

Getting Started

Welcome back! Make sure to spend a little time this session catching up with each other after the summer hiatus!

This week’s topic is the liturgy. As a warm up, talk about your experiences with liturgical worship: what have you found meaningful? What leaves you cold? What are its benefits? What are its drawbacks?

Into the Bible

One of the points Pastor Stowe made was that speaking of our weekend gathering as *worship* puts the emphasis on us and what we do. Read 1 Kings 18:20-29. How did the prophets of Baal show that their understanding of worship was human-centered?

What can go wrong if our assumptions about worship are too human-centered?

What can go wrong if we don’t think about the human side at all?

In contrast to Baalism, Israel’s worship was very orderly. Exodus and Leviticus are filled with the rules for approaching the Lord. Read Exodus 28:29-30 and 29:9b-11. Why was Israel so careful in their worship?

What do these passages have to say about the presence of God in worship?

Matthew 18:20—

Matthew 26:26-28—

Acts 5:1-5—

Digging Deeper

When you go to church, do you have the sense that you are entering the presence of God? What gives you that sense? What takes away from it?

Does a liturgical style of worship seem to cultivate a sense of God’s presence for you or does a less formal style of worship do that for you?