



Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - February 12, 2012

Sermon

Responding to Today's
Issues:

*"Why is Worship
Attendance Down in Many
Churches?"*

Psalm 100
by Bob Shank

Things I want to remember
about this sermon...

Monday 2/13/12
Psalm 100:1-2

Psalm 100 instructs us to make a joyful noise to the Lord and worship the Lord with gladness. In fact, this whole short psalm encourages worship and explains why we are to worship God. Why do you worship? Are you in the regular habit of attending and participating in worship? Making a joyful noise and singing are a huge part of worship. Sing a song to the Lord today!

Tuesday 2/14/12
Psalm 100:3

Do you ever think too highly of yourself? Do you ever feel so independent that you believe you don't need anyone else? It's a short trip from confidence to self-righteousness. Don't take this trip. Know that the Lord is God and the Lord made us. We are God's people. We are the sheep of God's pasture. We need to know our place and not think too much of ourselves. Worship helps us to keep the proper perspective.

Wednesday 2/15/12
Psalm 100:4

How do you enter worship on Sunday morning? Begrudgingly? Tired? Weary? The psalmist instructs us to enter into worship with thanksgiving and praise! Be thankful for whatever you have and bless God's name. Worship not only puts things into proper perspective, but worship also clears our minds and souls of unnecessary worry, anxiety, bitterness, guilt, self-pity, and gets us right with God. Worship is the best part of the week because we can experience forgiveness, grace, and the love of God. Next week, think about how you are coming to worship. What baggage are you bringing with you? Are you coming into worship with a smile on your face? Are you entering God's gates with thanksgiving? Are you entering God's courts with praise? Give it a try and see how you experience worship with this right attitude!



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Things to do this week in response to the sermon...

What are the factors that contribute to declining worship attendance?

Is this trend hopeless or are there practical things we can do to change it?

When did you last invite someone to come to worship with you?

Thursday 2/16/12
Psalm 100:5

The Lord is good. Do you believe this? Why? Can you give evidence to how the Lord is good? Worship is often thought of as a response to God's goodness in our lives. We respond to this goodness by giving ourselves in worship and giving our gifts and offerings. God's mercy is forever! Worship is meant for all of us, regardless of age, economic status, or race. Each one of us is made in God's image and we each belong to God's family. Let us, then, worship God in spirit and truth. If God is good, then God deserves our thanks and praise. Worship God regularly!

Friday 2/18/12
John 4:1-30

The Samaritan woman at the well had an experience with Jesus. Yes, it was a conversation, but it was also a moving experience that motivated her to share her experience with her friends back home and it was so powerful it moved her friends to act, too. Worship does this. Worship moves us to action. We are not just sponges sitting in the pew; we are God's people who have a worshipful experience and then are called to go out and share the Good News! What experiences of worship moved you to action?

Saturday 2/19/12
Acts 17:23

When Paul was in the Athens he saw all their idols and the things they worshiped. They even had an altar to "the unknown God." Paul shared with them who this God was from his experience as a faithful follower of the Lord. People in our day worship many idols, too. How can we share our faith and introduce them to the God of all? What can we say or do to bring them to worship God here on Sunday morning?