

BEYOND BELIEF

CLOSER: A SERIES ON WORSHIP – PART 3

START TALKING. WITH AN ICEBREAKER QUESTION:

- Tell of one of your most favorite experiences you've ever had? Key word: experience.

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

- What does our society pursue with reckless abandon, even though those who've accomplished/achieved it frequently say that it doesn't satisfy?
- Read the scriptures on the next pages in preparation for the following conversation.

START SHARING. CHOOSE THE QUESTIONS THAT WILL CREATE OPENNESS.

- What is something you don't understand, yet believe in, and regularly experience? (i.e. gravity)
- Tell of a time you pursued something. What was the result?
- Mark said, "God is the goal. Not heaven." How does this change your perspective?
- What does pursuing God look like to you?
- Share your experience, or lack thereof, of lifting your hands in worship. Can you relate to the video that opened the message?
- When you have entered into and engaged fully in worship, what have you learned about God's person? His personality? His character?
- What good should you sacrifice to embrace great?

START PRAYING. BE BOLD, AND PRAY WITH POWER.

- Father. To hurry You is to find fault with You. Teach me to wait on You, with full expectation. Amen.

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

- Same as last week. Fast and pray. Don't talk about it. Do it. At least one meal this week. Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you during that time.

James 4:8 (NIV)

⁸ 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)

³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

John 4:23 (NIV)

²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV)

¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Matthew 5:6 (NIV)

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Matthew 7:7-8 (NIV)

⁷ "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

⁸ For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

Isaiah 30:18 (NIV)

¹⁸ Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!

Isaiah 64:4 (NIV)

⁴ Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.

Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)

³¹ but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Psalms 22:3 (NIV)

³ Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel.

Psalm 34:8 (NIV)

⁸ Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.

Matthew 5:8 (NIV)

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

John 10:27 (NIV)

²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.