

Practice Guide for April 6th 2025

Jesus is Greater, pt. 4 — From Shadow to Substance

Suggested Ice Breaker (5 minutes)

If your week had a theme song or soundtrack, what would it be—and why?

Opening Lectio (10 minutes)

Open your group time with 1–2 minutes of silence to center yourselves in God’s presence. Have someone read Psalm 95:6–7 slowly and reflectively. Invite the group to listen for any words or phrases that stand out.

Afterward, ask someone in the group to pray, asking God for wisdom on what it means to live a life of worship.

Reflecting On Scripture (15 minutes)

Have someone read Hebrews 9:1–12 out loud for the group.

Questions for Discussion:

1. Why do you think the author of Hebrews highlights the tabernacle and its items in such detail—and what stands out to you from the imagery described?
2. What does the tearing of the veil signify within the context of the old system—and how might that have impacted the original audience?
3. How does the author’s comparison between the old and new systems shape the vision of worship we’re being invited into—especially if Jesus Himself is the system?

Community Practice (25 minutes)

Slowly read aloud the following quotes:

“My works and worship don’t earn a thing. Instead, they flow from God’s love, gift, and work on my behalf.” —Tish Harrison Warren

“Before I became a worshipper, I spent my entire life submitted to a fallen system—bound to its fallen rules... But when I became a worshipper, something transformational happened. My heart turned to God, and I submitted my life (all of it) to His lordship.” —Zach Neese

Take 7-10 minutes to journal your response to these questions:

1. Which image or element from the tabernacle (lampstand, bread, incense, veil, ark) stood out to you most—and what might it be inviting you to consider about worship today?
2. Where do you notice old “systems” still shaping your approach to God—whether routines, expectations, or ways of thinking?
3. What rhythms or postures might help you respond to God’s presence in everyday life—with trust, openness, and reverence?

Share your answers in groups of two or three.

Group Discussion:

- How does viewing worship as a “system” rather than just a moment affect the way we think about our relationship with God?
- If God was present in the details of the temple, what does that say about how we live out worship in the small details of everyday life?
- What practices or patterns could we build into our community that help us live lives of worship—not just attend moments of worship?

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Have one person close in prayer and/or slowly read aloud this Prayer from John Stott:

Heavenly Father, I pray that this day I may live in your presence and please you more and more. Lord Jesus, I pray that this day I may take up my cross and follow you.

Holy Spirit, I pray that this day you will fill me with yourself and cause your fruit to ripen in my life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Amen.

Further Reading:

- *Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life* by Tish Harrison Warren
- *How to Worship a King* by Zach Neese
- *The Message of Hebrews: Christ Above All* by Raymond Brown
- *Hebrews for Everyone* by NT Wright