

## 091320 Growth Group Study

### Worship in Spirit and Truth

John 4:16-26



**Background:** This Sunday we will enter back into John and enter back into the story of the Samaritan woman at the well. Near the end of the conversation with Jesus, the woman asks about worship. Jesus has just told the woman her story, exposing the skeletons in her closet. He does this not to shame her but to show her that he loves her regardless of her skeletons. This causes the woman to want to worship. Jesus then explains what authentic worship in spirit and truth means. Since we are designed to worship, this text is fundamental to what it means to be human. Join the live stream this Sunday to explore this important theme.

#### **Sermon Text (ESV):**

#### **John 4:16-26**

*16 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." 17 The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."*

*19 The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." 21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 You worship*

*what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” 25 The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” 26 Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”*

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Preparation
  - As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you most?
  - What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- Sermon Questions
  - Shawn provided several definitions of worship. In the Greek, it means to prostrate oneself until you kiss someone’s feet; and reveals a complete devotion to the one in authority. When you think of “worship”, what thoughts/ideas/experiences come to mind?
  - God made humans to worship. How do you see this play out in the lives of people, whether “religious” or not?
  - Since our place of worship no longer matters – because God is Spirit – every place can be a place of worship. God can & does meet us wherever we are at... Where in your life do you need to worship God? Where do you need Him to meet you?
  - Our worship is Spirit-empowered and Truth-centered. How would your worship change/be different, if you brought the *full* you & *true* you to worship our triune God? We will never be worthy enough on our own, but He invites us to worship Him anyway, as we are!
  - Corporate worship is absolutely vital to a church community. As we continue to largely worship together from our homes, how can you further participate in worship, asking, “Was God honored with my service today?” (instead of, “Did I like the service today?”)