

## In Spirit and Truth: Worship in Spirit

### WARM UP

1. Name a song that brings back a pleasant or good memory. Please share what role that song played in your memory. (*Restated: describe the significance of the song to the good memory*).
2. Describe a time, when it was the most demanding season of your life.

### WORD

Key Scripture: John 4:20-24

*Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*

Jesus during his travels between cities passed through the town called Samaria. Culturally speaking, the Jews did not mix with the Samaritan people for a few reasons. One reason had to do with differences in how the two groups of people worshipped. A key aspect of Worship is to:

#### 1.) Know WHO we worship

We discover from our key passage that Jesus refers to God as 'the Father' three times.

John 4:20-24

*Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship **the Father**. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship **the Father** in spirit and truth, for **the Father** is seeking such people to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*

Since the woman is a Samaritan, she very likely did not relate to God as “Father.” Jesus introduces her to the truth about the personal God we are to worship. We can have an intimate relationship with God as ‘the Father.’

Once we understand that we can have a deep personal relationship with God—We know WHO we worship—our posture and approach to worship will be affected. This brings us to point 2

## **2.) Know How to worship daily**

Romans 12:1

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.*

Jesus does not associate the term “worship” with music. The above scripture, written by the Apostle Paul, emphasises that our true and proper worship centres on having a consistent, holy and sacrificial lifestyle that honours God.

Even though there will be difficult and demanding seasons in our life, we can engage the Holy Spirit to help us with our choices. If we make decisions based on how we feel or the demands of the situation, we may make decisions that are not “holy and pleasing to God.” God’s grace is sufficient for us in all our circumstances. When we keep God’s mercy in view—or in our memory—and seek the Holy Spirit’s help, we can worship the Father in spirit in any situation, whether alone, at home, at work, with a few or lots of people.

## **3.) Know how to Worship Together (Corporate worship)**

Hebrews 10:25

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.*

In addition to the day-to-day lifestyle of worship, another key element of worship is coming together as believers to worship God. When we gather together, the fundamental element of worship is hearing and responding to God’s voice. This can occur at any point during the gathering—while singing, praying, taking communion, hearing the Word preached, or other points of encouragement. This passage from Hebrews commands us to

encourage one another and to stir one another to love and do good things. A lifestyle of worship includes serving the people that God has placed in our lives. If we neglect gathering together, we miss opportunities to share God's love with others.

## **APPLICATION**

1. Have you been able to relate to God as a Father? If yes, how so? If not, what obstacles do you think are preventing that truth from sinking in.
2. What does being a living sacrifice as your true and proper worship to God look like in your life?
3. Discuss how each aspect of the weekend corporate church gathering contributes to our time of worship. *[Include thoughts about pre-service and post-service elements, as well as EN Kids]*

## **PRAYER**

1. Pray for each other that we will continue to have a deep intimate relationship with God, relating to Him as our Heavenly Father. Pray for the Holy Spirit to heal any hurts from our earthly Fathers so we do not project that onto God.
2. Ask the Holy Spirit for grace. Grace to trust and worship God in Spirit, handing over to him all areas of our lives. Grace to repent if needed for withholding anything from God and/or for withdrawing from serving God because of the demands of life.
3. Pray that you will be a blessing to someone this week, and demonstrate God's love to that person in a practical manner.