

Small Group Discussion Questions

Spirit and Truth: Rediscovering Christian Worship

These questions are designed to invite group reflection on today's Bible passage and life application of the themes introduced in today's sermon.

Week 1: The Heart of Worship

John 4:5-24

1. Recall a time you pursued an ambition thinking it would fulfill you or "make your life complete". Did it? Did the feeling last?
2. In John 4, Jesus and His disciples travel through Samaria. What is unusual about this situation? Why do you think Jesus chose this route?
3. What does Jesus ask the woman at the well? What is her response? What are some of the reasons for this response? What do you imagine she may have been thinking?
4. What does Jesus say in response to the woman's question? Do you think Jesus had an additional reason, beyond thirst, for asking the woman for a drink?
5. How does the woman respond to Jesus' offer? What do you think Jesus means when He talks about "living water"?
6. Why do you suppose Jesus asks about the woman's husband – especially if He already knows the answer? What are the parallels between the woman's trips to the well and her romantic history?
7. It seems as though the woman changes the subject to avoid talking about marriage. She ends up talking about worship. Was this really a change of subject? Do you think Jesus may intended to talk about this all along?
8. The woman asks Jesus where a person might meet God – the Samaritan mountain or the Jewish temple. What is Jesus' answer?
9. What are the two essential components of "true worship"? Who initiates worship? What informs our response?
10. In the Samaritan woman's life, water and marriage symbolize a kind of emptiness. Is there an area of your life in which you have experienced disappointment or unfulfilled expectation? Can you think of an example of something you have used to try to satisfy spiritual hunger and thirst? How is "true worship", according to Jesus, the antidote to our spiritual emptiness?

Pray: That the Lord would show you the ways you have used substitutes to satisfy your spiritual hunger and thirst; that you would find true satisfaction in the Holy Spirit and in Jesus Christ – "The way, the truth and the life".