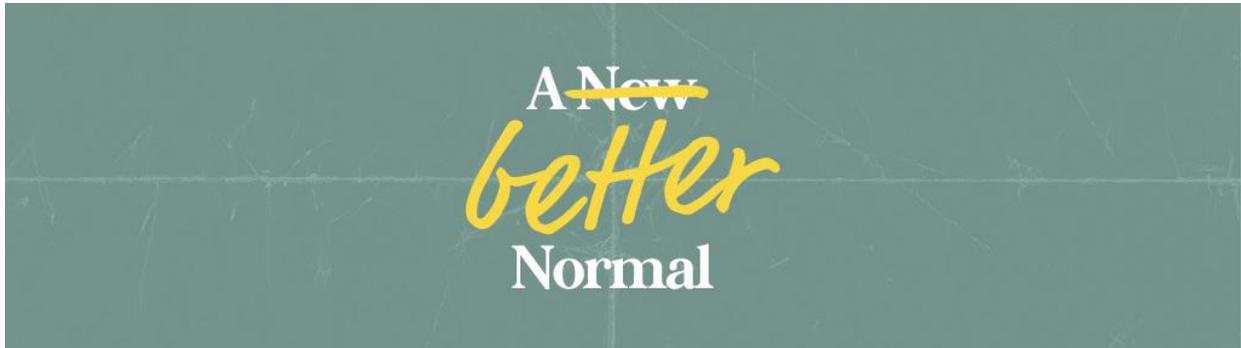




#6 – A New Better Normal

Pastor Shawn Peterson

FoothillsBibleChurch.org/sermons



May 16, 2021 Worship

Psalm 95

¹ Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

² Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

³ For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.

⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.

⁵ The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.

⁶ Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

⁷ For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.

Today, if you hear his voice,

⁸ do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,

⁹ when your fathers put me to the test
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

¹⁰ For forty years I loathed that generation
and said, "They are a people who go astray in their heart,



and they have not known my ways.”
11 Therefore I swore in my wrath,
“They shall not enter my rest.”

What is worship?
Is there a competition for our worship?
How do we worship God?

What is worship?

Act of ascribing ultimate value to something in a way that energizes and engages your whole being. Tim Keller

Psalm 95:1 ... let us sing ... let us make a joyful noise

Psalm 95:2 ... let us make a joyful noise

Psalm 95:6 ... let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before

Psalm 95:8 ... do not harden your hearts

Psalm 95:3 For the LORD is **a great** God, and **a great** King

Psalm 95:4 Creation

Psalm 95:7 For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand

Is there a competition for our worship?

Psalm 95:3

For the LORD is a great God,

And a great King above all gods.

Comfort
Control
Power
Approval



How do we worship God?

In Community

Acts 13:2-3

² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

Psalm 22:3

Yet you are holy,
Enthroned on the praises of Israel.

God is the Focus

Nehemiah 8:1-3

¹ And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the Lord had commanded Israel. ² So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. ³ And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.

⁵ ... all the people stood.

⁶ ... And they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

Have a soft heart

Psalm 95:7c-8a

Today, if you hear his voice,
Do not harden your hearts ...



Growth Group Questions

New Better Worship

FoothillsBibleChurch.org/growth-groups

Big Idea: God deserves our worship.

Goal: To persuade and inspire you to worship God corporately.

Prepare

This week we're diving into corporate worship asking God to show us the beauty, power, and necessity of corporate worship. The personal preparation time & discussion are meant to help us flesh out what we've learned through the sermon and apply it more thoroughly in our lives together.

Watch Pastor Shawn's sermon, ~~New~~ Better Corporate Worship, noting anything memorable and impactful as you go. You can take notes in the FBC app if you'd like.

Read Psalm 95, Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Matthew 22:37

Memorize & Recite Together: 1 Corinthians 10:31 "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

Pray "Father, help us become people who, whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, we do all to the glory of God."

Connect

1. Describe a very memorable positive worship experience you've had.

Discussion Take some time to personally reflect on these questions after viewing the sermon and before your G2. It could make for a great morning devotional time! You can type and save your responses in the FBC app privately if you would like.

1. What did you learn about God and yourself from this sermon and passage and what would you like to see change in your life because of it?

2. Describe your worship experience Sunday? How did you prepare? What was your attitude walking in? Beginning to sing? During the sermon? At the end of the service? Walking out? Were you engaged? How so? How did you express worship physically? What was going on in your mind and heart? Where was your attention & was it consistent?



3. Many people avoid corporate worship because they've been hurt by a church or someone in it. How would you counsel them based on Psalm 95 and other passages about corporate worship?

4. What is competing for your worship? I.e. What do you worship or ascribe ultimate value to? Hint: your daydreams & fantasies will give you a clue.
 - a. How have you seen this change in the past year?

5. If you've complained about or criticized a worship service or elements of it or participants in it, how does this Psalm and sermon speak into those criticisms and complaints? To help, think & talk through this segment from Pastor Shawn's sermon together:
Try to imagine in the setting of Psalm 95, a person saying things like this ...
Oh, sing to the LORD ... "for how long? I just came to hear the sermon. "

Make a joyful noise? "Not today. The worship leader isn't singing my favorite songs."

Come into his presence with thanksgiving. "I don't know. It's been a bad week and I'm not feeling that."

Let us worship and bow down and kneel before ... "that's too much. I'd be too self-conscious about such an extreme gesture."

6. What difference have you noticed between online worship and in-person? What difference, if any, did it make for others to have masks on? Why?

7. Share about experiences you've had worshipping corporately in different cultures or settings.



Closing Prayer This prayer section is a guide to help you process with God what you've learned about Him and yourself through the sermon, personal preparation time, and discussion, then seek the Holy Spirit's power in applying it in your life. Sharing these responses in your G2 will help others gain insight into God & themselves while also helping and encouraging one another toward growth.

1. **Admire:** List reasons to praise God, things you know about His character, as a group prayer of praise to Him.
2. **Admit:** Confess ways you have made worship more about you than God.
3. **Aspire:** Pray as a group, "Father, help us become people who, whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, we do all to the glory of God."
4. **Ask:** Keep track of requests & celebrations from others in your G2 & pray for them.

