

# king's chapel

## *Community Group Discussion Guide*

Week of January 11, 2015

**This Week's Focus:** Worship: first things first.

**This Week's Text:** Ezra 3

*"Truth without emotion produces dead orthodoxy and a church full or half full of artificial admirers (like people who write generic anniversary cards for a living). On the other hand, emotion without truth produces empty frenzy and cultivates shallow people who refuse the discipline of rigorous thought. But true worship comes from people who are deeply emotional and who love deep and sound doctrine. Strong affections for God rooted in truth are the bone and marrow of biblical worship."* **John**

**Piper**

*Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth! Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!* **Psalm 96:1-3**

**Related Texts:** Leviticus 17:11; Romans 3:23, 8:22-25; Isaiah 43:6-7; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Psalm 96:1-3

### **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- What in the text/sermon was most illuminating or helpful? Why?
- In what way is the time reference relevant in verse 1?
- Read verses 1-3. What did they build and why?
  - What does this say about their priority?
- What sacrifices did they offer and why? Reference Leviticus 17:11.
- What did Jerusalem represent to a returning Israelite?
- What feast did they keep? Reference verse 4. Describe and explain its purpose.
- The Jews took very careful steps in how they worshiped. Why? What does that say about God? What does the say about man?

- How important is unity among God's people?
- Discuss the five characteristics mentioned concerning worship at King's Chapel: God-centered, Content-driven, Highly-participatory, Authentically-experienced, Peripherally-evangelistic.
- Describe in your own words the scene in verses 8-13.
- What is the result of and the people's response to this great event?
  - What stands out to you the most?
  - Why were the shouts of joy mingled with deep felt grief?
- Have you ever experienced sorrow during a worship gathering?
- In what ways does the gospel speak to the brokenness all around us?

### **Gospel Celebration:**

- Jesus is the promised King of Kings who has come to atone for sins and will come again to establish His Eternal Kingdom.
- The Person and Work of Christ guarantee's the/our glorious future.
- The hope of Israel (us) was personified in Christ.

### **Next Week's Text:** Ezra 4-5