

Discussion Guide: Part 3

THE FEAST: EUCHARIST

1. Why do you think so many Christian worship practices such as the Eucharist are rooted in ancient Jewish worship?
2. The episode mentions that the terms “Eucharist”, “Communion”, and “Lord’s Supper” are all used to describe the table celebration. What term is used in your faith community and why?
3. Have you ever been in a church where the Eucharist was celebrated differently from your own faith community? Share your experience with the group.
4. Are you surprised that many of the words and actions associated with the celebration of Communion date back to the early church?
5. How often is the Eucharist celebrated in your faith community? Are there other rituals or acts that accompany this time of worship?
6. Describe the personal significance of the table celebration in your worship experience.
7. What parallels are there between the Eucharist and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb pictured in the Book of Revelation?
8. Worship scholar Dr. James Hart spoke of a phrase his mentor used when he would “flee to the Eucharist” as a place of healing, refuge, and connection with God. Can you relate to his experience?

THE FEAST: HOLY DAYS

1. Does your faith community celebrate seasons such as Advent and Lent? Why or why not?
2. Why is it important to understand the Jewish system of feast days and festivals to understand the holy days of the New Testament church?
3. What did you find interesting about Rabbi Wolf’s story?
4. How is a lectionary used in worship? Is this something your faith community uses? Why or why not?
5. Why do you think there is in many faith traditions a renewed emphasis on recovering faith practices of the early church?
6. What is your favorite part of the celebration of Christmas? Of Holy Week and Easter? Share your traditions with the group.
7. Do you agree with one scholar’s view that our worship focuses on the present, rather than remembering the past or anticipating the future? How does the celebration of holy days help us encounter the entire history of Christian worship?
8. Why do you think non-Christians embrace and celebrate holy days such as Christmas and Easter? Is this helpful or harmful to those who celebrate these days as part of their faith experience?

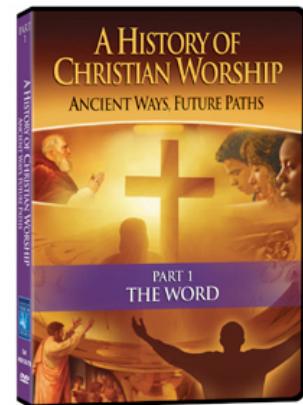
FINAL THOUGHTS ON EPISODE 3

1. What is at least one thing you have learned from this episode?
2. Is there any worship practice in the film that you would like to adopt in your public or private worship experience?

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Tips for Discussion Leaders

- Create a safe environment where people can share freely without criticism or judgment.
- Hold group members accountable to respect different opinions and to allow everyone an opportunity to speak.
- Ask open-ended questions that stimulate ongoing discussion.
- Prepare for the discussion by watching the film in advance.
- Be an active listener with your eyes, ears and body gestures.
- Observe the time limits set for the group discussion.
- Keep the discussion on topic.
- Look for ways to encourage all group members to participate.
- Encourage group members to share personal stories and illustrations as they apply to the subject matter.
- Limit your group to a manageable size so that everyone has time to share their thoughts.



A History of Christian Worship

This six-part series explores centuries of worship practices, as seen through the eyes of Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox churches and discussed by leading voices from a cross-section of the Christian community. Viewers will discover the significant people and events that have shaped history and learn how modern worship practices are rooted in the earliest foundations of the Christian faith.