

As we start our series on prayer we will be focusing this week on adoration.

ADORATION.—As this word is used, both in literature and in common practice, it seems to imply, on the one hand, admiration of qualities that are good and beautiful, and, on the other, a recognition of power in what possesses them. Further, it usually carries with it the idea that the object of adoration is immensely greater than the being who adores.

(Encyclopædia of Religion and Ethics)



Open-up

In your life, what has been something that you adored? Why? How did you express that adoration?

Into the Bible—Ask “What does it Say?”

Read: Psalm 96

What do you notice about the passage itself? (Structure, repeated words or ideas, unique words, main points, what did this passage say to the original author and audience)

Explore the context of this Psalm by reading I Chronicles 15:25-16:6.

How is adoration expressed in this Psalm?

What characteristics of God are expressed in this Psalm? How are the people directed to worship?



Into my life—Ask “What does this look like in my personal life?”

How would you answer the question, “Who is the centre of your prayer life?”

Why should we make our focus of praise and adoration all about God?

How can I declare God’s greatness when my life is not so great?



Into the World—Ask “what does this look like in my world?”

As a group practice adoration by reading prayerfully through Psalm 96:1-4.

We will read through this section four times focusing on a different idea each time.

Reading 1: Have someone read the passage outloud and simply listen as it is being read. Spend a few moments in silence.

Reading 2: Have someone read the passage outloud. Reflect in quietness on the passage you have just read for several minutes. Be alert to any parts of the passage that especially spoke to you. Turn those phrases over in your mind, and listen for what the Holy Spirit might be saying to you about those words and your own life. Savor the richness of the passage that it might accompany you throughout your day or week.

Reading 3: Have someone read the passage out loud. Tell God what words, phrases, or ideas captured your attention, and what they meant to you. Ask God to use this reflection to change your heart and life. (This can be in quiet or verbally)

Reading 4: Have someone read the passage out loud. Be still before God and invite him to be present with you, loving you and refreshing your soul. Celebrate the opportunity you’ve had to feed on God’s word.

Share any insights you had during this experience.