

Discussion Guide: Part 6

THE EMBRACE: PRAYER AND CONTEMPLATION

1. Does it surprise you that many elements of prayer date back to the practices of the Old Testament and Jewish worship?
2. Were you familiar with the Shema or Jesus Prayer prior to watching this episode? If so, have you used them in your worship practice?
3. For many people, the Lord's Prayer has special significance. How is this prayer important to you?
4. If you are comfortable, talk about your private prayers and how they have impacted your spiritual journey.
5. Is contemplation and meditation something you incorporate into your private worship practice? Is this easy to do in today's fast-paced culture?
6. Is there a way you reflect on Scripture as you read or pray? If so, share your experience with the group.
7. How does your worship community pray together? What is typically the focus of public prayer in worship?
8. Do you agree with Brian McLaren's belief that prayer and contemplation are practices that help prepare us to ready ourselves for God's insight and leading?

THE EMBRACE: SERVICE AND MINISTRY

1. How do you interpret Romans 12 and its command to present ourselves as a living sacrifice to God?
2. Does the worship in your faith community end with a benediction or instruction to go forth and serve? Why or why not?
3. What elements of service and ministry in the modern church can be traced back to the life of Jesus?
4. What does the term "servant leadership" mean to you? Why do you think this phrase is a buzzword in our current culture?
5. Was it surprising to learn that the early followers of Jesus practiced communal living? Why or why not?
6. What do you think of when you hear the term "social justice"? Is this term polarizing in today's church and culture? Why or why not?
7. What are some ways your faith community engages in service and ministry to the community and the world? What are some ways you personally serve and minister to others?
8. What did you find interesting about the story of the Broken Chains Biker Ministry? Can you think of other examples of non-traditional ministries?

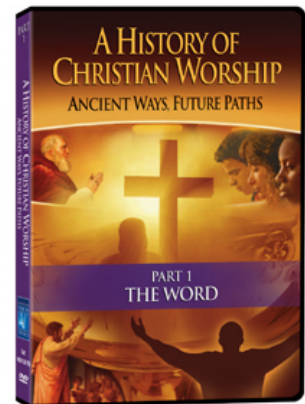
FINAL THOUGHTS ON EPISODE 6

1. What is at least one thing you have learned from this episode?
2. Is there any worship practice in the film that you would like to adopt in your public or private worship experience?

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Tips for Discussion Leaders

- Create a safe environment where people can share freely without criticism or judgment.
- Hold group members accountable to respect different opinions and to allow everyone an opportunity to speak.
- Ask open-ended questions that stimulate ongoing discussion.
- Prepare for the discussion by watching the film in advance.
- Be an active listener with your eyes, ears and body gestures.
- Observe the time limits set for the group discussion.
- Keep the discussion on topic.
- Look for ways to encourage all group members to participate.
- Encourage group members to share personal stories and illustrations as they apply to the subject matter.
- Limit your group to a manageable size so that everyone has time to share their thoughts.



A History of Christian Worship

This six-part series explores centuries of worship practices, as seen through the eyes of Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox churches and discussed by leading voices from a cross-section of the Christian community. Viewers will discover the significant people and events that have shaped history and learn how modern worship practices are rooted in the earliest foundations of the Christian faith.