



**“Awe-Full Worship”
FUEL**

Small Group Plan

Solomon’s target in Ecclesiastes 5 is not the one who has abandoned faith or forgotten God, but the worshipper who has lost their sense of awesome. Their connection with God has become shallow and superficial.

I’m sure that there were as many reasons for going to the temple in Solomon’s day as there are for going to church today. Some were/are better than others and I am reminded of the description by Daniel Walker, in his book, Enemy In The Pew.

“Most people attend worship as they attend a movie, as spectators rather than participants ... to be entertained and to judge the performance They do not come to worship, but to attend a religious lecture. They are not, in the truest sense, worshippers, but simply churchgoers. They have not come to encounter God.”

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- How do you respond to Daniel Walker’s observation?
- What is the difference between a “worshipper” and a “churchgoer” ?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

**GET READY TO MEET GOD
Ecclesiastes 5:1a**

^{1a} *Guard your steps when you go to the house of God.*

- Even though regular worship is a great habit to have, how can a habitual, religious routine change and become the enemy of worship?
- Take Solomon’s words “guard your steps” and create a plan of action. How can we get ready to meet God in worship?

**COME TO LISTEN TO GOD
Ecclesiastes 5:1b**

^{1b} *Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong.*

- According to Solomon, what makes a sacrifice foolish?
- Describe the heart of a worshipper who wants to be “near” God?
- Describe the heart of a worshipper who comes to “listen” to God?

BE QUIET AND CALM BEFORE GOD
Ecclesiastes 5:2-3, 7a

² *Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few.* ³ *As a dream comes when there are many cares, so the speech of a fool when there are many words. ...* ^{7a} *Much dreaming and many words are meaningless.*

- What is actually happening when someone is “quick” and “hasty” with their words to God?
- Consider the opposite – How can “slow” and “careful” actually help us to listen to God?

MEAN WHAT YOU SAY
Ecclesiastes 5:4-6

⁴ *When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow.* ⁵ *It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it.* ⁶ *Do not let your mouth lead you into sin. And do not protest to the [temple] messenger, “My vow was a mistake.” Why should God be angry at what you say and destroy the work of your hands?*

- What life circumstances cause people to make promises to God?
- How would you describe the promises that people make to God?

RE-DISCOVER OUR AWESOME GOD
Ecclesiastes 5:7b

^{7b} *Therefore stand in awe of God.*

- Give as full a descriptive definition as you can for the word “awesome.”
- How can someone, be drawn to God at first, but then later lose their sense of awesome?
- On the other hand, how would you describe a life that has maintained or rediscovered our awesome God?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- How would you describe the process that brings a person to the place where they “do not know that they do wrong” (v. 1)?

- Why does our culture make and break commitments so easily?
- Do you think that most religious promises are made quickly and impulsively, or after careful thought? Explain.
- Which seems most natural in our culture, quick and hasty, or slow and careful? Describe the impact of each on the heart that is trying to follow God.
- What are the top two or three factors that are needed to regain an awareness of our awesome God?
- Close in prayer asking God for a clearer picture of His awesome power and endless love.