

Worship . LifeGroups @ Central

Finish this statement: "To me, worship is . . . ?"

Accept God's Love (read Malachi 1:1-5)

The Israelites were not convinced of God's love because of the hard times they had been through. They questioned God's love. However, the Lord gives a brief history lesson pointing out how He demonstrated His love by preserving and restoring them to their homeland. In contrast, Esau/Edom was rejected as the nation through whom the Messiah (Jesus) would come.

1. How did the Lord show His love to the people of Israel? What happened to the love relationship God had initiated?
2. How does a contemporary Christian know, in spite of our sin and rebellion, that God loves us? Does God's love change? (John 3:16, Romans 5:8)
3. Why do we have problems accepting God's love? What unique difficulties might get in the way of receiving his love?
4. How does a lack of acceptance of God's love affect our worship?

Offer God My Best (read Malachi 1:6-9,14)

The worship of God had lost its vitality and had become more of a business for the priests than heartfelt adoration.

1. Who is the target of the Lord's probing questions? What's wrong with their gift giving?

Our lives should be "living sacrifices" to God (Romans 12:1; 1 Peter 2:5, 9; Matthew 22:37)
From a practical stand point, it made sense for the Jews to keep the best animals for themselves and to sacrifice the unwanted ones.

2. How might our worship become routine? How do we become lax in our worship time?
3. Ponder and discuss: "Christian worship is both an action to be taken and an event to participate in, but never merely something to observe."
4. How is our faith renewed through acceptable worship?

Wrap up:

- Finish this sentence: "One way I can give God my best during a worship service is . . ."

Prayer: Requests