:10). Their lives are a good reminder for us to use our time wisely in daily pursuits. Sometimes those daily pursuits involve pain and suffering before God's plan for our lives are fully realized.

Jesus, our leadership model, walked the earth using His time wisely. He served by teaching about God, making disciples, healing the sick and the blind, casting out demons, and setting into place disciples to take His place. Nevertheless, Jesus' overarching purpose was to die on the cross for the forgiveness of sins in order to bring us back into relationship with God. He offered His body as a spiritual sacrifice in life and in death.

Action Step

31. Pray and ask God to give you a heart of worship. Memorize 1 Peter 2:4–5:

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—⁵you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:4–5

Accountability: Be prepared to share your memory verse #31 with your discipleship team.

“The sacrificial system was the heart of Jewish worship and it was a high privilege to represent the Jewish congregation before the altar of God. Christians are a holy priesthood whose function is to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”¹³

—End Day Three—

¹³ Ernest Lussier, *Jesus Christ is Lord, Adoration Viewed Through the New Testament* (New York: Alba House Publishers, 1979) 62.

Day Four

Acceptable Worship

Read Genesis 4:3–5 and answer questions 32–36:

In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. ⁴And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, ⁵but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. Genesis 4:3–5

32. Whose offering was acceptable to the LORD (v. 4)?

33. Did Cain bring his offering to God *immediately* (v. 3)? Yes No (Underline One)

Cain did not bring the “first” fruits of the soil. He did not *immediately* thank God and worship Him with the first crops that were ready to consume. After he harvested his crop and made sure that he would have enough, he then thought about God. Cain not only put himself first in his relationship with God, but it appears he was not trusting God to provide additional food after the first crops were harvested.

34. What did Abel bring as an offering to the Lord (v. 4)?

Abel had a heart focused on God. His work and livelihood did not distract him from the Lord. So, as soon as Abel’s flock started producing young, he made an offering with the some of the firstborn. Abel put God first and trusted Him to provide more livestock. His worship was acceptable to God.

35. Read Hebrews 11:4. Why do you think Abel is commended for his faith in offering God a better sacrifice?

By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead. Hebrews 11:4

In addition to making God the priority of his life, Abel was trusting God to provide the newborn animals he needed to continue his flocks. He acknowledged God as his provider and placed his faith in the goodness of God to supply his needs. As we learned in Lesson 13, *The Faith of a Leader*, without faith it is impossible to please God. Acceptable worship calls for faith.

Later as the peoples of the earth grew in numbers, God chose the Israelites and gave them a system for making firstfruit offerings (Leviticus 23:9–13). Not only firstfruits but all offerings and sacrifices were to be the best and choicest from the fields and the flocks. Their firstfruit worship was to recognize God’s goodness and provision for the Israelite’s crops and flocks. It

was a way of showing God that they were dependent and devoted to Him. Giving God leftovers or substandard gifts is not acceptable.

Definition: *Firstfruits* are the first and best quality of a harvested crop (gathered after ripening).

“Firstfruits acknowledged that all the products of the land came from God, and to show thankfulness for His goodness, Israelites brought as an offering a portion of the fruits that ripened first. These were looked on as a pledge of the coming harvest. Such an offering was made both on behalf of the nation (Leviticus 23:10,17) and by individuals (Exodus 23:19, Deuteronomy 26:1–11).”¹⁴

36. What represents *your* “first” fruits and how are you giving them to God?

Accountability: Be prepared to share your answers to #35–36 with your discipleship team.

Most *material* offerings today are in the form of currency. When we receive salaries or gifts of money, we are to acknowledge God’s provision and return to Him the firstfruits of what we have received. Pray over the amount of your offering and give it to your church and wherever else God leads.

The principal of firstfruits can also apply to your time and other aspects of your life. For example, we each have exactly the same amount of time each day—24 hours. Consider how your time is spent and whether the Lord gets the first and choicest part of your day.

Read 2 Samuel 24:24 and answer questions 37–39:

But the king replied to Araunah, “No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.” So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen and paid fifty shekels of silver for them. 2 Samuel 24:24

37. When the *generous* Araunah wanted to give David his land to build the altar and the oxen for the burnt offering, how did David reply?

38. How do you think the concept of firstfruits, and David’s response and actions are similar?

39. How do you think the idea of firstfruits might apply to our use of time, as well as our financial or material resources?

Accountability: Be prepared to share your answers to #37–39 with your discipleship team.

¹⁴ J.D Douglas, Merrill C. Tenney, *New International Bible Dictionary* (Zondervan Publishing House: Grand Rapids, 1987) 354.

Read John 12:3–7 and answer questions 40–42:

Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, ⁵"Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." ⁶He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. ⁷"Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial." John 12:3–7

40. How is Mary worshiping the Lord with her time and resources (v. 3)?

41. How do you know that Jesus accepted Mary's worship (v. 7)?

42. Why do you think Judas' heart was more like Cain than Abel (v. 6)?

Accountability: Be prepared to share your answers to #40–42 with your discipleship team.

Judas had a selfish spirit like Cain. His heart was not turned toward God but himself. They both wanted to store up material goods for themselves. David and Mary, however, are reminiscent (suggestive, remindful) of Abel. They wanted to give the Lord their best. They worshipped with gratitude, thanksgiving, and love. God was worth far more to them than their material possessions. Their hearts and actions were focused on the Lord.

In addition to giving of one's resources, firstfruits is used figuratively in the New Testament regarding new believers in an area and the first to rise from the dead. In Revelation 14:4b, the 144,000 who had Jesus and the Father's name on their foreheads were also considered firstfruits to God and the Lamb.

Definitions: *Figurative language* is defined as speech or writing that departs from literal (actual) meaning in order to achieve a special effect or meaning by using *figures of speech*. *Figures of speech* use words in forms other than their ordinary and literal sense in order to suggest a picture, image, or other special effect.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:20–23 and answer questions 43–44:

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²²For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. 1 Corinthians 15:20–23

43. How is Paul using figurative language in saying that Christ is the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep (vv. 20, 23)?

44. How did we all die in Adam (v. 22)?

45. How are we made alive in Christ (vv. 22–23)?

46. Why is Jesus worthy of worship? (Compare John 1:29, 11:25–26, 14:6.)

Accountability: Be prepared to share your answers to #43–44 with your discipleship team.

Paul used figurative language to make the point clear to his first century audience. They understood the principle of firstfruits and could apply it to Jesus' resurrection. Jesus was the first and finest *Person* to be raised into eternal life and His life was a pledge (guarantee) of the coming harvest of believers. God gave us His perfect and best—He gave us Himself.

In His mercy and grace, God provides the fruit of the land or food for our tables. In His mercy and grace, He provides His Son for our lives. Therefore, we offer ourselves back to God and acknowledge that we belong to Him.

Christ was raised from the dead and made it possible for those who believe in His name to be harvested into eternal life. He is the firstfruits for all who trust in Him. He is also the firstfruits for all those who followed God prior to Jesus coming to earth. His death covered their sins, also. Now that Christ has come, acceptable worship *must* be through Christ and His work on the cross.

As our leadership model, Christ showed us how one is to worship today. He offered His whole body in sacrifice to God. He was a living sacrifice. He was in worship wherever He went and whatever He did. This is how you and I should live in order to be a leader and disciple in worship.

Action Step

47. Memorize Ephesians 5:1–2.

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:1–2

Accountability: Be prepared to share your memory verses #47 with your discipleship team.

—End Day Four—

Day Five
Glory to God

Definition: The Hebrew word *kabod* (כְּבוֹד) is translated *glory* in English. *Kabod* means heavy in weight, and it also means the weighty importance and shining majesty that accompany God’s presence.

Giving glory to God means to praise, honor, and recognize His importance and the weight He carries in the universe, world, community, and even in the individual. Leaders in worship give the high and heavyweight position to God and recognizes their own low and lightweight position. If we, or anyone else do not recognize God’s eminent and rightful place in worship will not diminish His glory in any way.

48. Read Psalm 29:2–4. How was David worshiping God when he wrote these verses?

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness. ³The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD thunders over the mighty waters. ⁴The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is majestic.
Psalm 29:2–4 (Ascribe means to give credit or assign.)

David is acknowledging the “weighty importance and shining majesty” that God deserves. He sees the greatness and nobility of God and is filled with reverent awe. David, the worshiping leader, is crediting God for His holiness and power over the earth. God is majestic and His glory inspires humble reverence.

Action Step: Read Isaiah 42:8 and answer questions 49–51:

“I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols.”
Isaiah 42:8

49. Do I accept praise for the natural talents or physical attributes that God has given me?
Yes No Sometimes (Underline One)

50. Do I take credit for the Holy Spirit’s work in my life? Yes No Sometimes (Underline One)

51. Do I accept recognition for “my” good works? Yes No Sometimes (Underline One)

Repent of anytime you have attempted to take God’s glory for yourself. Ask the Holy Spirit to keep you in true worship so that you do not take any credit or praise for yourself. Pray and ask God to make your life a sweet fragrant offering giving Him all the glory.

Read Hebrews 13:15–16 and answer questions 52–54:

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

52. Who makes it possible for us to continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God (v. 15)?
53. How are the mouths of believers described when we openly profess God’s name (v. 15)?
54. Give an example of a sacrifice that pleases God (v. 16).

Read Hebrews 13:15–16 and answer questions 55–56:

“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshiper will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshiper the Father seeks. ²⁴God is spirit, and his worshiper must worship in the Spirit and in truth.” John 4:23–24

55. How do true worshipers worship the Father (v. 23)?
56. How do you worship God the Father?

Accountability: Be prepared to share your answers #55–56 with your discipleship team.

A true worshiper in spirit and truth is committed to God full-time. It is a lifestyle from the heart. The question becomes, *Will the heart of worship change when circumstances or life becomes difficult?*

Lottie Moon (1840–1912), an American from Virginia, answered God’s call to be a missionary in China. It was not a popular time to be a single woman missionary anywhere, much less in China. She faced many obstacles in her journey to serve her Lord.

Lottie was born into a well-to-do family and was extremely bright. She actually became the best educated woman in the South. Miss Moon had blue eyes and dark hair and when she sat in a chair, her feet did not reach the floor—*She was barely 4’3” tall.*

Her diminutive size did not slow her down. She worked hardily in the strength of the Lord

She “worshipped” 15 hours a day in the fierce, blazing sun, visiting villages with the enduring desire that the Chinese would know Christ. Within a few months she had gone out 122 times into 33 different places to reach the people.

Not only was China physically challenging, it could also be mentally discouraging. Lottie often felt hostile crowds and the depressing consciousness of being hated. She was habitually taunted and called the “devil” woman. Nevertheless, she persevered.

Lottie's perseverance paid off. Little by little she made headway into the lives of the people she was called to serve. Her relationships with the people also greatly improved when she began to dress in the Chinese fashion. The people not only accepted her but began to accept her messages about the Savior.

However, in 1890, a severe persecution broke out and vicious mobs tortured new believers. Lottie faced the deadly opposition. She responded to the persecutors:

“If you attempt to destroy this church, you will have to kill me first. Jesus gave himself for us Christians. Now I am ready to die for Him.” The terrified converts warned her—one of these vicious attackers took her seriously and had prepared to kill her. She simply said, “Only believe, don’t fear. Our Master Jesus always watches over us, and no matter what the persecution, Jesus will surely overcome it.”¹⁵

57. How does Lottie give God glory in facing the persecutors?

Miss Moon made it clear that Jesus was in charge in that community. He had the power to overcome the persecution. Nevertheless, if she had to die, so be it. She would not stop worshipping Christ. *His glory and honor were more important to her than her own life.*

Lottie was not killed. At age 53 she continued to work, visiting 84 villages within a two-month period. She wrote, “At my age, I cannot expect many more years of work, so I must crowd the days as they fly by with eager toil for the Master.”¹⁶

Miss Moon knew the need for more workers in the field in China. She wanted the whole of China to give glory to God. She poured anguished pleas into her letters for more missionaries and funds for missions. She wrote:

“Let them come rejoicing to suffer for the sake of the Lord and Master who freely gave his life for them.”¹⁷

“How many there are among our women, alas, who imagine that because Jesus paid it all they need pay nothing, forgetting they should follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ.”¹⁸

¹⁵ Catherine B. Allen, *The New Lottie Moon Story* (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1980).

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 208.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 170.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, 170.

Her prayers and letters did not go unanswered. However, she would not live to see the dramatic way in which God used her for more missionaries and funds for missions. Many missionaries were indeed sent and as of 1980, after ninety years of the “Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions” \$400,000,000 has been used all over the world.¹⁹

In 2007 the cumulative total of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was over \$3 billion with over 5,300 missionaries in current service.²⁰ And on a personal note, my daughter and son-in-law joined these ranks supported by the Lottie Moon offering (International Mission Board) from 2008–2016.

When she died, the “Chinese people who mourned Lottie Moon did not speak of her noble education, her brilliant mind or her lofty ideals. They simply said, ‘How she loved us.’”²¹

Lottie Moon loved because God first loved her and gave Himself up for her. Leadership, like the greatest commandment, comes back to love. God will call you to lead in a unique way. He will call those you lead to also lead in unique ways. Follow Christ and His call. God *will* glorify Himself through you.

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, ²⁹for our “God is a consuming fire.”
Hebrews 12:28–29

He [angel] said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”
Revelation 14:7

—End of Day Five, Lesson 17, and end of Unit 2: *Christian Leadership* Study—

Next—Unit 3: Disciple of Christ, Lesson 1: Position in the Kingdom

Rev 8/5/2022

Congratulations on completing *Unit 2: Christian Leadership* Study! Excellent job.

We pray the lessons learned about positively influencing the attitudes and actions of others for Jesus Christ will remain with you forever. May God empower you to lead others to know and follow Him through Jesus Christ, His son. We pray you are fruitful and multiple Christ’s disciples and leaders in all nations to the glory of God the Father. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

¹⁹ Ibid., 293.

²⁰ Religious Herald: www.religiousherald.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2534&Itemid=113

²¹ Ibid., 289