

JESUS MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

LENT 2023 | DIOCESE OF ATLANTA

WEEK 1: THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JESUS & THE DEVIL

These reflection guides are designed to supplement the videos, for use in a small group Bible study. They are created for the leader's ease of use, and with links to free web-based resources.

REFLECTION

The presence of the devil doesn't mean the absence of God.

The difference between Jesus and the devil is Jesus knows he doesn't have to prove who he is to God.

The difference between Jesus and the devil is the devil thought worship was for sale...was about power. Real worship comes from awe and wonder.

The difference between Jesus and the devil is Jesus kept worshipping God through the temptation, the silence, the suffering.
~Bishop Wright

SCRIPTURE

Read one or more Scriptures about how the act of worshipping God made the difference.

Read Matthew 4:1-11. Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, and his act of true worship of God through temptation made the difference.

Read Romans 12:1-2, 9. The spiritual act of worship is an offering of our whole selves (see also BCP 857 on oblation).

Read 1 Chronicles 16:29. Worship ("**worth-ship**") is often spoken of as a sacrifice or offering, something God is worthy of, because God is worth all we have to offer.

DISCUSSION

- When it comes to your identity as "God's beloved, full stop," who do you believe about your worth? What difference does this make?
- Worship is acknowledging worth. What, by your time, attention, and resources, are you assigning worth to?
- Lent is a time to re-order our lives to acknowledge God's worth first and foremost. What practices will you take on or give up to reorient your worship of God as primary?
- What difference does worshipping God make in your own life, particularly in times of struggle? Share a story about this if possible. How do you see this difference in your thoughts, attitudes, and actions?

ARTICLES

For a deeper dive into the scriptural idea of "worship" see here:

<https://blog.eastwest.org/5-words-for-worship>

PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Prayer of Self-Dedication, BCP 832-833

TAKE-AWAY

Worship comes from awe, wonder, and gratitude, a "celebration of the fidelity of God to God's people."

This week, make time to be outside in God's creation with an eye for awe and wonder.

This week, keep a gratitude journal of all the ways you see God's faithfulness to you.