



The Way of Worship

Focus God desires for us to build up our lives as places of worship because He wants to live with us there.

Open Of all the places you've lived, which has been your favorite? Why?

Read In Exodus 25, the children of Israel were instructed to build a place of worship for the Lord, bringing supplies and materials for the construction "*willingly with [their] hearts.*" Now, we no longer have to build or visit a brick-and-mortar tabernacle to experience the presence of God. 1 Peter 2:5 says **we** are living stones that are being built up as a spiritual house for God. Why would God choose us to be His house?

God, who needs nothing, says to us, "I want to live where you live." When we worship God, presenting ourselves to Him to pursue life His way, we are rewarded with His presence in our lives. Our lives become a place of meeting.

- Talk**
1. Has it ever occurred to you that God wants to *live with you*? Does this truth change the way you think about building up your life as a spiritual house for God (1 Peter 2:5)? In what way?
 2. "*Worship is a stance of the heart.*" ~ Dr. Jack Hayford – How would you describe the "stance" of a worshipping heart?

3. Atop the Ark of the Covenant (the Old Testament representation of the presence of God) was the mercy seat, marked by the blood of sacrifice. Why is it important to remember (and easy to forget) that we still come into God's presence only through the blood of Jesus?

Live

1. *"Worship is not work. But it is a choice."* – Dr. Jack Hayford

What would your personal life "look like" if you made the choice to worship? What would it look like if you haven't? Which description fits you best right now?

2. Individually, write down a note to the Lord as though you were extending an invitation for Him live with you in your "house." What do you hope you'll get to do together?

Pray

Thank God for His blessings and fruitfulness that flow towards the worshipper. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you build up your life as a spiritual house to the Lord. Invite Him to dwell with you, based on the mercy and blood of Jesus, not on your own goodness. Thank Him for His unbelievable desire to live where you live.