



STUDY GUIDE

October 10, 2021

Message Series:

Origin

Message Title:

Creator of the Universe

Teaching Pastor:

Brian Hughes

Warm-up/Icebreaker:

What is the most awe-inspiring display of nature you've ever seen?

Pray:

Heavenly Father, we acknowledge that You are the Creator of all that exists, from the infinite galaxies in the universe to the tiniest cell of the smallest organism. Knowing that You are God and we are Your beloved creation should inspire us to worship. Help us open our hearts to what You want to teach us today about Who You are and how to worship You with all of our hearts. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Get Started:

"Part of the idea of creation's account as a part of our Origin story is to appreciate the relationship between the finite and the infinite. Mortal and Immortal. Human and Divine. And once we do that - once we understand who God is and who we are compared to him. Once we accept that our ancestry traces back to the deliberate, not-accidental intent of a God who dreamed of us, wanted us, formed us, and has a plan for us - we are left with only one option in response: Worship." – Pastor Brian Hughes

- What do you think of when you think of worship in a broad sense? What practices, posture or attitudes does that involve?
- How comfortable are you with the idea of worship? Is it something that comes natural to you or do you feel you have room to grow?

Read Revelations 4:11, Psalms 98:4-9 and 150:6, and Acts 17:24-28.

Watch and Discuss Video:

"Worship is the heartfelt expression that there is no one and nothing anywhere at any time greater than the one true God." -Pastor Brian Hughes

- What is your go to expression of worship?

If we are really going to worship well we have to employ multiple ways of worship. Worship in expression can be in song, in silence, in prayer, in reading scripture, or in Bible study. It's not one way or one faceted. It's not confined to a particular place like church, though we certainly worship at church. It's engaged, focused, and intentional. It's an active stepping towards God and it takes something to do that. Pastor Brian suggested taking at least a few minutes daily to center yourself and worship God.

- Does thinking of worship as multifaceted challenge you at all? Do you agree that all of the above is worship? Briefly expand on why or why not.
- What is one new worship practice you feel like you would like to try implementing for this whole week for a few minutes? How will you practically make this happen?

Soren Kierkegaard, a Danish philosopher in the 19th century, once clarified the most common misconception about worship using the analogy of a drama. “When we come to worship God, we generally feel as though the preacher and other ministers are the performers and God is the subject of the performance and we as the congregation are merely the audience...but this is a terrible misunderstanding of worship.” Kierkegaard is describing a consumer-oriented approach, focused more on what we receive than what we give and goes on to say, “Authentic Christian worship is just the opposite. We, the congregation, are the performers. The preachers and other ministers are the directors of the performance and God is the audience.”

- Does this perspective change the way you view worship at all? What was most impactful reading this?
- Pastor Brian suggested that the best question when worshipping is, "God, did I honor you with my worship today"? How does this question help you synthesize what worship looks like personally?

Reflect and Commit:

“Worship is the acknowledgement of who God is. It’s the right-sizing of our relationship. It’s the appreciation for what God has done. Worship is the thanking of the one who made us on purpose. Worship praises God for HIS God-ness and for our God-likeness. It shouts to a divided world our unity in Jesus. Worship is private sometimes, public other times, but regardless is always focused in its undivided attention towards a singular being: God. Creator. Maker. The one who is great and worthy of our adoration.” – Pastor Brian Hughes

Read Romans 1:20, Isaiah 6:1-7, Psalm 145:10-13, and John 4:23-24.

- What stands out to you the most in these verses?

Pray:

Lord, thank you that You created us to worship You, and that if we do not, even the rocks will cry out. We don’t want to miss the opportunity to have the intimate relationship that You desire. Help us worship You in Spirit and in Truth, with all of our hearts, with all of our words, and with all of our lives. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.