

Small Group Discussion Guide

"The Deepening of Worship" • Pastor Mel Baga, D.Min. • Feb. 7, 2026

OPENING PRAYER

Jesus, we come as we are. Quiet our hearts, open Your Word to us, and draw us near—before the throne. Deepen our worship by widening our love. Amen.

OPEN

When you hear the phrase "day-and-night worship," what do you picture—and what do you think it could mean in ordinary life?

READ

Read Revelation 7:9–17 aloud slowly (then re-read Revelation 7:13–15). As you listen, what word or phrase stands out—and why might it be for you today?

DISCUSS

Pick as many as time allows:

1. In Revelation 7:13–15, what do you notice about the people ("before the throne," "day and night," "shelter")? What does that reveal about God?
2. The sermon reframes the "army" imagery as loyalty and love, not violence. How does that change the way you hear Revelation 7?
3. "Worship deepens when it widens." Where have you seen worship deepen through connection—either with God or with people?
4. Which of the five contexts feels most natural for you right now: Divine, Transparent, Personal, Social, Public? Why?
5. Which context feels thin or missing—and what might be a gentle next step (not a guilt step)?
6. The Public Context can inspire, but it can't create relational depth by itself. What helps "inspiration" become "movement" for you?

PRACTICE

□ “One doorway” prayer (together). Complete this sentence quietly (or out loud if comfortable): “Jesus, this week I sense You inviting me toward the _____ Context. Help me take one small step by _____.”

REFLECTION

Revelation 7 shows a people who live close to God—“before the throne... day and night.” That kind of worship isn’t pressure; it’s presence. And presence doesn’t stay trapped in the secret place. Real worship widens into relationships, tables, and mission—and then lovingly pulls people inward toward deeper discipleship. We’re not trying to master all five contexts at once. We’re simply listening for the Spirit’s next faithful step.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, meet us right where we are. Widen us gently, deepen us patiently, and let the world see Jesus in the way we love. Amen.

Daily Devotionals

MONDAY — THE DIVINE CONTEXT

“Worship before the throne of God.”

Reflect: In Revelation 7, God’s people are defined by nearness—“before the throne.” This is the Divine Context: you with God. The outcome is identity—remembering who you are and what you’re called to, not by striving, but by staying close. Today isn’t about doing more; it’s about coming near. Let the throne re-center you.

Read: Revelation 7:13–15. Notice a word, phrase, or feeling that rises to the surface. Write it down. Sit with it. What is God restoring in you through this text?

Practice: Take five unhurried minutes. No phone. Whisper: “Jesus, I’m here.”

Pray: “Father, re-center my identity in Your presence today. Amen.”

TUESDAY — THE TRANSPARENCY CONTEXT

“Confess your sins to one another...pray for one another.”

Reflect: Worship isn't only vertical. When worship deepens, it widens into honesty and trust with a few safe people. The Transparent Context is where you are known, prayed for, and strengthened—and where you offer the same to others. This isn't exposure; it's healing. God often deepens us through trusted relationships.

Read: James 5:16. Notice a word, phrase, or feeling that rises to the surface. Ask: what kind of honesty is God inviting me into—with wisdom and safety?

Practice: Reach out to one safe person today. Keep it simple: “Can I share something and ask you to pray?”

Pray: “Jesus, give me safe relationships where I can be known and loved. Amen.”

WEDNESDAY — THE PERSONAL CONTEXT

“He began to wash the disciples' feet.”

Reflect: Community isn't built by big moments—it's built by repeated acts of humble love. The Personal Context (a committed circle) is where love forms you over time: encouragement, support, and gentle challenge. Here, you learn to stay at the table, to forgive, to serve, and to grow.

Read: John 13:3–5 (or 13:1–17 if you have time). Notice a word, phrase, or feeling that rises to the surface. What does love look like in your circle right now?

Practice: Do one quiet act of service for someone in your “circle”—no spotlight, no announcement.

Pray: “Lord, shape me into a person who loves at the table. Amen.”

THURSDAY — THE SOCIAL CONTEXT

“The Lord appointed seventy...and sent them.”

Reflect: The Social Context is where community turns outward together—shared practices, shared rhythm, shared mission. This is often the missing link: we may have private devotion and public worship, but not the “moving community” in the middle. The good news is you don’t have to carry mission alone. Jesus sends people in pairs.

Read: Luke 10:1–3. Notice a word, phrase, or feeling that rises to the surface. Where is Jesus already sending you—together with others?

Practice: Choose one simple outward step with someone: a prayer walk, a meal invitation, a visit, a kindness plan.

Pray: “Jesus, teach us to live on mission together—joyfully and faithfully. Amen.”

FRIDAY — THE PUBLIC CONTEXT

“He had compassion on them.”

Reflect: The Public Context can spark vision—preaching, teaching, a shared “outside resource.” But its purpose isn’t to replace depth; it’s to catalyze movement. Jesus looked at crowds with compassion, not contempt. Ask God for eyes to notice one person in your public space who needs encouragement—and a gentle invitation to go deeper.

Read: Mark 6:34. Notice a word, phrase, or feeling that rises to the surface. What does compassion look like in your public world?

Practice: Encourage one person today—at work, in your neighborhood, in a store. Offer presence, kindness, and (if appropriate) prayer.

Pray: “Holy Spirit, make my inspiration become love in motion. Amen.”