

## CLI Leadership Bible Study: Lesson 15

*How to positively influence the attitudes and actions of others for Jesus Christ*

### **Lesson 15: The Leader in Worship** (Day One) *What is Worship?*

In our previous lessons, we have looked at various aspects of Christian leadership. As a reminder, Christian leadership is influencing the attitudes and actions of others for Jesus Christ. In this, our last and final lesson, we will study and put into practice the most important action for a leader: worship.

Lesson 14: *The Tender Heart of a Leader* ended with a coaching caveat (caution) on love. Any love that is not based on God's love will be tainted (flawed) and self-serving. Your leadership will become about you and your gifts and abilities. You will desire to lead for your own self satisfaction, emotional support and ego. Keep your heart and your love pure.

One of the ways to keep our hearts and our love pure is to be a worshipping leader. When we recognize and adore the triune God, our hearts will be filled with love for Him. We will want to please and honor God and not ourselves.

The word *worship* has a range of meanings. You may be familiar with some of them, but may be surprised at the meaning of others. We are going to look at fuller descriptions of the word for clarity and sharpness in our devotion to the Lord.

**New Testament Definition:** The Greek word used most frequently in the New Testament for worship is *proskuneo* (προσκυνέω). It means to express in attitude or gesture (motion) one's *complete dependence or submission* to a high authority figure. It also means to fall down and worship, do obeisance (respectful gesture), to prostrate oneself before (lie face downward), revere (be in awe of) and to welcome respectfully.

The leader in worship is completely dependent on God and submits (yields) to His high authority. We may have genuine concerns and inquire of God respectfully, but we never question His rule or authority in our lives. He welcomes our curiosity, but not our interference.

**New Testament Definition:** Another Greek word, *latreuo* (λατρεύω), which is also translated worship, means to serve and minister. In your dependence and submission to God as your leader on earth, you serve according to His will. Offering to help a "neighbor" in Jesus' name is an act of worship.

1. How do you personally express your complete dependence and submission to God?

**\*\*See end of lesson for repeat of questions and blank spaces for you to write your answers.**  
*When all the questions have been completed, return your answer sheets to CLI. You may keep this lesson for your own study or review. You may also pass it on to another or discard.*

I have two simple ways that I express in attitude (feelings) and gesture (body movement) my dependence and submission to God. In the morning, I kneel with my body and face turned downwards to the floor (prostrate) and acknowledge God as King, Ruler, and Creator. I confirm that I am His servant, slave, and creation.

At night, I kneel by my bed and tell my Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit good night. I tell them how much I love them and thank them for leading me this day. I also thank God for the things and circumstances that He has brought about in my life and ministry.

**Definition:** In addition to moving the body to express deep respect, obeisance means to pay homage. In paying homage, we show deep respect and reverence. Homage is also defined as a *formal public acknowledgement* by which a feudal tenant or vassal declares his fealty to his lord.

**Definition:** Fealty is the loyalty and duty owed by a vassal to his feudal lord. In case your medieval history is a bit rusty, a vassal is a person who held land from a lord or superior, and in return the vassal gave help in war or some other service. Feudalism was a political and economic system of Europe from the 9th to about the 15th century, based on the holding of all land in fief or fee and the resulting relation of lord to vassal and characterized by homage, legal and military service of tenants (renters), and forfeiture (penalty, loss).

2. Please share a time when you made a *public acknowledgement* of your loyalty to God.

You are not only a vassal but also an adopted son (includes male and female) in war. You are to be steadfast, unswerving and totally dedicated in your allegiance to God and your Kingdom. God's Kingdom is your Kingdom now. His cause is your cause. No matter how you feel or what you face, you must stand up and acknowledge your King. This is an integral part of a leader in worship.

Declaring and acknowledging God can be simple or life threatening. Jesus worshipped God at all times. When He died on the cross, He was steadfast, unswerving and totally dedicated in allegiance God the Father and the Kingdom. God the Father and God the Son have the same cause: to bring sinners back into relationship.

Martyrs are in worship when they die for the sake of His Name. No matter how they feel or what they face, they acknowledge Jesus as Lord. Martyrs have the same cause as God: make the gospel known to all mankind.

**Definition:** In English, the verb worship means to honor and love God. It also means to regard with ardent or adoring esteem or devotion. A leader takes an active part in worship and influences others to honor and love God.

One aspect and form of worship is singing in a church service. Standing together and showing our respect and love for God publicly is pleasing to God. He likes us to gather together as the body of Christ and raise melodious (musical) voices in one accord.

We may also worship God by playing Christian CDs, DVDs, radio, T.V., or other kinds of media. We may listen quietly or sing out loud; the only requirement is to have our hearts centered on God. He is not interested in rituals and rules but in our love (Mark 7:6-7).

Praise music is one way to honor God, but there are many others. All can be good and acceptable at different times in the day. Really, all activities offered to God for His use and glory are forms of worship (Zechariah 14:20; Romans 12:1).

**3.** Name two ways that *you* show God honor, devotion and love to God:

**Old Testament Definition:** One of the verbs in Hebrew that English translates as worship is *shachah* (שָׁחָה). It means to prostrate or bow down. It also means to pay homage to God and reverence His name.

**Old Testament Definition:** Another Hebrew word that is translated worship is *abad* (עָבַד). It means to work and to serve.

Through the various definitions of worship, we see that worship is a lifestyle of love and devotion to God. It is a heart devoted to God and doing His will each and every day. Worship is a combination of private and public acknowledgment and service to God that includes prayer, praise, thanksgiving, obedience, reverence, loyalty and good works.

**4.** List two ways that *you* work and serve God:

“The ancient Hebrews understood a human being as an indivisible totality.”<sup>1</sup> Mind, spirit and body were involved and responded to God in worship. This meant that all the separate parts of life, such as work, worship, recreation, prayer and leisure, were combined to form a whole sacred life dedicated to God.

**Definition based on Greek, English and Hebrew:** A true worshipper or leader in worship is one who loves the triune God and is fully dependent and submitted to Him constantly in prayer, service and devotion with great reverence and awe using his or her mind, spirit and body for His glory.

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**Personal Application:** Read and meditate on Deuteronomy 6:4-7:

*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.<sup>5</sup> Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.<sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.<sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*  
Deuteronomy 6:4-7

**5.** Think about why you love God. With these words in your heart, talk about your love and loyalty of God and share with others. Make talking about your love for God a way of life. Share how this assignment brought you closer to God:

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<sup>1</sup> Torah’s Vision of Worship, 110.

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**Lesson 15: The Leader in Worship** (Day Two) Equality in Worship

**Read Exodus 4:22-23a and answer questions 6-7:**

*Then say to Pharaoh, This is what the LORD says: Israel is my firstborn son,<sup>23</sup> and I told you, "Let my son go, so he may worship me." Exodus 4:22-23a*

**6.** How do you know that God desires worship in general and your worship specifically?

God tells us clearly and emphatically in the book of Exodus that He saved the Israelites for the purpose of worship. The LORD had Moses go to Pharaoh and repeat eight times, “*Let my people go, so that they may worship me.*”<sup>2</sup> God wanted to make it clear to Moses and to the Israelites as well as Pharaoh and the Egyptians that the reason He wanted His people to be released was for the express purpose of worshipping or serving Him.

**7.** How does God describe Israel in verse 22 and 23a?

*You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,<sup>27</sup> for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.<sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.<sup>29</sup> If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3:26-29*

**Read Galatians 3:26-29 and answer questions 8-14:**

**8.** How does Paul describe Christians (v. 26)?

**9.** How did you become a son of God (v. 27)?

**10.** What is the difference in sonship between a Chinese, untouchable (lowest person in India) or female Christian (v. 28)?

**A person becomes a son of God by faith in Jesus.** Worship depends on being in the family of God. Think of a human family. You do not become part of a particular family by going to their home or talking nicely about them. You become a member of that family by either being born into it or being adopted into it. Simply, a person must be born again or born a second time to be in God's family.

Once born into God's family, your role as a son means that you have an active participatory role. You have direct access to God and do not need to go through a priest or mediator. Indeed, you are a priest yourself (1 Peter 2:5; Revelation 5:10).

The Galatians were being influenced by certain Jewish believers (Judaizers) who were insisting that Gentile (non Jewish) believers needed to observe the Torah (Law). Paul is making the point

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<sup>2</sup> The 8 times Moses declared God's words to Pharaoh about letting His people go so they may worship: Exodus 4:22-23, 7:16, 8:1, 8:20, 9:1, 9:13, 10:3, 10:7.

that the life of God's people is meant to be centered on Christ and not on the Torah.<sup>3</sup> The point is still critical today. Center your life on Christ and not laws.

The Bible was written so that we may know and love God. It does this by pointing us to Christ. As we study God's Word, He reveals Himself and graciously gives us satisfying work to do in His Kingdom. As a leader, your work is always done out of love for your heavenly Father. What pleases God, pleases you. Following rules and regulations is not the same as submitting and depending on God. It is not worship.

**Definition:** Prejudice is an irrational dislike of somebody: an unfounded hatred, fear, or mistrust of a person or group, especially one of a particular religion, ethnicity, nationality, gender, or social status.

**11.** Have you ever been the victim of prejudice? Please explain:

It is very difficult when you are treated unfairly for being a specific race, social class or gender (male or female). Injustice in any form is not only emotionally harmful but it can be physically dangerous as well. In God's Kingdom there is no prejudice, discrimination, narrow mindedness, bigotry (discrimination) or chauvinism (sense of superiority). We are sons of God and heirs according to the promise (Genesis 12:2-3).

This means that your race, social class and gender meld together spiritually as one in Christ Jesus. How others view your physical differences or circumstances has no effect on your relationship with God and your place in His Kingdom. You are equal in every sense of the word.

God uses the terminology of sons to reveal a spiritual reality. During the period of time that the Bible was written, sons or adopted sons were the only ones who inherited the family property and wealth. However, there were two notable exceptions: Zelophehad's daughters (Joshua 17:3-4; Numbers 27:1-8, 36:2) inherited their father's land and Job's daughters inherited along with their brothers (Job 42:13-15). Thus the Books of Numbers and Job end with this foreshadowing (hint of future) truth: in Christ all are sons and heirs.

Usually it was the firstborn son who would receive the estate and manage it. He would also have privileged access to his father and his experience. Fathers would often give preferential treatment toward this son because he would be the one carrying on the family name and reputation.

Understanding this truth is important to your worship and how you will lead others. Jews had the preeminent position of being the only true worshippers of God. Israel was considered God's firstborn son. Paul is saying that in Christ all are sons and all are true worshippers. That is, no one has any advantage in their relationship with God or in their participation within the Kingdom.

As a son and true worshipper, you love the triune God and are fully dependent and submitted to Him constantly in prayer, service and devotion with great reverence and awe using your mind,

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<sup>3</sup> Longenecker, Richard N., Word Biblical Commentary, Galatians. General Editor Bruce Metzger, Word Books Publisher: Dallas, 1990, 151.

spirit and body for His glory. Not only are you a son and true worshipper, but you recognize other believers' preeminent (outstanding, distinguished) position of worshipper. In loving and honoring God, you love and honor His other "sons."

**12.** How does this understanding of your place in the Kingdom, no matter your social, cultural or gender status, affect your leadership?

**13.** What is the meaning of "baptized into Christ" (v. 27)?

Baptism is a symbol of the new reality of sonship in Christ. Our immersion signifies that we share in Jesus' death and have died to our old and sinful ways. Coming up out of the water signifies that we are raised out of death from sin into a new birth in Christ and into God's family.

As sons we clothe ourselves with Christ. We become like Him by taking on or putting on His characteristics, virtues and intentions.<sup>4</sup> Sonship is our full identification with the Son of God, our model and blueprint, for life and worship. Remember, as God's Son, He always sought His Father and ran the estate (earth) according to His plans and purposes.

Galatians 3:28 represents three areas of inequality that have come to an end in Christ Jesus. Studies show these verses were part of the confession (profession, declaration) of the early church, particularly used at baptism. Early Christians were praising God that through Christ the old racial, cultural and gender divisions had been healed.<sup>5</sup> *There are no second class citizens in God's Kingdom!*

**14.** How will *you* seek unity and harmony in serving God with others who are different than you (either racially, socially or in gender)?

Galatians 3:29 says that if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed and an heir according to the promise. If you are unfamiliar with the story of Abraham, read Genesis 12-25. Briefly, after Adam and Eve sinned God promised that He would redeem mankind (Genesis 3:15) and He fulfilled that promise through Abraham's seed. Our Redeemer, Jesus Christ, was a descendent or the seed of Abraham's earthly line (Galatians 3:16).

If you are an heir to the promise, you are blessed with salvation! You are saved from your sins and have entered into a relationship with God in Christ. But the promise also says that you will be a blessing! That means that you have the ability to share Christ with others. You bless others by helping them come into a saving and vibrant relationship with the Messiah (Genesis 12:2) and becoming sons themselves!

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**Personal Application:** *Preparing your heart for worship:*

**15a.** Pray and ask God if there are any areas of your life where you are living law-centered rather than Christ-centered. Write the areas that God wants you to work on:

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid, 156.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, 157

**15b.** How will you follow through with the Lord's counsel and direction for these areas in your life?

**16a.** Ask God if you are prejudiced against anyone or any group. What did God tell you?

**16b.** How will you follow through with the Lord's counsel and direction for these areas of prejudice in your life?

**17a.** Pray and ask God if you are being treated unjustly because of race, social class or gender. What did God tell you?

**17b.** How will you follow through with the Lord's counsel and direction for the areas where you are being mistreated?

**18.** Read and meditate on Matthew 5:44-48; Luke 6:27-28; Romans 12:14 and 1 Corinthians 4:12-13. In general, what does God want you to do when you are treated unjustly because of race, social class, or gender?

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**Lesson 15: The Leader in Worship** (Day Three) Heart of Worship

*My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.* Psalm 84:2

**19.** Read and meditate on Psalm 84:2. How is this verse a statement of worship?

The sons of Korah, of the priestly line of Levi, wrote this psalm of worship to God. This psalm reveals a worshipper fully and constantly devoted to God. It is not a trivial seeking but an earnest and total longing for God. The worshipper's whole being: his mind, spirit and body seeks the LORD.

"Courts of the Lord" is synonymous (equal) with being with God. During the time of the Old Covenant, God's presence was with His people in the temple. With the New Covenant, God's Spirit is with each individual believer.

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship.* Romans 12:1

**20.** Read and meditate on Romans 12:1. How is this verse similar (like) to Psalm 84:2?

Whether you are studying the Old or New Covenant, you will see that God is concerned with your true feelings toward Him. He wants all of you, mind and body, to love and worship Him. He has never been pleased with laws, sacrifices and rituals (Isaiah 29:13; Mark 7:6-7). God desires a heart fully committed out of love and not out of duty.

**21.** What will *you* do in order to show God that *your* worship of Him is from the heart?

Be the leader that God calls you to be and respond with a heart of worship. Your thoughts, words and actions are harmonized for God. No matter the assignment, easy or hard, significant or insignificant, your whole being leaps for joy to submit, serve and honor your God.

Bruce Olson was such a worshipper. In 1961 he responded to go into the jungles of Colombia, South America. After hearing a missionary speak on his work in New Guinea, Bruce had nightmares of a native beating him and screaming, "My blood is required of you. My blood is required of you." Bruce woke up in a cold sweat.

He thought, "That can't be right. God's not like that. He's a God of love. He loves me."

"But do you love Him?" the question came. "Yes, I love Him. Of course I love Him. How could I not?"

"Won't you serve Him, then?"

"Serve Him? I am serving Him. I study the Word. I've shared with all my friends what He means to me. Isn't that serving Him? Why can't I be your servant in Minneapolis?"

God didn't want Bruce in Minneapolis; He wanted him to reach the stone age tribes of the Yukos and Motilones. This call would take a leader with a heart of worship. The call was for one who would not give up easily or turn from danger.

Bruce applied to a mission board but was rejected. Friends and family made a case for finishing college in his chosen field of linguistics.<sup>6</sup> But a worshipper responds to God with his whole being and not what makes 'good sense.' A worshipper is attuned to God's wisdom and not man's.

So at 19, Bruce purchased a one-way airplane fare to South America and went alone. When he finally reached the Yuko Indians, he was beaten and whipped and in danger of being killed. Similarly when he found the stone age Motilone Indians, he was shot with an arrow and taken prisoner. To add to the terror of his circumstances, he didn't know the language.

Bruce became very ill from the infection caused by the arrow and also from lack of food and water. He imagined a future of torture, loneliness and death. As he wondered why he was trying to reach a bunch of primitive savages who didn't want his help, he remembered Jesus. He remembered that He had also faced primitive savages (mankind) who didn't want His help. Jesus had died for all people. He died for these people and loved them dearly.

He lay quietly and prayed, "God, I will give You what I can. I give You my strength, my life. I'll put up with anything, any trouble. I'll even die, if You will let me communicate about Your Son to the Motilones." God kept Bruce alive.

God gave him a compassion for his captors and he strove to learn their language. It would be years before his captors knew their Savior. However, when God spoke to the Motilone about Jesus, He spoke in their language and through their culture. That was another lesson that Bruce

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<sup>6</sup> Linguistics is the scientific study of languages and their structures.

learned. God made a variety of cultures and He loves them all. Trying to make a people group fit into Western ways is wrong.

Unable to clearly pronounce Bruce's name, the Motilones called him Bruchko. God did not forget that He had given Bruchko a talent and interest in languages. When the time was right God had Bruce take a language that was only spoken and transform it into a written one. Bruce developed an alphabet and taught it to the Indians. Then Bruchko translated the New Testament into their new written language. Having the New Testament helped them grow in their faith.

The Motilones would not remain isolated forever. Settlers made their way into their lands and this made modern plans necessary. Therefore Bruchko helped them develop health, agricultural and educational programs. Some Motilones are even attending boarding schools and colleges in larger cities.

One of these students who had visited the U.S. was asked a question about his faith in Jesus. "What is the difference between your Jesus Christ (Saymaydodjira Ibatairadacura) and ours?"

The Motilone student replied, "Saymaydodjira Ibatairadacura lives within us all the time, not in sculptured buildings."<sup>7</sup>

## **22.** How did Bruchko live a life of worship and leadership?

Bruchko loved God and was fully dependent and submitted to Him. He listened and acted on what God told him to do. He did not make excuses about his age, circumstances or the terrors of the jungle. He was not a part time or legalistic worshiper and leader. He totally immersed himself in the people and culture to which he was called. He used his mind, spirit, and body to follow Jesus. His leadership influenced whole people groups for Christ and they in turn are influencing others. A Christian leader is a worshipper. It is impossible to be one without the other.

As of a 1995 update, Bruchko was still with the Motilones. The Motilones had thirty missionary teams in Colombia. They are in contact with other Indian tribes sharing the gospel in twenty two languages. Eighteen tribes have already embraced Jesus Christ as Savior.<sup>8</sup>

As sons and heirs of God, the whole earth is the estate that must be worked. Everyone needs to know Christ and become a true worshipper. But we need to ask the Father where He wants us to serve. A heart of worship longs to serve God in the way He ordains (orders, decrees).

## **23.** Where and how has God called *you* to serve?

God has a plan for you in whatever circumstance or situation you find yourself. It does not matter where you are or how old you are. Remember Joseph (Genesis 37-50). God had an overarching purpose for Joseph in saving many lives from the people of promise and the people of the world. However, he had to live through many injustices and challenges until this greater purpose was realized.

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<sup>7</sup> Olson, Bruce E., *Bruchko*, Creation House, Altamonte Springs, FL, 1973.

<sup>8</sup> Olson, Bruce E., *Bruchko*, YWAM Publishing, Seattle, WA, 1995, p. 207.

Joseph took one day at a time, serving God as a servant in Potiphar's house and then as a prisoner in the Pharaoh's dungeon. Joseph worshipped God, using his gifts and talents in whatever situation God allowed. Through his faithfulness and service, when the time was right, God lifted him to a high position in Egypt in order to collect the grain in the years of plenty and disburse (distribute) it in the years of famine.

God was able to trust both Joseph and Bruchko with little things and thus, He could trust them with bigger things (Luke 16:10). Their lives are a good reminder for us to use our time wisely in daily pursuits. Sometimes those daily pursuits involve pain and suffering before God's plan for our lives are fully realized.

Jesus, our leadership model, walked the earth using His time to wisely. He served by teaching about God, making disciples, healing the sick and the blind, casting out demons and setting into place leaders to take His place. Nevertheless, Jesus' overarching purpose was to die on the cross for the forgiveness of sins in order to bring us back into relationship with God. He offered His body as a spiritual sacrifice in life and in death.

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**Personal Application:**

**24.** Pray and ask God to give you a heart of worship. Memorize 1 Peter 2:4-5:

*As you come to him, the living Stone-- rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him--<sup>5</sup> you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:4-5*

**Note:** "The sacrificial system was the heart of Jewish worship and it was a high privilege to represent the Jewish congregation before the altar of God. Christians are a holy priesthood whose function is to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."<sup>9</sup>

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**Lesson 15: The Leader in Worship (Day Four) Acceptable Worship**

**Read Genesis 4:3-5 and answer questions 25-27:**

*In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD.<sup>4</sup> But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering,<sup>5</sup> but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. Genesis 4:3-5*

**25.** Whose offering was acceptable to the LORD (v. 4)?

**26.** Did Cain bring his offering to God *immediately* (v. 3)? Yes No (Circle One)

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<sup>9</sup> Lussier, Ernest, Jesus Christ is Lord, Adoration Viewed Through the New Testament, p. 62.

Cain did not bring the “first” fruits of the soil. He did not *immediately* thank God and worship Him with the first crops that were ready to consume. After he harvested his crop and made sure that he would have enough, he then thought about God. Cain not only put himself first in his relationship with God, but it appears he did not trust God to provide sufficient food.

**27.** Abel brought fat portions from some of the \_\_\_\_\_ born of his flock (v. 4).

Abel had a heart focused on God. His work and livelihood did not distract him from the LORD. Therefore as soon as Abel’s flock started producing young, he made an offering to God. Abel put God first and trusted Him to provide more livestock. His worship was acceptable to God.

*By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.* Hebrews 11:4

**28.** Read Hebrews 11:4. Why do you think Abel is commended for his faith in offering God a better sacrifice?

In addition to making God the priority of his life, Abel was trusting God to provide the new born animals he needed to continue his flocks. He acknowledged God as his provider and placed his faith in the goodness of God to supply his needs. As we learned in Lesson 9, Faith of a Leader, without faith it is impossible to please God. Acceptable worship calls for faith.

Later as the peoples of the earth grew in numbers, God chose the Israelites and gave them a system for making firstfruit offerings (Leviticus 23:9-13). Not only firstfruits but all offerings and sacrifices were to be the best and choicest from the fields and the flocks. Their firstfruit worship was to recognize God’s goodness and provision for the Israelite’s crops and flocks. It was a way of showing God that they were dependent and devoted to Him. Giving God leftovers or substandard gifts is not acceptable.

**Definition:** Firstfruits are the first and best quality of a harvested crop (gathered after ripening).

“Firstfruits acknowledged that all the products of the land came from God, and to show thankfulness for His goodness, Israelites brought as an offering a portion of the fruits that ripened first. These were looked on as a pledge of the coming harvest. Such an offering was made both on behalf of the nation (Leviticus 23:10,17) and by individuals (Exodus 23:19, Deuteronomy 26:1-11).”<sup>10</sup>

**29.** What are *your* “first” fruits and how are you giving them to God?

Most material offerings today are in the form of currency. When we receive salaries or gifts of money, we are to acknowledge God’s provision and return to Him the firstfruits of it. Pray over the amount of your offering and give it to your church and wherever God leads.

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<sup>10</sup> Douglas, J.D., Tenney, Merrill C. *New International Bible Dictionary*, Zondervan Publishing House: Grand Rapids, 1987, p. 354.

The principal of firstfruits can also apply to your time and other aspects of your life. For example, we each have exactly the same amount of time each day, 24 hours. Consider how your time is spent and whether the Lord gets the first and choice part of your day.

**Read 2 Samuel 24:24 and answer questions 30-32:**

*But the king replied to Araunah, "No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen and paid fifty shekels of silver for them. 2 Samuel 24:24*

**30.** When the *generous* Araunah wanted to give David his land to build the altar, what did David say?

**31.** How do you think the concept (idea) of firstfruits and David's actions in 2 Samuel 24:24 are similar?

**32.** Why do you think this concept might apply to our use of time, as well as our financial or material resources?

**Read and meditate on John 12:3-7. Answer questions 33-35:**

*Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.<sup>4</sup> But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected,<sup>5</sup> "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages."<sup>6</sup> He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.<sup>7</sup> "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. John 12:3-7*

**33.** How is Mary worshipping the Lord with her time and resources (v. 3)?

**34.** How do you know that Jesus accepted Mary's worship (v. 7)?

**35.** Is Judas' heart of worship more like Cain or Abel (v. 6)? Circle One. Why?

Judas had a selfish spirit like Cain. His heart was not turned toward God but himself. They both wanted to store up material goods for themselves. David, and Mary, however are reminiscent (suggestive, remindful) of Abel. They wanted to give the LORD their best. They worshipped with gratitude, thanksgiving and love. God was worth far more to them than their material possessions. Their hearts and actions were focused on the LORD.

**Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 and answer questions 36-37:**

*But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.<sup>21</sup> For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.<sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.<sup>23</sup> But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. 1 Corinthians 15:20-23*

**Definitions:** Figurative language is defined as speech or writing that departs from literal (actual) meaning in order to achieve a special effect or meaning by using figures of speech. Figures of speech use words in forms other than their ordinary and literal (actual) sense in order to suggest a picture, image or other special effect.

**36.** Why do you think Paul is using figurative language in saying that Christ is the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep?

**37.** How has Jesus changed acceptable worship?

Paul used figurative language to make the point clear to his first century audience. They understood the principle of firstfruits and could apply it to Jesus' resurrection. Jesus was the first and finest *Person* to be raised into eternal life and His life was a pledge (guarantee) of the coming harvest of believers. God gave us His best; He gave us Himself.

In His mercy and grace, God provides the fruit of the land or food for our tables. In His mercy and grace, He provides His Son for our lives. Therefore, we offer ourselves back to God and acknowledge that we belong to Him.

Christ was raised from the dead and made it possible for those who believe in His name to be harvested into eternal life. He is the firstfruits for all who trust in Him. He is also the firstfruits for all those who followed God prior to Jesus coming to earth. His death covered their sins, also. Now that Christ has come, acceptable worship “must” be through Christ and His work on the cross.

As our leadership model, Christ showed us how one is to worship today. He offered His whole body in sacrifice to God. He was a living sacrifice. He was in worship wherever He went and whatever He did. This is how you and I should live in order to be a leader in worship.

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**Personal Application:**

**38.** Memorize Ephesians 5:1-2 and pray the following prayer:

*Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children<sup>2</sup> and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

Ephesians 5:1-2

Heavenly Father, Thank You for loving me. I love You my Lord. Please give me Your Spirit and Your grace so that I may imitate You and live a life of love just as Christ Jesus loved me and gave Himself up for me as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to You. Make me a true worshipper in spirit and truth. Make me a sweet fragrant offering acceptable and pleasing to You. In Jesus Name, Amen.

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**Lesson 15: The Leader in Worship (Day Five) Glory to God**

**Definition:** The Hebrew word *kabod* (כְּבוֹד) is translated glory in English. *Kabod* means heavy in weight and it also means the weighty importance and shining majesty that accompany God’s presence.

Giving glory to God means to praise, honor and recognize His importance and the weight He carries in the universe, world, community and individual. The leader in worship gives the high and heavyweight position to God and recognizes his own low and lightweight position. Whether we, or anyone else, recognize God's rightful place does not diminish His glory in any way.

*Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.<sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD thunders over the mighty waters.<sup>4</sup> The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is majestic.*  
Psalm 29:2-4 (Ascribe - attribute, credit or assign)

**39.** Read Psalm 29:2-4. Describe how David is worshipping God in writing this psalm.

David is acknowledging the “weighty importance and shining majesty” that God deserves. He sees the greatness and nobility of God and is filled with reverent awe. David, the worshipping leader, is crediting God for His holiness and power over the earth. God is majestic and His glory inspires humble reverence.

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**Personal Application:** Read Isaiah 42:8 and answer questions 40-42:

*"I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols.*  
Isaiah 42:8

**40.** Do I accept praise for the natural talents or physical attributes that God has given me?

Yes No Sometimes (Circle One)

**41.** Do I take credit for the Holy Spirit’s work in my life? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One)

**42.** Do I accept recognition for “my” good works? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One)

Repent of anytime you have attempted to take God's glory to yourself. Ask the Holy Spirit to keep you in true worship so that you do not take any credit or praise to yourself for God's rightful place. Pray and ask God to make your life a sweet fragrant offering giving Him all the glory.

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A true worshipper in spirit and truth is committed to God full-time. It is a lifestyle from the heart. The question becomes, “Will the heart of worship change when circumstances or life becomes difficult?”

Lottie Moon (1840-1912), an American from Virginia, answered God’s call to be a missionary in China. It was not a popular time to be a single woman missionary anywhere, much less in China. She faced many obstacles in her journey to serve her Lord.

Lottie was born into a well to do family and was extremely bright. She actually became the best educated woman in the South. Miss Moon had blue eyes and dark hair and when she sat in a chair, her feet did not reach the floor. Miss Moon was barely 4'3" tall.

Her diminutive size did not slow her down. She worked hardily in the strength of the Lord She “worshipped” 15 hours a day in the fierce, blazing sun, visiting villages with the enduring desire that the Chinese would know Christ. Within a few months she had gone out 122 times into 33 different places to reach the people.

Not only was China physically challenging, it could also be mentally discouraging. Lottie often felt hostile crowds and the depressing consciousness of being hated. She was habitually taunted and called the “devil” woman. Nevertheless, she persevered.

Lottie's perseverance paid off. Little by little she made headway into the lives of the people she was called to serve. Her relationships with the people also greatly improved when she began to dress in the Chinese fashion. The people not only accepted her but began to accept her messages about the Savior.

However, in 1890, a severe persecution broke out and vicious mobs tortured new believers. Lottie faced the deadly opposition. She responded to the persecutors:

“If you attempt to destroy this church, you will have to kill me first. Jesus gave himself for us Christians. Now I am ready to die for Him.” One of the vicious attackers took her seriously and prepared to kill her. The terrified converts warned her. She simply said, “Only believe, don’t fear. Our Master Jesus always watches over us, and no matter what the persecution, Jesus will surely overcome it.”<sup>11</sup>

**43.** How does Lottie give God glory in facing the persecutors?

Miss Moon made it clear that Jesus was in charge in that community. He had the power to overcome the persecution. Nevertheless, if she had to die, so be it. She would not stop worshipping Christ. His glory and honor were more important to her than her own life.

Lottie was not killed. At age 53 she continued to work, visiting 84 villages within a two month period. She wrote, “At my age, I cannot expect many more years of work, so I must crowd the days as they fly by with eager toil for the Master.”<sup>12</sup>

Miss Moon knew the need for more workers in the field in China. She wanted the whole of China to give glory to God. She poured anguished pleas into her letters for more missionaries and funds for missions. She wrote:

“Let them come rejoicing to suffer for the sake of the Lord and Master who freely gave his life for them.”<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Allen, Catherine B., The New Lottie Moon Story, Broadman Press:Nashville, 1980.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., 208.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., 170.

“How many there are among our women, alas, who imagine that because Jesus paid it all they need pay nothing, forgetting they should follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ.”<sup>14</sup>

Her prayers and letters did not go unanswered. However, she would not live to see the dramatic way in which God used her for more missionaries and funds for missions. Many missionaries were indeed sent and as of 1980, after ninety years of the “Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions” \$400,000,000 has been used all over the world.<sup>15</sup> In 2007 the cumulative total of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was over \$3 billion with over 5,300 missionaries in current service.<sup>16</sup> And on a personal note, my daughter and son-in-law joined these ranks supported by the Lottie Moon offering (International Mission Board) in 2008.

When she died, the “Chinese people who mourned Lottie Moon did not speak of her noble education, her brilliant mind or her lofty ideals. They simply said, ‘**How she loved us.**’”<sup>17</sup>

Lottie Moon loved because God first loved her and gave Himself up for her. Leadership, like the greatest commandment, comes back to love. God will call you to lead in a unique way. He will call those you lead to also lead in unique ways. Follow Christ and His call. God *will* glorify Himself through you.

*Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,<sup>29</sup> for our "God is a consuming fire."*  
Hebrews 12:28

- End Lesson 15 -

### **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS Lesson 15**

#### CLI Christian Leadership Study: The Leader in Worship

Name & Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Institution: \_\_\_\_\_ Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Lesson 15: The Leader in Worship** (Day One) *What is Worship?*

1. How do you personally express your complete dependence and submission to God?

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<sup>14</sup> Ibid., 170.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., 293.

<sup>16</sup> Religious Herald: [www.religiousherald.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=2534&Itemid=113](http://www.religiousherald.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2534&Itemid=113)

<sup>17</sup> Ibid., 289

2. Please share a time when *you* made a *public acknowledgement* of *your* loyalty to God.

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3. Name two ways that *you* show God honor, devotion and love to God:

(1. \_\_\_\_\_

(2. \_\_\_\_\_

4. List two ways that you work and serve God:

(1. \_\_\_\_\_

(2. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Personal Application:**

5. Think about why you love God. With these words in your heart, talk about your love and loyalty of God and share with others. Make talking about your love for God a way of life. Share

how this assignment brought you closer to God: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Lesson 15: The Leader in Worship** (Day Two) Equality in Worship

6. How do you know that God desires worship in general and your worship specifically?

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7. How does God describe Israel in verse 22 and 23a? \_\_\_\_\_

8. How does Paul describe Christians (v. 26)? \_\_\_\_\_

9. How did you become a son of God (v. 27)? \_\_\_\_\_

10. What is the difference in sonship between a Chinese, untouchable (lowest person in India) or female Christian (v. 28)? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Have you ever been the victim of prejudice? Please explain:

**12.** How does this understanding of your place in the Kingdom, no matter your social, cultural or gender status, affect your leadership?\_\_\_\_\_

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**13.** What is the meaning of "baptized into Christ" (v. 27)?\_\_\_\_\_

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**14.** How will *you* seek unity and harmony in serving God with others who are different than you (either racially, socially or in gender)?\_\_\_\_\_

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**Personal Application:** *Preparing your heart for worship:*

**15a.** Pray and ask God if there are any areas of your life where you are living law-centered rather than Christ-centered. Write the areas that God wants you to work on:\_\_\_\_\_

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**15b.** How will you follow through with the Lord's counsel and direction for these areas in your life?\_\_\_\_\_

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**16a.** Ask God if you are prejudiced against anyone or any group. What did God tell you?\_\_\_\_\_

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**16b.** How will you follow through with the Lord's counsel and direction for these areas of prejudice in your life?\_\_\_\_\_

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**17a.** Pray and ask God if you are being treated unjustly because of race, social class or gender.

What did God tell you? \_\_\_\_\_

**17b.** How will you follow through with the Lord's counsel and direction for the areas where you are being mistreated? \_\_\_\_\_

**18.** Read and meditate on Matthew 5:44-48; Luke 6:27-28; Romans 12:14 and 1 Corinthians 4:12-13. In general, what does God want you to do when you are treated unjustly because of race, social class, or gender? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Lesson 15: The Leader in Worship** (Day Three) Heart of Worship

**19.** Read and meditate on Psalm 84:2. How is this verse a statement of worship? \_\_\_\_\_

**20.** Read and meditate on Romans 12:1. How is this verse similar (like) to Psalm 84:2? \_\_\_\_\_

**21.** What will you do in order to show God that *your* worship of Him is from the heart? \_\_\_\_\_

**22.** How did Bruchko live a life of worship and leadership? \_\_\_\_\_

**23.** Where and how has God called *you* to serve? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Personal Application:**

24. Write 1 Peter 2:4-5 from memory without referring to the Bible or notes:

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**Lesson 15: The Leader in Worship** (Day Four) Acceptable Worship

25. Whose offering was acceptable to the LORD (v. 4)? \_\_\_\_\_

26. Did Cain bring his offering to God *immediately* (v. 3)? Yes No (Circle One)

27. Abel brought fat portions from some of the \_\_\_\_\_ born of his flock (v. 4).

28. Read Hebrews 11:4. Why do you think Abel is commended for his faith in offering God a better sacrifice? \_\_\_\_\_

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29. What are *your* “first” fruits and how are you giving them to God? \_\_\_\_\_

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30. When the *generous* Araunah wanted to give David his land to build the altar, what did David say? \_\_\_\_\_

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31. How do you think the concept (idea) of firstfruits and David's actions in 2 Samuel 24:24 are similar? \_\_\_\_\_

32. Why do you think this concept might apply to our use of time, as well as our financial or material resources? \_\_\_\_\_

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33. How is Mary worshipping the Lord with her time and resources (v. 3)? \_\_\_\_\_

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34. How do you know that Jesus accepted Mary's worship (v. 7)? \_\_\_\_\_

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35. Is Judas' heart of worship more like Cain or Abel (v. 6)? Circle One. Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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36. Why do you think Paul is using figurative language in saying that Christ is the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep? \_\_\_\_\_

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37. How has Jesus changed acceptable worship? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Personal Application:**

38. Write your Ephesians 5:1-2 from memory without referring to notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Lesson 15: The Leader in Worship** (Day Five) Glory to God

**39.** Read Psalm 29:2-4. Describe how David is worshipping God in writing this psalm:

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**Personal Application:** Read Isaiah 42:8 and answer questions 40-42:

**40.** Do I accept praise for the natural talents or physical attributes that God has given me?

Yes No Sometimes (Circle One)

**41.** Do I take credit for the Holy Spirit's work in my life? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One)

**42.** Do I accept recognition for "my" good works? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One)

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**43.** How does Lottie give God glory in facing the persecutors?\_\_\_\_\_

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**Congratulations!!** You have completed the CLI Leadership Study. We will be sending you a certificate of completion with the return and review of Lesson 15. In addition, if you do not have a study Bible, please write this information at the end of your answer sheets. CLI is committed to sending graduates a study Bible if they do not already have one.

Rev. 8/16/2014

