



## WEEKLY STUDY

### Week Three

Our summer series called Pathways is introducing eight practices that help us get closer to the heart of God. So far, we've explored the practice of solitude and fasting. This week Worship Pastor Jenny Youngman and Worship Leader Jeana Campbell led the worship team in a conversation about the practice of pursuing God through worship.

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit [prov.church/signup](http://prov.church/signup) and click on Small Groups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture. Follow the daily prayer prompt and then pray this or your own prayer.

*God, we want to be the kind of people who put praise into the atmosphere.  
Fill us with awe and humility before you.  
Remind us of your faithfulness that we might worship you in every moment of every day.  
Amen.*

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## DAILY STUDY

### MONDAY: PSALM 34.1-9 (The Message)

*I bless God every chance I get; my lungs expand with his praise. I live and breathe God; if things aren't going well, hear this and be happy: Join me in spreading the news; together let's get the word out. God met me more than halfway, he freed me from my anxious fears. Look at him; give him your warmest smile. Never hide your feelings from him. When I was desperate, I called out, and God got me out of a tight spot. God's angel sets up a circle of protection around us while we pray. Open your mouth and taste, open your eyes and see— how good God is. Blessed are you who run to him. Worship God if you want the best; worship opens doors to all his goodness.*

- Psalm 34 makes a connection between our desperation and worship. From a tight spot, our senses and awareness of God can be heightened. Have you ever found that to be true? Have you found moments when you could say, “I live and breathe God”?
- *In a moment of prayer, pay attention to your breath. Consider every breath in and every breath out to be praise to God.*

## TUESDAY: ACTS 16.22-25

*The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods.<sup>23</sup> After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully.<sup>24</sup> When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.*

<sup>25</sup>*About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.*

- This is a profound example of worshipping God in difficult situations. Jenny said, “Worship God all day every day.” Paul and Silas modeled this after being attacked, beaten and thrown in jail. They worshiped God anyway. If you read on in Acts 16, you’ll see that their worship prepared them for an earthquake which led to their freedom and to the spiritual freedom of their captor. What is God preparing you for as you worship?
- *Pray for an ever increasing desire to worship—no matter the situation.*

## WEDNESDAY: HABAKKUK 3. 17-18

*Though the fig tree does not bud  
and there are no grapes on the vines,  
though the olive crop fails  
and the fields produce no food,  
though there are no sheep in the pen  
and no cattle in the stalls,  
<sup>18</sup>yet I will rejoice in the LORD,  
I will be joyful in God my Savior.*

- In worship, we talked about offering a sacrifice of worship. When you feel like you have nothing left, then worship is even more sacrificial. To worship when you have nothing to give is to experience the goodness of God in your own desperation. Lifting up our God in worship is an act of defiance against the voice of the evil one. Our enemy would prefer that we focus on scarcity and lack. But we will rejoice in the goodness of God.
- *Pray through the stresses and concerns of your world today. End your prayer by saying to God, “Yet I will rejoice...”*

## THURSDAY: PSALM 105.1-2

*Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;  
make known among the nations what he has done.*

<sup>2</sup> *Sing to him, sing praise to him;  
tell of all his wonderful acts.*

- Jenny shared about biblical characters like Moses and Sarah and David who told the story of salvation through worship. In Psalm 105 we have another connection between worship and the story of God's redemption of his people. What story are you telling in your practice of worship?
- *Pray to God recalling stories of rescue and salvation from your own life that lead you to worship God.*

## FRIDAY: PSALM 16.2

*I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;  
apart from you I have no good thing."*

- A big part of our worship involves attributing to God the characteristics we know to be true of God. We tell God that God is good. We tell God that God is faithful. Not because He doesn't know these characteristics, but because we need to remind ourselves. Saying to God, "You are my Lord!" is also saying "no" to the other voices that vie for our devotion.
- *Repeat a simple prayer to God, "You are my Lord". As you pray, picture all of the other objects of your worship falling away.*

## SATURDAY: ROMANS 12.1-2

*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. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

- Paul describes true and proper worship as involving our whole selves. The opposite of that would be compartmentalization of your worship life. What does it mean for you to present your body and mind as a living sacrifice to God?
- *Pray that you would be able to bring your whole self into worship this weekend.*

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

Worship pastor Jenny Youngman shared a recurring dream where she finds herself completely consumed in worship. Have you ever felt lost in worship? Shelby Wallace shared about a season where he was compelled to come to worship even though his world seemed to be crumbling. Have hard times ever kept you away from worship?