

## Life Group Discussion Questions

### *The Heart of Worship*

#### Words of Praise – Towdah and Barak

#### Gospel Gain:

**We are to praise God with thankful expectation and humble adoration.**

#### Gathering Together (Icebreaker)

What comes to mind when you hear these phrases – *thankful expectation* and *humble adoration*? How would you define and/or describe these phrases?

#### 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 the words towdah and barak.

**Towdah** (to-daw) – An extension of the hand. Thanksgiving for things not yet received. A confession. A choir of worshippers.

Read the following passages where this type of praise is expressed...

- Psalm 141:2
- Psalm 88:9
- Hebrews 11:6
- 1 Corinthians 2:5
- Habakkuk 3:2
- 2 Corinthians 5:7
- Psalm 121:1-2
- Psalm 20:7

Towdah is praise for things not yet received. It is praising God with expectation and thanksgiving. Based on these verses, how common do you think the practice of thankful expectation in worship was in the ancient world? What could this look like in today's corporate worship setting?

Describe a time when you have seen God answer a specific prayer or need that you had. How could answered prayer influence your praise of God?

Is there something that you are currently asking God for? Have you offered praise (towdah) in faith that he would answer you?

**AW Tozer** – *True worship that is pleasing to God creates within the human heart a spirit of expectation and insatiable longing.*

What is your reaction to this quote? How do these words impact the way you think about praising God?

**Barak** (baw-rak) – To kneel. To bless God as an act of adoration. To praise. To salute. To thank.

Barak paints the picture of humility. Barak is the kneeling before God in praise, adoration and reverence. Read the following passages...

- Psalm 95:6
- Ezekiel 3:23
- Ephesians 3:14
- Daniel 6:10
- Ezra 9:5
- Romans 14:11
- Acts 20:36
- Revelation 7:11

The word bless literally means to kneel. Based on these verses, how important is the humble adoration of God in our worship? Can you think of a time when you knelt before God in worship? If so, are you willing to share about that time with your group? What does kneeling before God communicate to him? What does it say about us?

### **Getting Real with One Another (Accessibility)**

How can this group pray for one another when it comes to having a heart of worship in the areas of thankful expectation and humble adoration?

### **Group Prayer Time (Supplication)**

- Pray for a heart of worship. Pray that personal and corporate worship will become more like towdah and barak.
- Pray that Oakwood Church would continue to develop a passion for God and compassion for people.