



Small Group Study Guide for January 20, 2019

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: Our new preaching series for Epiphany is called “The Way We Worship,” as we take time to reflect on and learn about the way we worship God. Our worship at Our Savior is rich and meaningful, blending old and new, young and old, ancient and future, to bring Christ and his gifts to the worshippers who respond with thanksgiving, song, and praise. All of this happens as we gather in the name of our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Getting Started:

1. What is your favorite part of worshipping on Sunday mornings?
2. What part of our worship services seems mysterious or confusing to you? (example, “why do we always...?”)
3. What parts of the worship service bring you close to the Lord?

In the Word: Romans 10:6-13

4. The righteousness that is by faith does not seek to ascend to heaven to find Christ, or descend into the deep to find Christ. That is to say, we should not think too highly of ourselves, or too low of ourselves when it comes to our relationships with God. In fact, it is not based on what we do – but rather on the Word of God. And where, according to verse 8 is the Word or message of Christ?
5. Verse 9 is an important verse that describes the life of a disciple. We use our hearts and our mouths. How do we use both our hearts and our mouths in worshipping God?
6. Why is verse 12 such a comforting passage, and what does it mean for the church today?
7. Verse 13 is a quote from the Old Testament. Look that up and read it in context.

Worship Connections:

8. How many points during the worship service can you think of when the Word of Christ comes near to us? List the number of times the Word of Christ comes to you during worship.
9. How do you prepare your heart for worship?
10. How do we declare with our mouth “Jesus is Lord” during our worship services, and how is worship a public statement of faith in Christ?
11. How does the Christian church bring together Jew and Gentile, and people of different backgrounds, cultures, socio-economic levels, political opinions, gender, and age?
12. What is the promise in God’s Word to all who “call on the name of the Lord”?
13. Look up **Matthew 18:20**. Why is it important to say the invocation when we gather together for worship?
14. What is one part of worship that you would like explained to you? Feel free to email Pastor Wangelin or Vicar Wittig as we prepare our messages for the coming weeks with your questions.

Prayer: Thank God for His gifts that He gives us in worship – Word & Sacrament, grace & forgiveness, peace & comfort, fellowship & belonging. Ask the Holy Spirit to open the hearts of everyone who worships with us to hear, believe, and confess the salvation we have in Christ.

Next Week: We unpack an important element that normally takes place at the beginning of our service – Confession & Absolution. How often do I need to receive forgiveness from God? Why do we start off our services with that?