

Worship the fuel of Discipleship
Worship and Truth John 4

Week of March 3, 2019 - Bay Park Life Groups (Leader)

Quotes:

- 1: Worship begins with extravagant grace not earnest effort.
2. We do not create worship, it is a response to what we receive in Jesus Christ.

Key Idea: Worship is not defined by a place or event but by the pursuit of a person, Jesus, and in response to God's unfathomable grace.

1. Pick one of the following questions:
 - a. Why is it that regardless of nationality or time in history, people have always gravitated towards defining worship by a place, a time, an event or a ritual?
 - b. When you hear the word *pursuit*, what do you think of?
 - c. How has your definition of *worship* been stretched so far through this series?

2. Have someone in your group read John 4:1-26. Have everyone else close their eyes and imagine the scenario - heat, thirst, cultural tensions and questions.
 - a. What range of emotions might the Samaritan woman have experienced?
(Leaders note: V 9 seems to suggest some annoyance or disdain, *I'm one of these and you are one of them.* V 11 Possibly a bit of ridicule, *how can you even talk about getting water from a deep well without the proper equipment? And btw, do you think yourself greater than our ancestors, you know something they didn't?* V 15 Her curiosity has been peaked - *I want that water!* V 19 - A growing respect and admiration. From the "you" of v 9 to "sir" of vv 11, 15 to "prophet" of V 19. V 25 - Trust and a teachable spirit. She openly shares her faith with Jesus while giving him room to speak into her life.)
 - b. How does Jesus' interaction with a Samaritan and immoral woman shape and inform your understanding of Jesus?

The words Jesus spoke to her speak to us as well. He helps us see that worship begins with God's extravagant grace, not our earnest efforts. He shows us that he is the center of true worship, however much our thinking might be sidetracked by personal preferences, emotional experiences, and religious traditions.
~ Bob Kauflin (True Worshipers, pp 29-20)

*For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd;
he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear
from their eyes. ~ Rev 7:17*

(Leaders note: Remember the cultural context. She's a woman, a Samaritan and an immoral one at that! That's why she's coming to the well alone at noon. Also note how her initial response to Jesus isn't pleasant, warm or appreciative.)

3. Re-read vv 16-19.
 - a. Clearly Jesus knows everything about us including our brokenness and even the sins we refuse to admit to ourselves. The truth about our brokenness is often what causes us to distance ourselves from God. Yet for the Samaritan woman, her secret and shame was

what also led to her salvation. What can we learn from this when it comes to our own shame and secrets?

I regard myself as the most wretched of all men, stinking and covered with sores, and as one who has committed all sorts of crimes against his King. Overcome by remorse, I confess all my wickedness to Him, ask His pardon and abandon myself entirely to Him to do with as He will. But this King, filled with goodness and mercy, far from chastising me, lovingly embraces me, makes me eat at His table, serves me with His own hands, gives me the keys of His treasures and treats me as His favorite. He talks with me and is delighted with me in a thousand and one ways; He forgives me and relieves me of my principle bad habits without talking about them; I beg Him to make me according to His heart and always the more weak and despicable I see myself to be, the more beloved I am of God.

-Practicing the Presence of God Brother Lawrence

- b. Compare vv 18 & 23-24. What does this teach us about confession and worship as our response to God's grace? How might this impact your daily life?

(Leader: On Sunday we focused on one dimension of truth, the importance of knowing who or what it is you worship - namely Jesus. But in the context of John 4 we also learn that:

- Truth is also about our inner honesty and transparency before God. So, truth is about knowing Jesus and also about coming clean.
- Failure to admit and deal with sin in our lives leads to a shallow appreciation of God's grace. Confession is critical to worship because confession is the means by which we come to grips with just how gracious God is to us personally. Can it be that at times our worship is shallow because we are failing to be honest and to keep short accounts with God regarding our failures?
- We need God to worship God! Without Jesus there is no forgiveness of sins. Even in the case of the Samaritan woman, Jesus is the one who led her to the truth about her life and worship. We need God to worship God!
- Mark 11:26; Mtt 5:23-24; James 5:16

4. From AD 33 Middle East to 2019 Canada.

- a. Re-read v 19-20. What if instead of meeting a Samaritan woman at a well, Jesus had met a Christian coming out of church. How might the average Christian describe how "we worship?"
- b. Re-read v 22. How is our ignorance regarding worship being expressed these days?
When our worship is rooted in ignorance, our preferences always become the object of our worship ~ Sunday sermon.
- c. Re-read vv 23-24. How has Jesus' definition of worship changed the way you view worship today?

Worship is not defined by a place or event but by the pursuit of a person, Jesus, and in response to God's unfathomable grace.

Spirit - the non physical part of a person; seat of emotions and character; the soul. Worship happens when our spirit communes with God's Spirit.

Truth = that which is true or in accordance with fact or reality. Every Christian who claims to be Spirit led must be Word fed.

5. (Application – yes) Get more practical here with the last few questions.
- a. If Worship is not determined by culture, language, preference or place but the purposeful pursuit of Jesus in response to underserved grace, what are the different ways worship can look like throughout the course of a day or week?
For example, Family Devotions, Quiet prayer in the morning, Recalibrating on a Sunday morning, Sharing a meal with a new friend, Generously and sacrificial giving, Confession
 - b. Imagine, what might “worship” in heaven be like? Will it be about style, language and culture, or about Jesus? Read Revelation 5 if you are wondering more...

6. Prayer Time

Spend some time in confession. Meditating on 1 John 1:9, Matthew 5: 23-24, etc.

Pray through the following song lyrics:

Holy Spirit, guide my vision
Help me see the way You see
Always Jesus, ever Jesus
Christ in all is Christ in me
Holy Spirit, guide my speaking
Words of grace in truth abound
Let my lips be filled with stories
Of the mercy that I've found
All I am All I have
Holy Spirit, lead me
Holy Spirit, guide my hearing
Wake my ears to words You speak
In the thunder and the stillness
Let Your voice be clear in me
Holy Spirit, lead me on
Holy Spirit, lead me onward
Walking through the great unknown
Trusting, leaning, holding, clinging
Till the day You lead me home

*If your group is ready, challenge each other about what this might look like in living this out. Write it down. Ask each other next week about how it went. Write down how you can purposefully pursue Jesus this week.