

# Influence Ministries

## 30-DAY CHURCH CHALLENGE

### LESSON 2

#### TITLE: COMMITTING TO A WORSHIP LIFESTYLE.

Welcome to week two of the 30-Day Church Challenge!

Our backdrop for these thirty days is Acts 2:42–47. It reads like a to-do list.

*Acts 2:42-47 -NIV*

*42 The believers studied what the apostles taught. They shared life together. They broke bread and ate together. And they prayed.*

*43 Everyone felt that God was near. The apostles did many wonders and miraculous signs.*

*44 All the believers were together. They shared everything they had.*

*45 They sold what they owned. They gave each other everything they needed.*

*46 Every day they met together in the temple courtyard. In their homes they broke bread and ate together. Their hearts were glad and honest and true.*

*47 They praised God. They were respected by all the people. Every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.*

We are learning these days that challenges are a good thing.

Last week we started our 30-Day Church Challenge and we committed to doing it together!

I asked you to commit to attending the worship service each week during this thirty-day period.

The objective of our 30-Day Church Challenge is to discover and engage in the four purposes of the church.

We are learning how we can take big steps toward reaching our God-given potential, and we are strengthening our relationships with God and with one another.

We agreed that at the end of the thirty days, we want a transformation in our thinking about the church—not just viewing it as a place to come to—but realizing that it is a vibrant family to belong to.

We want to become the church: A community of faith, powerful, inspirational, and transformational, touching our community and the world with the power of the Gospel! That is the vision we have for the next thirty days ... and even after that.

The folks who developed wilderness stress programs discovered that when people were put in challenging, adventurous situations, they gained confidence, increased their personal capabilities, deepened their compassion for others, and bonded together.

So, we've entered this challenge together, in part, to increase our confidence, capabilities, compassion, and bonding.

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Members of the first church devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the Lord's Supper (communion), and prayer. As a result, it says they were, "... praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people."

I want to talk to you about the power of worship: What it is and why is it so important to us?

*Revelation 4:9-11 -NIV*

*9 Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever,*

*10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:*

*11 "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."*

People from everywhere and every language are praising God because He saved them.

He deserves praise just for who He is because He's wise and powerful and strong and eternal. The truth about humans, and every other created being is ...

We were wired for worship Rev. 4:11

Worship is important because we are made to give glory to our Maker.

I have my iPhone here [hold it up].

I use it every day.

I make phone calls with it, text with it, check my calendar, e-mail, and the weather. I use it as a GPS.

Every time this iPhone performs a task, it reflects well on Steve Jobs and the Apple employees who made it. That's what great creations do - they reflect well on their makers.

A hammer was made for pounding nails.

A saw was made for cutting.

A car was made for the road.

A boat was made for the water.

A broom was made for sweeping.

We were created to worship. Anything less than that is not what we were made for.

And that's what worship is: reflecting well or giving glory to your maker.

Gen 1 "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good." Very good things give glory to the one who made them.

The Bible describes a lot of positive habits that help us give God glory.

In my opinion, gathering for weekly worship is the primary, foundational habit, because it's the one that resets our priorities every week, before the week begins.

# Influence Ministries

Our lives are a non-stop blitz of messages and inputs.

We read books and magazines.

We watch television shows.

We listen to the radio.

Listen to our iPods.

All of these inputs are telling us something about life. So, these inputs influence us.

In the 1970s the average American experienced about five hundred ads a day telling us what we deserved and what we should want.

Today, along with old-school outlets like television, magazines, billboards, and radio, are website banner ads and cell phone ads from Facebook, Google, Pinterest, Groupon.

That number has accelerated to 5000 ads a day that are saying, "Buy me, try me, taste me, wear me."

Our eyes and ears and brain absorb them all, causing us to view God, people, and the world around us with distorted lenses.

So where does that get corrected?

Where do you go to be reminded that you're not necessarily the center of the universe ...

That the one with the most toys doesn't necessarily win.

The answer is church, where true truth is taught from God's source of truth: the Bible.

In church you hear a message that reminds you that this world doesn't revolve around you.

In church you hear that this is your Father's world. He made it.

In church the songs, the message, and the people you hang out with remind you that despite how you've seen people treated all week, people matter to God and ought to be treated with respect and dignity.

At church, you're reminded that you are significant and treasured and that God has good plans for you.

Church reminds you that God has a purpose for every person in this world.

It reminds you that He wants you to contribute to them, and that character matters and the Lord wants you to act with integrity, honesty, justice, love, joy, peace, and patience.

In my opinion, the most important decision you make every week is the decision to come to church because at church you get the interior of your soul reset.

Your priorities are repositioned and your sense of what's true can be returned to what's really right and excellent and worthwhile for your life.

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So, the challenge this week is to commit to coming to weekly worship for the rest of this series.

It's an experiment to see if you'll feel like your life is better lived because you're being refueled by God and doing what He's asked you to do.

You were wired for worship and God asks you to be present to do that formally and with regularity every seven days.

Let me give you one more perspective on why worship is so important.

Some people think that worship only takes place in church on Sundays. Sunday worship is incredibly important, but from God's perspective, worship is more than that.

Like my iPhone gives Apple glory by doing what it does well, you give God glory by doing everything you do well.

**So, let's worship!!**

**We were made to do it!!**

**God asks us to do it!!**