

Life Group Discussion Questions

The Heart of Worship

Words of Praise – Halal and Zamar

Gospel Gain:

Praising God includes times of celebration and the use of music.

Gathering Together (Icebreaker)

What events in life inspire celebration? Which of those events are in your top two celebrations? Why?

Growing Together (Truth/Equipping)

The word ***praise*** is used often in the Old Testament. However, the word ***praise*** has various meanings when it is used. This week we will learn about is halal and zamar.

Halal (haw-lal) – to boast, to rave, to celebrate

Read the following passages where halal was used to describe praise...

- Psalm 69:30
- Psalm 22:22
- Psalm 109:30
- Psalm 149:3
- Psalm 150:6

Based on these verses, how common do you think the practice of celebration in worship was in the ancient world? If you grew up attending church, describe a typical worship service. Where there elements of celebration and if so, what were they?

CS Lewis – *The most valuable thing the psalms do for me is to express the same delight in God which made David dance.*

What is your reaction to this CS Lewis quote?

Why do you think some people are hesitant to express their celebration of God during a church worship gathering?

When you praise God in a public setting, how conscious are you of others around you? How does that impact you negatively or positively?

Zamar (zaw-mar) – to make music, to celebrate in song and music

Read the following passages where zamar was used to describe praise...

- Psalm 144:9
- Psalm 7:17

Based on these verses, how important is music when it comes to the opportunity to praise God?

If you sing or play a musical instrument, how does that help you express your heart of praising God?

What role has music played in your spiritual journey? How does music impact your heart, thoughts and emotions?

Getting Real with One Another (Accessibility)

How can this group pray for one another when it comes to having a heart of worship? Share with your Life Group how you can increase your times of celebration towards God and the ways you want to incorporate more music into your daily praise of God.

Group Prayer Time (Supplication)

- Pray for a heart of worship. Pray that personal and corporate worship will become more of a time of celebration. Pray for God to show you how music can increase your praise of God.
- Pray that Oakwood Church would continue to develop a passion for God and compassion for people.