

Discussion Guide: Part 4

THE MUSIC: SONGS AND MUSIC

1. What are some examples of music from the Scriptures? Can you see how these examples correlated to music in the church?
2. When you hear Gregorian or other styles of chant, what do you typically think of?
3. Does your faith community use sung responses, chant or psalms as part of its worship service? If so, how does this enhance the worship experience?
4. Have you ever sung in a choir or is choral singing part of your faith community? How do you feel this adds to worship?
5. What is one of your favorite hymns and why?
6. Do you enjoy contemporary Christian music and is it part of your worship community? Why or why not?
7. Why do you feel there is a tension between those who desire traditional music and those who want to contemporize music in worship? How can this “worship war” be resolved?
8. What did you find interesting about the story of Jason Houser and Seeds Family Worship?

THE MUSIC: LITURGY AND STRUCTURE

1. Do you believe that all churches have some form of liturgy?
2. What is the liturgy or structure of worship in your faith community? How does it enrich your worship experience?
3. Do you agree with the statement by Dr. David Fagerberg that liturgy “when placed on me, conforms me to the body of Christ”?
4. Do you find that having a structure to a worship service frees you to devote your attention to God rather than what needs to happen next?
5. Is it surprising that elements of how we worship were in place in the early church and have continued to this day?
6. Why do you think some faith traditions avoid liturgy or structure in their public worship?
7. Do you have repeating patterns or structure to your private worship? If so, describe. If not, is this something you would be willing to try? Why or why not?
8. In your opinion, when is worship not pleasing to God? Do you agree with Dr. J.I. Packer that worship is not pleasing to God when it is self absorbed and hypocritical?

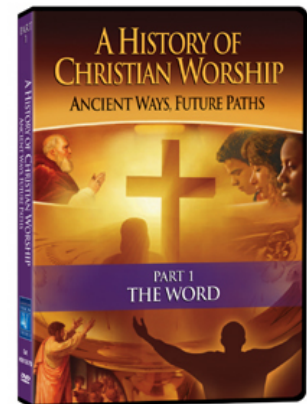
FINAL THOUGHTS ON EPISODE 4

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.