

Bobby Sanderson, minister of music at the First Baptist Church, Columbus, Mississippi, has written about an article he read on the subject of worship. In that article, the author said, "I wish I could get my people to stop evaluating worship and start experiencing it." Sanderson says that he began asking himself some hard questions:

1. Is worship about God or is it about what I like?
2. Do I seek God's presence or the comfort of being with friends and doing what is familiar?
3. Am I so contemporary I lose the transcendence of God?
4. Am I so traditional that I forget God's relevance?
5. Do I see myself as part of an audience giving approval/disapproval to worship leaders?
6. Can God use what I don't like?
7. Is the style of worship more important to me than the object of worship?
8. Do I love His presence as much as the songs I sing and play?
9. Can I worship Him when it's hard work and my joy is running low?

### Space for Your Sermon Notes:



ST PAUL'S Sarisbury Green

Sunday 29th March 2009  
The Greatest Command

### Space for Your Sermon Notes:

**Key Passages:**  
**Mark 12: 28-34**

## Read The Story

### Reading the book

If anyone in your group has managed to read the whole book before you meet than ask them how they found it. What, if anything did they learn? How was it different from reading a chapter or a few verses?

## Going Deeper

### What Makes God Smile?

See what answers you can come up with to this question.

### Loving God = Worship

Sandy described loving God as worship. Do you agree with this definition? Why?

Have you ever left a church service saying something like:

That didn't do anything for me.

I didn't enjoy that.

It was all too loud/traditional/fast/slow.

How many times have you left a church service saying something like:

I hope God really enjoyed that!

Which of these approaches to worship is right?

How can we encourage the right attitude to worship in ourselves and in others?

### Mark 12:30—Love God with all your Heart and Soul

What does it mean to love God with our Heart and Soul?

Did you notice the word 'All' repeated in this verse? What difference does that small word make?

Would your life look any different if you loved God 'passionately'? If yes what is stopping you loving God like that?

What does passionate worship look like?

Are you comfortable when you are in a meeting and others are worshipping God passionately?

What makes you feel like that?

How do you show God how much you love him?

### Mark 12:28—Love God with all your Mind

What does it mean to love God with all your mind?

Read Romans 12:2

What part does our mind have in our lives as Christians?

### Mark 12:28—Love God with all your Strength

What do you think this means?

Read the following passages and see if they help answer this question:

Colossians 3:23

Romans 12:1 (If someone in your group has a copy of The Message try reading this verse in that version of the Bible)

### Read the story of the woman who anointed Jesus at Bethany from Mark 14 verses 3 to 9.

Do you think this was an act of worship? If so why - and if not why not?

The perfume was worth 'more than a years wages' was this an extravagance as some said?

In today's terms the average earnings for a woman in the UK is just over £20,000 per year. If someone was to spend this on a single act of worship to Jesus today would you call that extravagant?

What was Jesus response to the woman? How do you think Jesus felt at this act of worship?

Why do you think she did this? What do you think she felt in doing this?