

Facilitator:

Open with Prayer

Welcome any newcomers

Read Psalm 24 and give a five-minute review of the sermon using Peppy's sermon notes

Please don't feel you have to cover every question. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

**CONNECT Group study questions, Psalm 24  
December 7, 2014**

**Title: Doing Worship the Right Way**

The believers in Darwin's theory of evolution say matter is reality. There's nothing else. And living organisms emerged spontaneously, underwent random changes over untold millions or billions of years, and by the trial and error of natural selection, ... well, here we are. You know the car you rode in to get here was designed and manufactured by someone. If you look at electron microscope images of a simple living cell, called a protozoa, you can see the mechanism that turns a corkscrew-shaped appendage like a propeller to move the cell around. Yes, it's a mechanism, with a drive shaft and gears, in principle like a car. You can look inside the protozoa and know it was designed and manufactured by an Intelligent Designer infinitely greater than any human. So what is reality? Is it only matter? As biologists investigate deeply into God's creation, there always is underlying information in its design. Information controls it and changes it all the way down. And creating this information is an unavoidable Almighty Intelligence who is our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Question:** By definition, the object of our worship must be worthy. How is our Lord Jesus Christ worthy of our worship? **Facilitator:** Encourage group members to brainstorm single-statement reasons why our Lord is worthy. Their reasons can range from personal experience to nature and the vastness of the universe. Encourage them to speak their statements to the Lord Himself, as in 'Lord, you are worthy because....'

**Question:** Why should the character, attitude and motives of the worshipper be important when his or her worship is directed to the Lord?

**Question:** Psalm 24:3-5 tells us we must have clean hands and a pure heart to ascend the hill of the Lord in worship, and James 1:21-25 tells us what we must do. In both passages the obedient worshipper is promised a blessing. If you—right now—have a sincere desire to worship the Lord, but know you have filthy hands and an impure heart, what can you do to approach the Lord properly? **Facilitator:** Psalm 51:17 (the whole psalm, in fact) and 1 John 1:9 can help to answer this question.

**Question:** The phrase in Psalm 24:4, "...who does not lift up his soul to what is false" refers to idols, which may or may not be actual images of a god. Idols can be anything or anyone we may consider more important or more worthy than the Lord. What in our lives are we tempted to elevate above God Himself?

**Question:** What is the irony in verses 4 and 5 of Psalm 24? Can you spot it? **Facilitator:** The person with filthy hands and an impure heart selfishly seeks his own happiness by deceiving others, but in time receives only misery and eventual destruction. The person who worships the Lord with clean hands, a pure heart, and is not deceitful elevates the Lord above himself and "...will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation." Wow! Seek your own happiness and you won't find it. Worship the Lord above your selfish desires, and He blesses you with happiness.