



That God who created us, who lives in us...is with us today. He's here in this place. And as we sing, the God who sings listens to our praise. Our praise joins with the praise of all the ages, and all the angels. Sense the awe!

These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.

Group Ice-Breaker questions:

- (1) How does it make you feel when your children doubt their abilities?
- (2) How do you tend to act at a music concert or a sports game that you love?
- (3) When have you seen something truly awe-inspiring (a painting, the Grand Canyon, etc.)?

GOD IS HERE. Read **Isaiah 40:12**. How big is the universe? Look it up. What does it mean when Isaiah claims God can measure the heavens and the earth in a "span" or "measure" which is the length across his hand? **Follow Up: Read Romans 8:9-11**. Do you believe the same God of the universe that created the world now lives in you? What does that mean?

HAVING EYES TO SEE IT. Read **2 Kings 6:15-17**. Share what is happening in this passage. How is "spiritual reality" different from what we often perceive? What is really happening right now in the world where you live—from God's perspective? How does this affect how you view worship?

ALL TOGETHER. The early church sang songs and hymns of praise, offering "the fruit of [their] lips" as an offering to God (**Hebrews 13:15**). Did you know that singing is part of what it means to be made in the image of God? Lots of animals make noises; but humans compose and share music as an expression of our creative reason. God himself "rejoices over you with singing" (**Zeph 3:17**). Discuss this!

HE CAME TO HEAR YOU SING. At West Side, we do not try to discourage your participation in our song service; we seek to magnify it. God is the audience in our worship, and he is present. He made us to worship him and calls for us to do so. When we gather with one voice, we proclaim our love and loyalty. In that sense, He came to hear you sing! Discuss.

IN THE THRONE ROOM. Read **Revelation 4 & 5**. The language of these chapters sound like an incredible other-worldly worship service we will experience in heaven. But what if this is also what worship feels like to God from his perspective—right now? Discuss this as a class.

CASTING DOWN OUR CROWNS. The singing in heaven is matched with the praise of all who have ever lived, and thousands upon thousands of angels. The 24 elders (representing the people of God) cast their crowns at the wounded feet of Jesus. When we gather to worship, is this what our worship is like? Discuss.