

Selah Online

Lesson 1 Study Guide:

In this first lesson, Ray begins by laying a foundation for understanding the call to worship on our lives as believers. He invites us to discover, or discover anew, our desire to participate in the ministry of praise and worship. Specific emphasis is placed upon the function of this ministry within the context of a local Church body. A key paradigm shift is identified as navigating the transition from worship as “responsibility,” or obligation, to worship as “response-ability,” or an enabling grace to respond to the heart of God. Central to making this shift are our answers to the questions:

- What is my message?
- What is my method?

Ray also reminds us that our dialect will always be married to our destiny, and thus we may need to build a new vocabulary to enter fully into our new day.

Recommended Readings:

- Micah 5:2; Luke 2

Points to Ponder:

- Do you primarily view worship as an obligation, or are you increasingly possessed with a fascination for God and the wonder of who He is?
- What is the message that you feel the Lord has hidden in your life, and what is the method that he has given you to express it?
- If God’s message to the world is most clearly realized in the life of Jesus, what symbolism does God’s method of bringing Him into the world in a humble manger hold?

Activation Exercise:

Write a Mission Statement that outlines your goals for taking this course, and how you plan to change your dialect (vocabulary, habits, thought patterns) going forward. Remember, a Mission Statement is clear, actionable, and measurable. It should be easily understood, include goal-oriented tasks, and give you the ability to measure your progress. Ask God to help you craft language around your specific season and ask Him to hold you accountable as you work through this material.