

## **Worship the Fuel of Discipleship**

### **Worship and Witness – John 4:27-42**

#### **Week of March 31, 2019 – Bay Park LifeGroups (Leader's Guide)**

Begin your evening in prayer together. Spend some time not only asking the Spirit to lead, but also reflecting on who God is.

1. As a group take 5 minutes and list as many attributes/character traits of God as you can think of? Which ones are you most thankful for or amazed by? How has doing this together impacted you?

Leaders: Doing this together is worship! Consider having a large sheet of paper ready along with pens to help make this exercise more immersive and inviting. Is it possible to find more than 30? 40? 50?

2. Read the following two quotes and discuss:

“People come into our churches proclaiming all sorts of things with their words and actions. Through close-fisted giving, some are asserting how much their own personal wealth matters. Others, by their complaining, are declaring that personal comfort matters. Teens in the latest fashions may be proclaiming that being cool matters. Others confirm through their smiles or frowns that their musical preferences matter. But we want each of them to leave proclaiming this: The gospel of Jesus Christ matters.” -Bob Kauflin

“Worship leaders should make great evangelists. After all, it's our passion to help people clearly see why God deserves worship, and we want as many people as possible to share in the joy of knowing him. We praise the God who desires all people to come to the knowledge of the truth and who doesn't wish that any should perish.” - Bob Kauflin

Leaders: Did you know that everyone is a worship leader? Parents are leading and teaching their children what it looks like to worship. Spiritually mature Christians are mentoring growing Christians or seekers what it looks like to worship. But most importantly, everyone is responsible to lead themselves. Individually, each day, we have the choice in how deep we will go in our knowledge, understanding, application and surrender to God. We have the choice of what we proclaim.

3. Pull out your bibles and read John 4:1-30. Remind each other of the cultural context of the day.
4. Google the definition of a testimony.
  - a. What is a testimony of faith? What are the key elements? (vv. 23-26)

Leaders: Remember, a testimony of faith first begins with seeing and understanding who Jesus is. That's why we started our Worship series in Colossians 1! Also, it is not clear yet if this woman truly believes in who Jesus is. Yet, she had such a powerful encounter with Jesus, she was still a witness.

- b. What was the woman's testimony (vv 28-30)? Who was honoured? How long does it have to be? What are the key points necessary for a "successful" testimony? What was the impact?
  - c. To discuss or do personally: Write down the gospel. Write down your story. How would you share your story in less than 2 minutes? Remember, this is not a sales pitch. Why is it important a testimony doesn't end with a salvation story, but an ongoing transformation story? Over the last couple months, what gospel stories have encouraged you?
5. Read John 4:31-42. Clearly it wasn't just the woman who was confronted with new revelation that day. Jesus used the events of the day to likewise engage the disciples in a teachable moment. Looking over the verses, what lessons did Jesus want his disciples to learn that day? How do those lessons apply to us as disciples today?

Leaders: A couple threads: 1. The gospel transcends culture and preferences and unites people. 2. The importance of living with eternal intentionality. (The disciples ran into town to get food and interacted with the town, yet did not impact them for eternity. They went in as a group, will have stayed separate and left as soon as possible. Meanwhile, Jesus is interacting with the woman and looking at the big picture. In contrast, she goes alone into town, and brings out many with her to hear the good news of who Jesus is. Here the disciples have known Jesus for a long time yet no one followed them. On the other hand, she has known him for 10 minutes, sees who He is and shares the good news of the Messiah with her town. See the irony here!)

6. Reread John 4:42. Last Sunday was Next Generation Sunday. A chance to highlight our youth and young adults. Spend some time praying through this verse. For each of you in your life group, for your children, or the children at Bay Park, and for our youth and young adults. Pray that they would no longer believe because of their parents, or because of what they have heard- but because they see and understand that Jesus is their Saviour. Feel free to expand that prayer for you, the people in your life group, and the neighbours that God is laying on your heart.