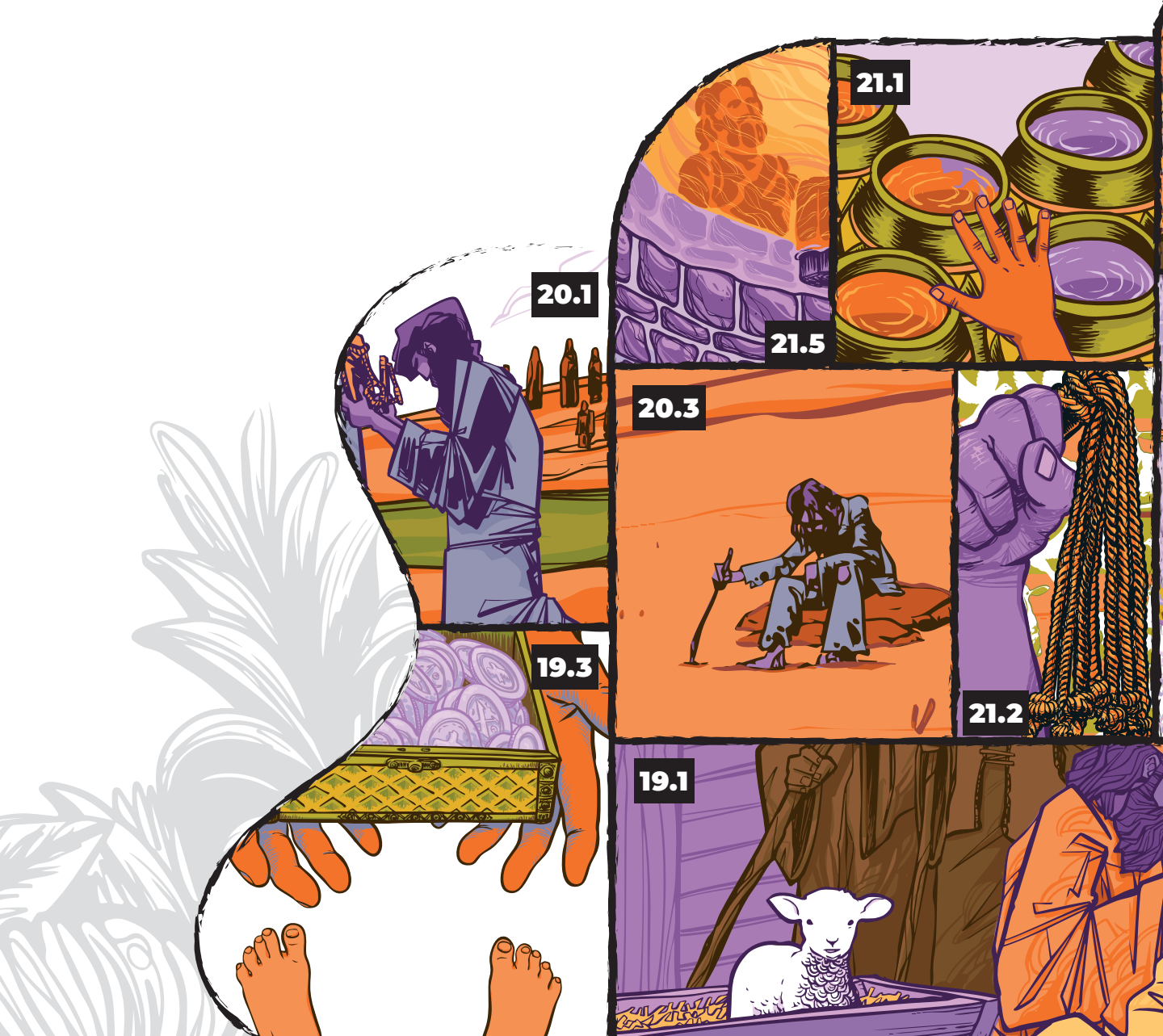


VOLUME 7 | ESV

THE SON HAS COME



19.1 GOD IS WITH US

19.2 MY EYES HAVE SEEN YOUR SALVATION

19.3 WE SAW HIS STAR

19.4 IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE

20.1 ONE WHO IS MORE POWERFUL

20.2 MY BELOVED SON

20.3 IT IS WRITTEN

20.4 FOLLOW ME

21.1 THE FIRST OF HIS SIGNS

21.2 I WILL RAISE IT UP

21.3 BORN OF THE SPIRIT

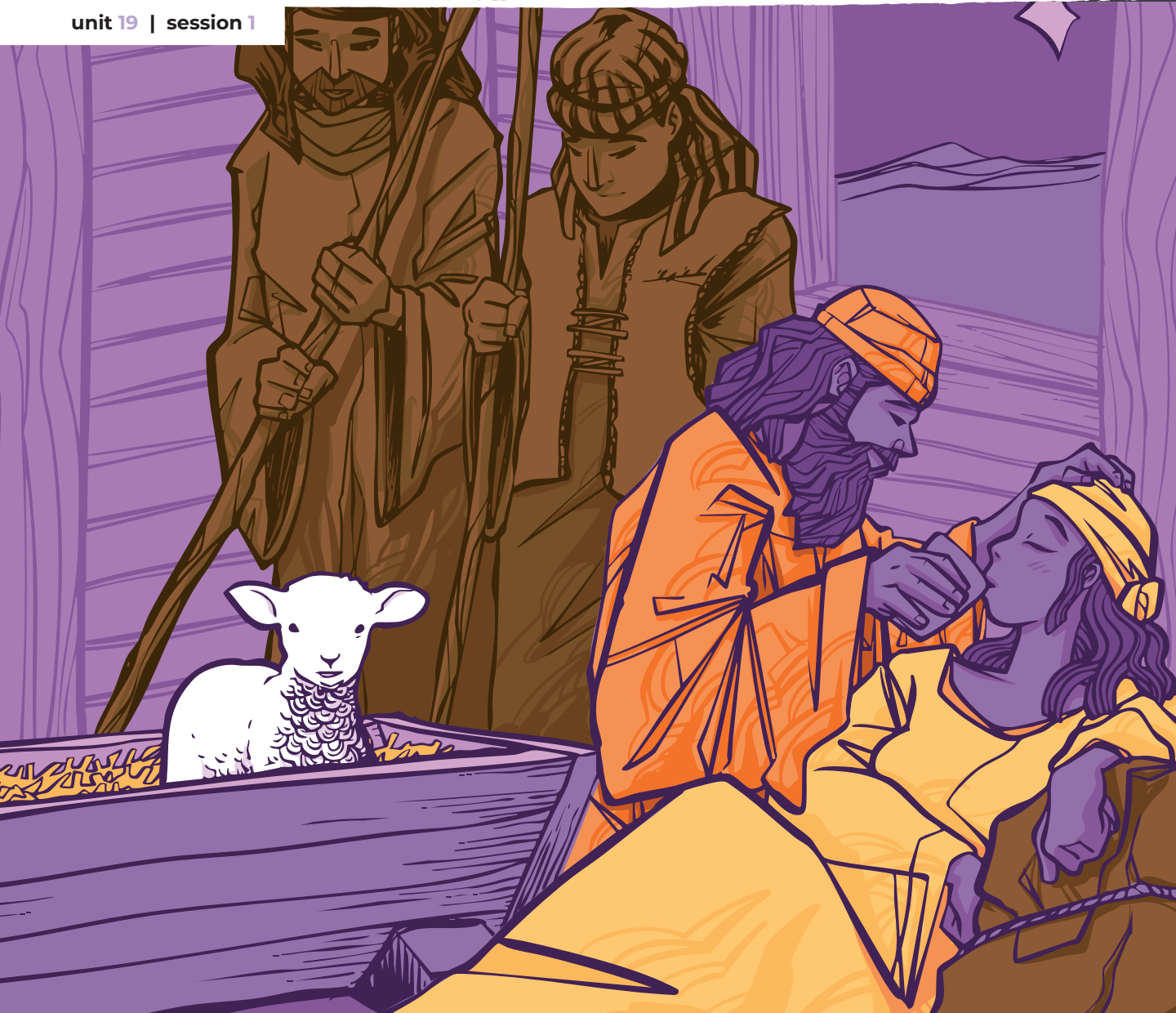
21.4 THE GROOM'S FRIEND

21.5 LIVING WATER



GOD IS WITH US

unit 19 | session 1



CHRIST CONNECTION

The birth of Jesus fulfilled many Old Testament promises concerning the coming Messiah. Jesus was born in humble circumstances to be the sacrificial Lamb and would lay down His life to be our mighty Savior. One day, Jesus will return as our eternal King.

BENDING LOW

This week, we're covering the passages and main points below. But we encourage you to dig in and read all of the content on this timeline.

Matthew 1; Luke 1–2

THE MESSIAH WAS BORN INTO LOWLY CONDITIONS

LUKE 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

THE MESSIAH IS WORTHY OF WORSHIP

LUKE 2:8-20

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" 15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

MAIN POINT.

Our Savior lowered Himself to save us, which should move us to worship.



THEOLOGY CONNECTION

GOD THE SON

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ, He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with humans yet without sin.

DISCUSSION

THE MESSIAH WAS BORN INTO LOWLY CONDITIONS LUKE 2:1-7

- What common details of the Christmas story aren't in the text? Why have we added to the story?
- What surprises you about Jesus's birth? Why do you think God chose to send His Son in this way?
- Read 2 Corinthians 8:9. How do you see this reflected in Jesus's birth? What does it mean that Jesus made Himself poor for us to be rich?

THE MESSIAH IS WORTHY OF WORSHIP LUKE 2:8-20

- How does the angel describe Jesus (v. 11)? What do we see about His purpose?
- What does God first announcing Jesus's birth to shepherds instead of religious leaders show about His kingdom?
- Why do we easily lose the awe and wonder of Jesus's birth? How can we celebrate it more than just at Christmas?



THE SHEPHERDS RAN TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS. WHO IN YOUR LIFE NEEDS TO HEAR THE GOSPEL? WHY DO WE OFTEN HESITATE TO SHARE IT?

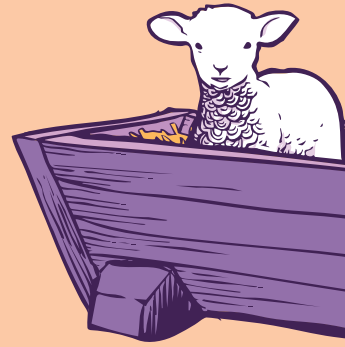
CULTURAL CONNECTION

Have you ever wondered why Jesus was born as a baby? Why couldn't God just send Jesus here to wipe out sin and death without Him having to be like us—except for remaining sinless, of course? Well, God's plan for our salvation wasn't some superhero movie plot; it was so much better. Our salvation was always God's plan. Sin is like a credit card, constantly racking up debt and requiring payment. For Jesus to act as our faithful high priest and to pay for our sins, He had to be like us in every way (Heb. 2:17). Because Jesus suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help us when we are tempted (Heb. 2:18). The best part? Jesus chose to do this for us. He chose submission to the Father's will to come here—to leave a throne in heaven, to feel hunger and thirst, to feel grief, to experience temptation, to die a painful death. Why? So that He could pay our debt. So that we can be freed from sin. Jesus lived a sinless human life, and He alone was able to become our sacrifice, our substitute. Because He was born like us, Jesus was able to stand in our place.



DAY ONE

MATTHEW 1:18-23



Have you ever felt as if you were the only person who could do something? For example, imagine you had a very specific way you liked your room cleaned and organized that only you knew how to do. Even if someone offered to do it for you, they couldn't because you're the only one who knows how to do it.

Did you know that, in the same way, Jesus is the only One who can save us from our sins and bring us into a perfect relationship with God? In the very first book of the Bible, Genesis, we see that through one act of disobedience, Adam and Eve brought sin into the world. Sin separated us from God because God is without sin. Not only did sin separate us from God, but it also required a payment we couldn't pay. The prophet Isaiah explained that "our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment" (Isa. 64:6). In other words, even on our best day and with our best behavior, our good works aren't enough to pay the penalty for our sin, earn our salvation, or bring us into a right relationship with God.

So, we needed a Savior who would do for us what we couldn't do for ourselves. This is why Jesus came from heaven to earth. Matthew 1:21 tells us that Jesus came to save people from their sins. Jesus came as a humble servant to give His life for ours so that we might be forgiven of our sins and brought back into perfect relationship with God. He is the only One who could have done it! This is why Jesus said that He is the way, the truth, and the life, and why the Bible boldly declares that no one comes to God except through Him (John 14:6).

- **HOW DID SIN SEPARATE US FROM GOD, AND WHAT WERE THE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR SIN?**
- **IN WHAT WAYS HAVE YOU TRIED TO FIX YOUR SIN ON YOUR OWN? HOW DOES KNOWING JESUS IS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD SAVE US FROM OUR SIN COMFORT YOU?**

PRAY

GOD, I THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE AND FOR THE GIFT OF YOUR SON, JESUS. THANK YOU THAT IN HIS NAME I AM FORGIVEN AND SAVED FROM MY SIN. I PLACE MY TRUST IN WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR ME.



DAY TWO

ISAIAH 9:2,6-7

Have you ever experienced a power outage? Maybe a big storm rolled through, and without warning, everything went dark. Suddenly, the air conditioning quit, the fridge stopped running, and you couldn't charge electronics you have come to rely on. One of the most noticeable things was probably the lights going out. And if it happens at night, you're left in total darkness, relying on flashlights or candles until the sun comes up or the power is restored.

In a similar way, when sin entered the world, it caused a kind of "spiritual blackout." Isaiah explained that God's people were walking in darkness. Sin turned off the lights in our hearts and minds, leaving humanity stumbling in the dark, trying to find our way without the ability to see. In the Old Testament, God gave His people the law and sent prophets to guide them, like flashlights and candles in the night. These were helpful, but they were nothing compared to the rising of the sun that brings the full light of day. They couldn't turn the lights back on—something only Jesus could do.

Isaiah pointed God's people forward to a Savior, who like the rising of the sun would shine the light of God into a dark world. Jesus fulfilled this promise! Through faith in Jesus, we've been called out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Pet. 2:9). Because of Jesus's life, death, and resurrection, we don't have to live in darkness anymore—not in our identity, in our purpose, in stressful decisions, in any area of our lives. The life and the light of Jesus bring clarity, hope, and new life.

- **WHAT PARTS OF YOUR LIFE FEEL LIKE DARKNESS OR CONFUSION ABOUT YOURSELF, OTHERS, OR TOUGH DECISIONS?**
- **HOW CAN YOU INVITE JESUS TO SHINE HIS LIGHT IN THESE AREAS? WHAT ARE WAYS THAT JESUS SHINES HIS LIGHT INTO OUR LIVES?**

PRAY

JESUS, THANK YOU FOR BRINGING ME OUT OF DARKNESS AND INTO LIGHT. I INVITE YOU TO SHINE YOUR LIGHT IN MY LIFE AND HELP ME TO SEE EVERY AREA OF LIFE THE WAY YOU INTENDED.



DAY THREE

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

Feeling like you're all alone and that no one cares is a terrible feeling. Usually, it's nowhere near the truth. Most of us have people who care deeply, who would do anything they could to help us. But that doesn't totally prevent the feeling of loneliness from creeping in.

Did you know that Jesus never wants us to feel that way? In fact, He went to incredible lengths to make sure we wouldn't have to. Jesus came close and became like us so that He could both help and serve us in our times of need.

Jesus "emptied himself" and became a humble servant (v. 7). He left heaven, took on human flesh, and lived among us, not to be served, but to serve and to give His life for ours. He didn't just come to help from a distance; He came close. He became one of us! He understands us completely, having faced every kind of temptation and suffering just like we do (Heb. 4:15). He knows what it's like to feel weak, tired, and even lonely.

Because Jesus did all of this for us, we never have to wonder if we're alone. Jesus will never leave us or abandon us (Heb. 13:5). And when we need help, we can run to Him with bold confidence, knowing He is not only willing to help but is ready and able (Heb. 4:16).

So, no matter how you feel or what's going on around you, remember this: Jesus is near. He cares. He understands. And He's always ready to help.

- **HOW DOES KNOWING JESUS CAME AS A HUMBLE SERVANT, READY AND WILLING TO HELP, GIVE YOU COMFORT?**
- **IN WHAT AREAS OF YOUR LIFE DO YOU FEEL ALONE AND NEED JESUS TO COME CLOSE AND HELP YOU? HOW CAN YOU INVITE HIM INTO THOSE AREAS OF YOUR LIFE?**

PRAY

JESUS, THANK YOU FOR COMING CLOSE TO US AS A HUMBLE SERVANT, READY AND WILLING TO HELP. TODAY, I INVITE YOU INTO EVERY AREA OF MY LIFE AND ASK TO FEEL YOUR PRESENCE.



DAY FOUR

1 PETER 1:18-20

What is sin? Sin is missing the mark, the righteous standard that God has set for us. It's like aiming a ball at a target and missing it completely every time. God has a standard, a righteous requirement, and when we fall short of it, we sin.

Often, we don't grasp the seriousness of our sin. The Bible teaches that sin is so serious that it requires a sacrifice, the shedding of blood. Before Jesus, God's people offered a spotless lamb as a sin sacrifice, and through this, they were forgiven and made right with God. But this was only a temporary solution, a foreshadowing of the ultimate sacrifice Jesus would make.

Today's passage reminds us that we were redeemed not with perishable things, but with the precious blood of Christ, a Lamb without blemish or defect. Jesus was born for this purpose. He was wrapped in strips of cloth, just as sacrificial lambs were swaddled to protect them from any blemish (Luke 2:7). He came to live the life we could not live—a perfect, sinless life. As the spotless Lamb of God, Jesus died the death we deserved and removed our sin once and for all. His sacrifice accomplished what the blood of animals never could: It cleansed our conscience from sin so that we can worship God freely and fully (Heb. 9:14). So, no matter where you've missed the mark or how short you've fallen of God's standard, turn to Jesus. Only He can offer the forgiveness and cleansing your soul needs.

- **HOW DOES UNDERSTANDING THE WEIGHT OF SIN CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ABOUT JESUS'S SACRIFICE?**
- **WHAT ARE THE CONNECTIONS IN JESUS'S BIRTH, LIFE, AND DEATH TO THE SIN OFFERING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT? HOW CAN THIS HELP YOU CONNECT THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS IN YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE BIBLE?**

PRAY

GOD, THANK YOU FOR PROVING YOUR LOVE FOR ME THROUGH GIVING YOUR SON AS THE SPOTLESS LAMB FOR MY SINS. I CONFESS MY SIN TO YOU TODAY, AND I RECEIVE THE FORGIVENESS AND CLEANSING THAT ONLY YOU CAN OFFER.





DAY FIVE

PSALM 95:6

Have you ever been passionate about something? Maybe a book, a movie, a sport, or a hobby? What you are passionate about can captivate your life in a way that feels all-consuming. You think about it constantly, you give your time to it, and you're even willing to spend your money on it. Why? Because you're passionate about it. Did you know that this kind of all-consuming passion is exactly what should describe our worship of God? The shepherds hurried to see Jesus and praised God for what they had seen and heard (Luke 2:15,20). Mary was captivated as she held Jesus in her arms and treasured all that God was doing in her heart (Luke 2:19). The wise men opened their treasures and presented gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh (Matt. 2:11). Why? Because Jesus was and still is worthy of all-consuming worship.

Psalm 95:6 says to come and worship God, bowing down and kneeling before Him. Our reasonable response to all that Jesus has done is to lay down our lives in sacrificial worship (Rom. 12:1). Worship that captivates and consumes our hearts is what Jesus is worthy of because of who He is and what He has done. But why does our worship sometimes feel less than that? How is it that we can know Jesus is worthy of our worship yet not feel like giving it to Him? Ultimately, we worship what we give our time, attention, and even money to. Jesus said that wherever your treasure is your heart will follow (Matt. 6:21). So, if we want to close the gap between knowing Jesus is worthy of all-consuming worship and giving Him that kind of worship, we must be intentional. We must bend our hearts in worship toward Him by intentionally worshiping Him with our time, our attention, and our offerings.

- **CAN YOU THINK OF ANYTHING YOU'VE BEEN PASSIONATE ABOUT BEFORE? HOW DID IT CONSUME YOUR TIME, ATTENTION, AND EVEN YOUR RESOURCES?**
- **HOW CAN YOU, IN THAT SAME WAY, BECOME A PERSON OF PASSIONATE WORSHIP, GIVING JESUS WHAT HE DESERVES?**

PRAY

**JESUS, YOU ARE WORTHY OF ALL OF MY WORSHIP.
TODAY, I CHOOSE TO BOW MY KNEE BEFORE YOU,
TO GIVE TO YOU THE WORSHIP YOU REQUIRE
AND DESERVE.**