

ENCOUNTER FOUR: KNOW WHEN TO RUN

Pray and then read 2 Chronicles 20:1-25

Pastor Ta centered the final message of the New Year New Encounter Series around this truth: When we don't know what to do in the struggle, worship.

True worship gets the attention of God more than anything. In 2 Chronicles 20:1-25, we find the story of King Jehoshaphat who was overwhelmed by the situation he found his kingdom in. The combined forces of the enemy nations were at the door and Israel did not know what to do. King Jehoshaphat received a word from the prophet of God with a set of directions. The direction God gave is centered on worship. God is looking for people who will worship Him with every part of their life, especially in the midst of a struggle. The miraculous power of worship began to unfold when the enemy forces began fighting with each other. All that King Jehoshaphat and his army did was worship! Worship is a powerful weapon God has given us to use in our struggles. But worship begins with a genuine love for God. If we love God, we can't help but express it. As the Bible says: "Love the Lord Your God with all of your heart, mind and strength." We express loving Him with all our heart and soul by giving Him our worship, praise and obedience. We express loving Him with all our mind by giving Him our attention. And we express loving Him with all our strength by giving Him our abilities. When we earnestly worship God and give Him these areas of our lives, our relationship with Him will become closer and stronger. **2 Chronicles 20:21** is a powerful verse to apply the year **2021**: *After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: "Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever."*

As you seek to worship God fully, regularly ask yourself: What do I love most, think about most, and do most? If God isn't the answer, make some changes so that you can express that you love Him with every part of your life.

Discussion Questions

- Looking at your life honestly, what do you think you love most, think about most, and do most? How do you think this affects your relationship with God?
- What changes can you make in your life that will express true worship to God?
- How have you been encouraged by someone else's worship?

Prayer Focus

Father, thank You for drawing near to me as I draw near to You. Show me the areas of my life where I am not communicating that You are my priority. Help me earnestly turn my affection towards You and seek You with all my heart.

Next Steps

One way we worship God is by using our abilities for Him. Consider some of the ways you can serve God with your gifts. Perhaps you can start serving on the Dream Team, maybe God is leading you to start a DGroup, take those steps and see how offering your talents to God brings you closer to Him! Don't miss out on the opportunities to worship God through other means.

Application Tip

Challenge your group to worship intentionally this week with their affection, attention, and abilities. Share how making a change in one of these areas has affected your relationship with God.