

# DRAW NEAR

CLOSER: A SERIES ON WORSHIP – PART 1

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## START TALKING. WITH AN ICEBREAKER QUESTION:

- Describe the closest you've ever sat at a major sports/entertainment event?

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## START THINKING. ASK QUESTIONS THAT WILL GET YOUR GROUP THINKING.

- In what ways do you see “worship” happening in today’s society?
- Read the scriptures on the next pages in preparation for the following conversation.

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## START SHARING. CHOOSE THE QUESTIONS THAT WILL CREATE OPENNESS.

- What are the expressions of worship you notice in others? Be exhaustive.
- Tell of the first time you remember lifting your hands in worship.
- Describe a time/season when you felt closest to God. On a scale of 1 to 10 how close were you to God? How close are you today?
- What would be better if you were closer to God?
- Pastor Mark said, “It’s on us” when it comes to how close we are to God. Agree/Disagree? Why?
- Read Mark 12:30 aloud. We are to love God thoughtfully, practically, and passionately. Which of the three is most natural for you?
- We are to focus our attention on God. Why do you think God values that?
- We are to use our abilities for God. How does this honor God?
- We are to express our adoration to God. Pastor Mark listed three choices. Choose to start. Choose to sing. Choose to feel. Which one is the most challenging for you?
- Choose to feel. That can be confusing. What are some times in your life when you choose to let down your defenses and are willing to let feelings impact your responses? (i.e. sports events, movies, arguments, etc.)
- Talk about the power of music in your own life to draw you closer to God.

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## START PRAYING. BE BOLD, AND PRAY WITH POWER.

- Father. I've been close to You. I want to be closer still! I ask for the courage and discipline to draw near and nearer to You over this month! Amen.

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## START DOING. COMMIT TO A STEP AND LIVE IT OUT THIS WEEK.

- Stretch in fasting. Spend the time you would've spend eating in worship to God!

**James 4:8 (NIV)**

<sup>8</sup> Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

**Mark 12:30 (NIV)**

<sup>30</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

**Colossians 3:23 (NIV)**

<sup>23</sup> Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,

**1 John 4:9 (NIV)**

<sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

**Psalm 95:2 (NIV)**

<sup>2</sup> Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

**Psalm 100:4 (NIV)**

<sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

**Psalm 95:1-2 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. <sup>2</sup> Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

**Psalm 95:6 (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup> Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

**Psalm 134:2 (NIV)**

<sup>2</sup> Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the LORD.