

# Beliefs Matter

## Discovery Starters

### Worship

We are called to **praise and worship God alone**

[Exo 20:2-3](#); [Deu 6:4-5](#); [2Ki 17:35-39](#); [1Ch 16:28-30](#); [Neh 8:2-10](#);  
[Mar 12:29-30](#); [Rom 15:5-13](#); [Jud 24-25](#); [Rev 5:6-14](#); [Rev 19:5-8](#)

### Belief #1 – Worship: Forever and Ever

#### Biblical Foundation:

*Then I looked again, and I heard the voices of thousands and millions of angels around the throne and of the living beings and the elders. And they sang in a mighty chorus: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered—to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing." And then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea. They sang: "Blessing and honor and glory and power belong to the one sitting on the throne and to the Lamb forever and ever." And the four living beings said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped the Lamb." (Rev 5:11-14)*

#### Discovery Starter:

On December 8, 1980, John Lennon, of Beatles' fame, died after being shot four times in New York City. 3346 days earlier, his most famous song, *Imagine*, was first released. The song dreams of a time when "there's no heaven/it's easy if you try/No hell below us/above us only sky/Imagine all the people/living for today.../Nothing to kill or die for/and no religion too..." Sadly, he who dreamed of a world without killing was gunned down by one who did not share his dream. Though the hauntingly beautiful melody evokes deep emotions, peace without God – as envisioned by Lennon – is only an imaginary illusion. Lasting peace is unobtainable apart from the Prince of Peace who rules from a real – not an imagined – heaven.

In contrast to Lennon's fictional dream, John the apostle's vision describes a genuine reality. Though many things about the future are uncertain, we can be sure of this: some things are going to look very different! A day is coming when *"God's home [will be] among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more*

*death or sorrow or crying or pain*" (Rev 21:3-4). Now that is a dream worth singing about. And it's not a figment of our imagination. The kingdom of God is really coming. And when it comes there will be much singing.

Because that day will usher in a new reality, Paul tells us that some of our current religious activities "will become useless;" there will be no need for speaking in tongues or for prophecies (1Co 13:8-10). Missions and evangelism will be something of the past. What will remain? Worship. For this reason, nearly 30% of the book of Revelation describes worship. What will it be like? According to another song (this one written by MercyMe's lead vocalist, Bart Millard), "I can only imagine when that day comes.../I can only imagine when all I would do is forever/forever worship You/I can only imagine.../Surrounded by Your glory/what will my heart feel.../I can only imagine..."

### **Keep Going:**

There are over twenty songs of heavenly praise and worship recorded in Revelation. Why not take the time to read through them, pray through them, sing through them, worship through them. You can find them in: Rev 1:5b-7; 4:8b,11; 5:9b-10,12b,13b; 7:10b,12b,15-17; 11:15b,17b-18; 12:10b-12; 14:7; 15:3b-4; 16:5b-6; 16:7b; 19:1b-2,3b,4b,5b,6b-8.

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