

6-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

PURE PRAISE FOR YOUTH



A Heart-Focused Study on Worship

DWAYNE MOORE

Foreword by Mark Hall of Casting Crowns

What Others are Saying About

PURE PRAISE FOR YOUTH

“There is a lot to love about this intense six-week bible study, but my favorite is how Dwayne has ‘lowered the cookies’ on a language shelf that’s attainable for students while still ‘raising the bar’ in spiritual content to stretch them in their faith. A great balance that’s rare to see in a youth devotional.”

David Nasser • Author, pastor, and evangelist

“Dwayne Moore’s exciting new book *Pure Praise for Youth* is not for the faint of heart, the posers, or those who are content to sit in the back row. This challenge is for those who desire to be ‘all in,’ full throttle and especially for those who have no desire to tap out in their walk with God. This generation seems to be addicted to that which is extreme and there’s no way to live a high octane devotion to Jesus publicly except by having their private worship and praise as a priority. I’ve watched Dwayne Moore be involved in not only leading praise to several thousand, but also to be very involved in the prayer, the planning and the platform to calling this generation to true devotion.”

Dr. Jay Strack • President and Founder, Student Leadership University
studentleadership.net

“The subject of worship is a familiar topic of discussion. But for many students it remains unfamiliar in their personal experience. Worship has been taught in such abstract ways that the core of worship as a life response is missed. In these timely, practical and doable sessions, Dwayne goes beneath the flowery lyrics and high rhetoric of worship to unearth the heart of worship in the lives of every student. The truth contained in these 6 sessions of *Pure Praise for Youth* will help students to know what it means to worship with understanding. To all the student pastors, Sunday school teachers and small group bible study leaders: Teach this material and watch *truth* transform your group into fully functional worshippers.”

David Edwards • Speaker and author, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

“I’ve never known a more authentic worshipper than Dwayne Moore. Both onstage and offstage, his passion for Jesus is contagious. And I don’t know anyone more qualified than Dwayne to write about lifestyle worship. *Pure Praise for Youth* will deepen students’ love for Christ and fire up their desire to share him with the world.”

Scott Dawson • Scott Dawson Evangelistic Association
StrengthToStand.com

“In a world as technologically savvy as it is today, information is flying off the shelf at a speed like never before. With this, anyone can understand the difficulty in sifting through this mountain of data to get to the good stuff. As book after book is being written on the theory, ideology, and method of worship and worship leadership, it’s not often that you will come across one that focuses its content around teens. So, youth pastor, parent, or friend: Pick up this book today if you know a young Christ follower that wants to know and understand worship, and ultimately Jesus, on a deeper level.”

Kevin Huguley • Musician with Rush Of Fools
Worship Pastor of Christ City Church, Birmingham, Alabama

“For students, the lines have been blurred for what it truly means to praise God. Many have even made their own definitions. Dwayne Moore shows students in scripture that praising God is more than song or sermon, it is a life of surrender.”

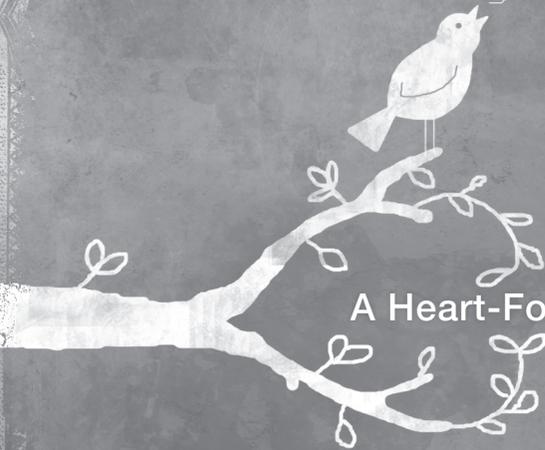
Matt Wilson • Executive Director, First Priority of Greater Birmingham

“Dwayne is calling today’s generation of students to be fervently devoted to a life of worship. In this brilliant six-week Bible study, Dwayne encourages and challenges students with a passion that pours from the pages and ignites a fire in your soul. *Pure Praise for Youth* is a book that everyone must read.”

Travis Ryan • Worship Leader, Saddleback Church, Integrity Music Artist

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A Heart-Focused Study on Worship

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Foreword by Mark Hall of Casting Crowns

Group

Loveland, Colorado

group.com

Group resources actually work!

This Group resource incorporates our R.E.A.L. approach to ministry. It reinforces a growing friendship with Jesus, encourages long-term learning, and results in life transformation, because it's



Relational

Learner-to-learner interaction enhances learning and builds Christian friendships.

Experiential

What learners experience through discussion and action sticks with them up to 9 times longer than what they simply hear or read.

Applicable

The aim of Christian education is to equip learners to be both hearers and doers of God's Word.

Learner-based

Learners understand and retain more when the learning process takes into consideration how they learn best.

PURE PRAISE FOR YOUTH

A Heart-Focused Study on Worship

DWAYNE MOORE

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FOREWORD

As a youth minister of a large youth group in Georgia and through my travels with Casting Crowns, I've met a ton of teenagers over the years. I used to wonder why I'd see some grow up in church, attend Christian events, maybe even have Christian moms and dads, and yet as soon as they were old enough to get jobs and own their own cars, they'd stop going to church. They would gradually lose interest in anything that had to do with Jesus.

What God began to show me over time was that the reason many of our students weren't walking with Jesus in college is that they never had a walk with Jesus in our student ministry—they had mine. They were borrowing my walk with Jesus. They were experiencing moments around the Savior, but not the Savior himself. You can have a great church, a great pastor, and even a great band, but you will begin to notice over time that none of these people are going home with you. When you get home, when you get to school, when you get to work, and when you get to Monday...it's just you and Jesus. You can't borrow someone else's walk with Jesus. You must have your own—or to put it another way, you can't just hang *around* the stream, so to speak; you have to actually *drink* from its incredible water.

You see, I can try all day to explain what the water from a mountain stream tastes like. I can use words like pure, natural, cold, clear, and invigorating. But the only people who really get what I'm saying—the only ones who understand just how good that water is—are the ones who've had a big cold drink of it themselves.

That's why I'm so excited about this book.

As you go through *Pure Praise for Youth*, Jesus—the *Living Water*—is going to meet you one-on-one. He wants you to experience his love, joy, and awesome refreshment in ways you never have before. This study will take you deep into the well of God's Word where you can get to know him better and worship him more freely and intimately.

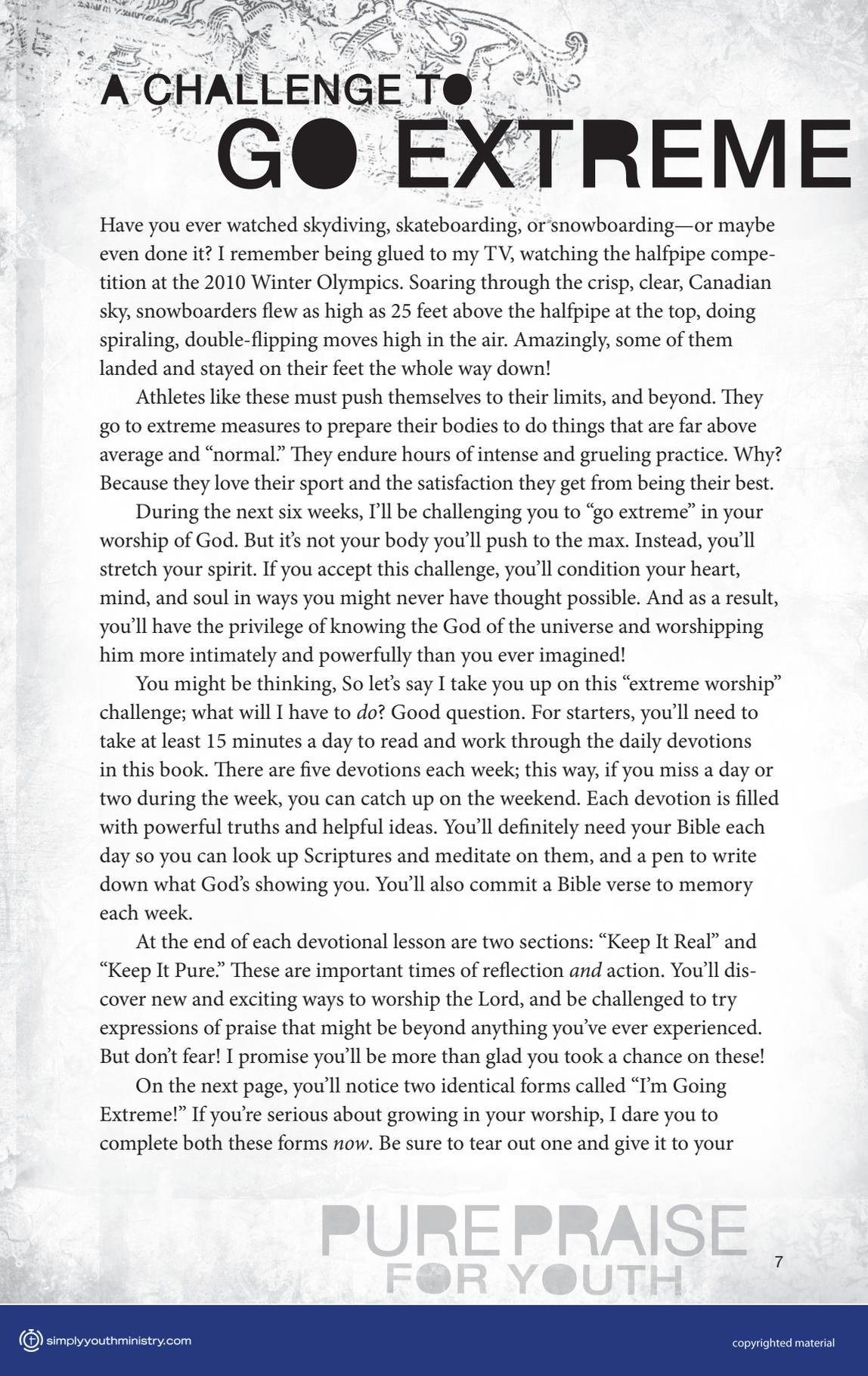
Through what he's written in these pages, my friend Dwayne Moore will help you discover how to worship God and love on him everywhere and in everything you do. You're going to learn what "lifestyle worship" really means. You'll discover how to better discern when God is speaking to you. You'll get to know God's still, small voice. And those are just a few of the things God has in store for you in the weeks to come!

So as you dive into this worthwhile study, let me be the first to say: Welcome to the "watering hole"! Come get you a big cold drink of Living Water. Come thirsty, and leave completely satisfied with Jesus.

Mark Hall

Author, *Your Own Jesus*

Lead Singer, Casting Crowns



A CHALLENGE TO GO EXTREME

Have you ever watched skydiving, skateboarding, or snowboarding—or maybe even done it? I remember being glued to my TV, watching the halfpipe competition at the 2010 Winter Olympics. Soaring through the crisp, clear, Canadian sky, snowboarders flew as high as 25 feet above the halfpipe at the top, doing spiraling, double-flipping moves high in the air. Amazingly, some of them landed and stayed on their feet the whole way down!

Athletes like these must push themselves to their limits, and beyond. They go to extreme measures to prepare their bodies to do things that are far above average and “normal.” They endure hours of intense and grueling practice. Why? Because they love their sport and the satisfaction they get from being their best.

During the next six weeks, I’ll be challenging you to “go extreme” in your worship of God. But it’s not your body you’ll push to the max. Instead, you’ll stretch your spirit. If you accept this challenge, you’ll condition your heart, mind, and soul in ways you might never have thought possible. And as a result, you’ll have the privilege of knowing the God of the universe and worshipping him more intimately and powerfully than you ever imagined!

You might be thinking, So let’s say I take you up on this “extreme worship” challenge; what will I have to *do*? Good question. For starters, you’ll need to take at least 15 minutes a day to read and work through the daily devotions in this book. There are five devotions each week; this way, if you miss a day or two during the week, you can catch up on the weekend. Each devotion is filled with powerful truths and helpful ideas. You’ll definitely need your Bible each day so you can look up Scriptures and meditate on them, and a pen to write down what God’s showing you. You’ll also commit a Bible verse to memory each week.

At the end of each devotional lesson are two sections: “Keep It Real” and “Keep It Pure.” These are important times of reflection *and* action. You’ll discover new and exciting ways to worship the Lord, and be challenged to try expressions of praise that might be beyond anything you’ve ever experienced. But don’t fear! I promise you’ll be more than glad you took a chance on these!

On the next page, you’ll notice two identical forms called “I’m Going Extreme!” If you’re serious about growing in your worship, I dare you to complete both these forms *now*. Be sure to tear out one and give it to your

PURE PRAISE
FOR YOUTH

friend, youth leader, pastor, parent, or someone who'll hold you accountable to complete this study. Keep the other one in this book to remind you of your commitment.

I strongly suggest finding a friend who'll do this study with you. This way you'll be able to talk about what you're discovering together, and encourage each other to stay faithful to following through with the daily lessons—and to what God's teaching each of you through them.

Better yet, do this study with a small group! We'll help. At the end of each week's readings is a weekly small-group session. Each session takes about an hour and includes questions and experiences that are fun, hard-hitting, or both. As your group digs in further and pushes each other forward together, your relationships with each other—and Jesus—will grow that much deeper. If you lead these sessions, take a little time to read and get comfortable with them so you can lead in a natural, spontaneous way. Even if you don't have a small group and can't do the group activities, there are still great questions that'll help you process what you learn each week.

By the way, would you like to connect with others from around the world who are doing *Pure Praise*, too? Go to our Facebook page called "Pure Praise Worship Study." You'll find videos and other helpful resources to make your experience of this study even better!

One more thing: As you go through this book each day, you'll notice an icon that looks like this:  Whenever you come across this icon, slow down. You'll look up a passage in your Bible, answer a question, pray, or do something else that will require giving God your undivided attention. There's plenty of space to journal, so grab a pen or pencil each time you open this book. Always take time to do these important exercises.

Let's try one now.  Stop reading and pray. Yes, *right now*. Take a few moments to ask God to help you learn and grow as you do this study. Thank God for what he's going to reveal to you, and for the way your spiritual life is about to rocket to new heights.

I promise that you're in for the ride of your life—an experience with Jesus that's more exciting and intense than any snowboard halfpipe could ever hope to be! So go for it! Decide now to *go extreme in worshipping God!*

Your friend,
Dwayne Moore

Please complete both forms below. Keep the top half to remind you of your commitment.

I'M GOING EXTREME

Count me in to do this study, *Pure Praise!* With God's help over the next six weeks, I'll make time five days out of every week to complete the daily devotional. I'll use my Bible each day and take time to journal what God's teaching me. I want to be fully devoted to worshipping the Lord the way he wants me to.

Name: _____

Date: _____

I have asked _____
to hold me accountable to do this study.

Complete this bottom form, and then tear it off and give it to your youth leader, pastor, parent, or friend who'll help hold you accountable to finish this study.

I'M GOING EXTREME

Count me in to do this study, *Pure Praise!* With God's help over the next six weeks, I'll make time five days out of every week to complete the daily devotional. I'll use my Bible each day and take time to journal what God's teaching me. I want to be fully devoted to worshipping the Lord the way he wants me to.

Name: _____

Date: _____

I have asked _____
to hold me accountable to do this study.

WEEK 1:

WORSHIPPING GOD

Worship Is a Way of Life

DAY 1

I vividly remember the moment I first realized the awesome power of praise. It was both amazing and life-changing.

During my elementary through high-school years, God used many teachers and mentors to help shape my understanding and encourage my Christian walk. However, it wasn't until college that I met someone who challenged my view of praise. His name was Marty. Marty was known across campus as a guy who passionately loved Jesus—his walk matched his talk.

One day during my freshman year, Marty invited me to gather with a few friends for some praise time. As he played and sang one song after another, something started to happen. Everyone's focus turned away from Marty and toward Jesus. Some songs were familiar to me, others weren't, but they all included thoughts my heart wanted and needed to say to God. I felt as if we were actually standing in God's throne room telling him how awesome he is.

You may have experienced this sort of thing before, maybe not. For me, I had never seen someone go from one song to the next in nonstop, vertical praise for 30 to 40 minutes straight. That day was a holy moment for me, and it gave me a thirst to know God more and worship him with "all that is within me" (Psalm 103:1, KING JAMES VERSION).

 Has praising God ever made you want to know him more? If so, write about that experience. If not, write a prayer to God asking him to help you experience that kind of time with him.

JOURNAL

Our Central Passage

The main passage we'll focus on throughout this study is 2 Chronicles 20. It tells a story about the people of Jerusalem and Judah who all had their light-bulb moment at the same time! Three large armies were marching against Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah. Jehoshaphat's response was to call everyone to a giant prayer meeting.

I know, I know—it doesn't sound all that exciting, does it? Why would you stop and have a prayer meeting when you're about to go to war? But wait and see. God does amazing things, and during each week of this study, we'll look at a different part of this incredible story.

 Before going any further, talk to God for a minute. Ask him to open your eyes to see what he wants to show you during the next six weeks.

 Now read 2 Chronicles 20:1-30. This is a long passage; most days won't have this much reading. But hang with me, because we need to read the whole story before we can break it down.

What do you think? Here's a story about a group of people about to get pummeled by their rivals. So what do they do? They pray, and the Lord answers, "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem...do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's." (2 Chronicles 20:15). So what do the people of Judah do? They send out the choir in front of the army. Sounds crazy, right? In fact, it sounds as if they're about to bring a whole new meaning to the phrase "sacrifice of praise" (Hebrews 13:15, NEW LIVING TRANSLATION).

But what we discover in this passage is an incredible worship service. In the midst of very scary circumstances, the people of Judah had a supernatural encounter with almighty God. Why? Because they *chose* to worship. They saw God as he was and therefore worshipped him as they should.

According to Strong's Concordance, the word *worship* means "to bow down, prostrate oneself, before a superior in homage, before God in worship." God is our superior; he is our Lord. The essence of worship is choosing to do life God's way instead of our way. Just as the people of Judah bowed in surrender, we must surrender to Jesus as Lord. Anything less isn't true biblical worship.

 What does it mean for *you* to worship God? How would you define it? Write your definition below.

JOURNAL

Jesus also believed worship was a priority. When he was asked, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength’ (Mark 12:28-30, NLT).

People have asked me, “Isn’t the Christian life really just a bunch of *don’ts*? Don’t do this. Don’t do that.” I say to them, “No, the Christian life is really one big YES. Yes God, I will follow you.” It’s that simple. *Worship* God completely.

Worship isn’t just something we do on Sundays at church. And it’s definitely more than singing or going to a service, although those are pieces of it. What worship really is...is a *lifestyle*. It involves everything we do—the choices we make, the people we hang out with, and the way we spend our time. It means trying to please God in every part of our lives. As Pastor Rick Warren says, worship is simply “bringing pleasure to God.”¹

In 1 Corinthians 10:31 Paul wrote, “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” Paul’s examples show us that our most common daily activities can, and should, bring glory and honor to Jesus.



What are some ways you can worship God every day at home, at school, or at practice? Write your ideas here.

JOURNAL



How can even the most boring things you do bring honor and worship to God? Go ahead and write those, too.

JOURNAL

¹ Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002), 64.

Keep It Real

During this journey we'll be practicing our praise before God in different and maybe even new and unusual ways. Whenever you practice, it's always good to warm up. As the people of Judah heard Jehoshaphat describe God's faithfulness to them in the past and God's promises for their future, no doubt their hearts started to warm up to praise. So let's stretch our souls right now.

How has God recently shown his grace, mercy, or power in your life? Write about it below.

JOURNAL

Now thank God for how faithful he's already been to you. Then write some things about God that you're thankful for right now in the space below.

JOURNAL

Keep It Pure

Ask God to reveal any actions or attitudes you have that aren't honoring him. Write them down; then ask God to forgive you and help you worship him in everything you do today.

JOURNAL

This week's meditation verses are Deuteronomy 6:4-5. Please write those verses below. As you write, think about what this passage teaches us about worship as a way of life.

JOURNAL

