



The Foundation of Abandonment Robert Morris

Focus The Four Living Creatures represent worship, prayer, servanthood, and Jesus. The eagle represents worship, but true worship requires full abandonment to God. Abandonment means we give God complete control of our lives and fully trust Him. Peace and joy come only when we continue to give up control to God.

Fun Give each member a small piece of paper and ask them to write something interesting about themselves that others don't know. Examples include something they collect, unique jobs, interesting people they have met, strange food they have eaten, or adventures they have experienced. Gather the papers and have one person read them aloud while the group members try to guess which person wrote which statement.

Review Key Scriptures: Psalm 40:3; Genesis 22:5; Hebrews 13:5

1. Omnipotence (All-Power)

Omni means all, and *potence* means power. God has all power and is the only omnipotent being. Because Abraham had already abandoned himself to God, he was able to abandon his son Isaac. Abraham trusted God fully and knew He had the power to raise Isaac from the dead. Peace and joy come only when we continue to give up control to God.

2. Omniscience (All-Knowledge)

Omni means all and *science* means knowledge. God has all knowledge; He knows everything, and we don't. In 2 Samuel 15:25–26, David left the city when Absalom tried to take over. David was able to do this because he had abandoned himself to God and trusted Him. He also understood the mystery of worship: abandonment to God.

3. Omnipresence (All-Present)

Omnipresence means God is everywhere at all times. God chose to be with us always, and He chose to place His Spirit within us and dwell with us. He tells us in Hebrews 13:5, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." True worship is abandoning ourselves to God. When we go deeper in our understanding of His character, we can trust Him more and yield control of our lives.

Group Dynamics Idea Gateway Church is partnering with several community outreaches to help people who have been affected by the recent winter storms. As a group, there are opportunities this week to connect with your campus to help those in need. Learn more at gatewaypeople.com/inclement-weather.

Discuss

1. Why do we try to keep control of everything in our lives and struggle with giving control to God?
2. Why does keeping control ourselves produce worry, anxiety, fear, and depression? What happens when we give control to God?
3. How does deepening our understanding of God's character build trust and help us yield control to Him more? How can we do this regularly?
4. Can you share a testimony of God giving you grace to abandon something in your life? What were the results of your obedience to God?
5. Read Hebrews 13:5 and Deuteronomy 31:6. How does it make you feel knowing God will never leave you or forsake you?
6. How is true worship abandoning yourself to God? What are some of the many ways we worship God through our choices and lifestyle, not just with music? Do you have any examples in your own life?

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- God is omnipotent.
- God is omniscient.
- God is omnipresent.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, help us learn more about Your amazing character and grow in trusting You. We want to worship You by fully abandoning our hearts and lives to You. Show us areas of our lives where we haven't given you complete control and give us the grace to release control to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Take time this week to call each person in your group. Make sure they are okay after all the recent weather, power outages, and water shortages. Take time to pray with them. If there are any essential needs, this is an opportunity for group members to care for one another and support each other.