



## Hill Cliffe Study Guide Sunday 31 July 2022 Psalm 146

### What is worship?

1. What picture comes into our mind when we think of the word worship?
2. The words commonly used for worship in the Bible, 'shachah' (Hebrew) and 'proskuneo' (Greek) literally translate as to bow down/kneel down/fall face down. Michael Morrison states 'Our body language is saying, I will do whatever you want me to. I am ready to listen to your instructions and I am willing to (*trust and*) obey'. Is this helpful in broadening out our concept of worship?
3. To what extent is worship about rolling up our sleeves and making a positive choice each day as to who or in what we will place our trust?

### Why do we worship?

Psalm 146 gives various reasons for why we should worship/trust in God and not (in) 'princes/human beings':

4. Have we personal experience of being affected by the 'shelf life' argument (verse 4), ie placed our trust in someone/something that hasn't lasted? How is it different with God?
5. How do verses 7-9 speak to us about the 'character' argument for trust in God as opposed to trust in princes/human beings?
6. How important is it to remind ourselves of Jesus' saving work on the Cross when we reflect on the 'record of delivery' argument (verse 3) 'Do not put your trust in princes/human beings who cannot save'?

### How do we worship?

7. Despite all these good reasons for placing our trust in God and not other people/stuff, we often find ourselves doing the opposite. Why is that?
8. Common themes in scripture are: 1. Under pressure we start flailing around for 'solutions' (Isaiah 31) , 2. We struggle to wait for the Lord's timing (1 Samuel 13), 3. Plain old temptation (particularly when it comes to possibility of short cuts) (Matthew 7, 13 – the Message translation of this verse is immense!). Do any of these resonate?
9. What practical step/steps are we going to take to help us deepen our worship, ie our trust in God as opposed to trust in people/stuff? Is the Lord's prayer a useful starting point? (Matthew 6, 9-13)