

I. Worship confronts you with the gospel of grace.

“Rather I fear that the cross, without ever being disowned, is constantly in danger of being dismissed from the central place it must enjoy, by relatively peripheral insights that take on far too much weight. Whenever the periphery is in danger of displacing the center, we are not far removed from idolatry.”

D.A. Carson, *The Cross and Christian Ministry*, 26.

“If attendance to church and its activities are a burdensome obligation that competes with other more desirable pastimes, children will live for the day they can opt out of attendance. All of the optional activities of life, learning skills, sports, employment, entertainment and even education must be scheduled around the church. Otherwise, it will be one among many of the life options for your children—not the deciding factor in prioritizing life.”

Tedd & Margy Tripp, *Instructing a Child's Heart*, 143-144.

II. Worship confronts you with the gospel of the kingdom.

“Every time we worship our minds are informed, our memories refreshed with the judgments of God, we are familiarized with what God says, what he has decided, the ways he is working out our salvation.”

Eugene Peterson, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*, 55.

“The Scriptures themselves say more about the listener’s responsibility to hear, understand, and implement the message than about the preacher’s obligation to faithfully preach it. That’s why I say to dump all the blame on the preacher is a bum rap.”

Jay Adams, *Be Careful How You Listen: How to get the Most out of a Sermon*, 8.

III. Worship confronts you with the gospel of peace.

“Worship does not satisfy our hunger for God—it whets our appetite. Our need for God is not taken care of by engaging in worship—it deepens. It overflows the hour and permeates the week. The need is expressed in a desire for peace and security.”

Eugene Peterson, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*, 56.

Questions for personal reflection and interaction

Reread Psalm 122

1. Why do you rejoice in coming to worship?
2. Reflect on some of the distractions that you face when coming to worship.
3. In what ways does this psalm help you think about the gospel of grace, kingdom and peace when you come to worship and throughout the week?
4. Among the Psalms of Ascent, Psalm 122 accentuates the key role that community plays in the journey to Zion. Reflect on those who have been catalysts for your journey of faith, who have encouraged you with words similar to those of Psalm 122:1 ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’ Thank God for these people by name and/or ask God to bring these kinds of companions alongside you for a journey that involves risk and always entails faith.¹
5. What are ways you can prepare yourself and your family members for next week’s worship?

¹ From Mark J. Boda, *After God’s Own Heart: The Gospel According to David*, (Phillipsburg, NJ: P& R Publishing, 2007), 100.