

40-Day Refresh Discussion Questions

Worship: John 4:20-24

Drawn from the February 11, 2024, sermon by Dr. Jeff Chandler

Opener: What are some ways you express your love for God?

This small group study is a companion to the 40-Day Refresh devotional readings for February 12 – February 17 as well as a reflection on the sermon from February 11.

John 4:20-24

Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.” “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

1. Jesus made a telling statement about the Samaritans: “You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews” What does he mean by saying this?

2. What is worshiping in Spirit and in Truth? Who are true worshippers?

Revelation 4:9-11

And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

3. How is worship becoming for you a response to who God is and what he has done?

Psalm 22:2-4

O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; and at night, but I have no rest. But you are holy, O you who inhabits the praises of Israel. Our fathers trusted in you; they trusted, and you did deliver them.

4. *Sometimes we need to wait for answers. How have you wrestled with waiting and then choosing to praise God regardless of circumstances?*

Psalm 42:1

“As the deer pant for streams of water, so my soul pants for you.”

5. In her Devotion on February 15th, Melody reminds us that worship is “is when we give our deepest affection and highest praise to God.” What is the benefit of this mindset for you personally?

Isaiah 29:13

“The Lord says: “These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught.”

6. *Talk about how rituals and rules of how to worship can be a distraction from heartfelt praise to God. How do we move beyond this?*

2 Chronicles 5:13-14

The trumpeters and musicians joined in unison to give praise and thanks to the Lord. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals, and other instruments, the singers raised their voices in praise to the Lord and sang: “He is good; his love endures forever.” The temple of the Lord was filled with the cloud, and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the temple of God.

7. Have you ever had a highly emotional and sensory experience of worship? Can you describe it to the group? How does this memory strengthen your faith and love for God?

Group Prayer Time: Father, we want to experience your reality and life, to worship in Spirit and truth, and to put forms and rituals in their proper place. Thank you for loving us and showing us your presence. In Jesus' name, Amen.

For Personal Reflection your own:

- A. Memorize John 4:24 – *“God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”*

- B. Go through this week's Bible App plan on the subject "Everyday Worship" (Found on the SCC Downloads page next to this week's Discussion Questions.)

- C. Review the daily devotions for February 12 – February 17 in 40-Day Refresh.

Next week, on Sunday February 18, pastor Jeff will cover “The Curious Parade” - Luke 19:28-40 in his sermon. Discussion questions will be available in "Downloads" on the SCC website.