

# WORSHIP

## Senior Youth Bible Study

- **Lesson Text: John 4:20-24**
  - **Background**
    - "And he must needs go through Samaria" (verse 4).
    - Northern Kingdom = Israel (capital city = Samaria)
    - Southern Kingdom = Judah
    - **Israel**
      - golden calf worship
      - loved their idols
      - conquered by the Assyrians
      - Assyrians took Israelites into captivity
      - Assyrians moved their people into Israel
      - Intermarriages – "half breeds"
      - worship
        - combination of Jewish religion & paganism
    - **Judah**
      - conquered by Babylonians
      - later Jews were allowed to return
      - Samaritans strongly opposed this
        - didn't want southern nation reestablished
      - rebuilding of the temple (Nehemiah)
        - Samaritans (Sanballat & Tobiah) worked against them
    - **Conflict**
      - **half-breeds**
        - read story of Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)
        - "How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans" (verse 9).
      - **criminals**
        - Jewish outlaws could find refuge in Samaria
      - **books of the Bible**
        - Samaritans only accepted the Pentateuch (first 5 books of the O.T.)
      - **places of worship**
        - Judah – Jerusalem
        - Samaritans – Mount Gerizim (verse 20)
          - "Our fathers worshipped in this mountain"
          - they insisted that Moses said they should worship there
  - **Questions to Discuss**
    - **#1 – What Is Worship?**
    - **#2 – How Does One Worship?**
    - **#3 – Where Does Worship Occur?**

- **#1 – What Is Worship?**
  - Concordance – 115 times (forms: worship, worshiped, worshipers, etc.)
    - What was worship like in the O.T.?
    - How? When? Where? For what purpose?
    - How does this apply to the practice of worship today?
  - how is the word worship often used?
    - Praise & Worship Band
    - Worship Leader
    - Worship Service
    - Worship Music
    - Is it something that one attends, a position in a local congregation, or a type of music?
  - Many Christians believe they've worshiped when they ...
    - go to church service
    - sing
    - listen to message
    - raise their hand
    - testify
      - is that true?
    - "we really worshiped today"
  - What Makes Worship So Important? by Nancy Missler
    - "Too many Christians have not been taught exactly 'how' to worship. Sadly, the motivation for worship, especially in church, is so that we might have 'an enjoyable experience,' not necessarily to honor and please God. It has simply become a time when we study the Bible and sharpen our discipleship rather than bringing us face to face with God. In other words, modern worship has become 'horizontal' rather than 'vertical,' and thus is often made up of . . . form without power."
    - "Unfortunately, the music in many of our church services is what determines how effective the worship is. This is not at all what the Word of God says. The Bible tells us that worship is not just to engage the audience, but to have them change as a result of it. Consequently, worship that is directed toward 'entertaining' the congregation is not Scriptural worship. As a result, many of us don't have a heart thirsty for more of God, nor do we know how to express our love to Him. We talk about worshiping God, we exhort others to do it, and we sing worship songs, but how many of us really personally worship Him? Most of us don't have the faintest idea of how to worship, let alone when to worship."
  - Important to understand what "true worship" is, as there is so much "false worship."
  - Hebrew word for worship – Shachah
    - "to depress, i.e. prostrate (in homage to royalty or God): bow (self) down, crouch, fall down (flat), humbly beseech, do (make) obeisance, do reverence, make to stoop, worship" (Strong's Concordance)
  - Greek words for worship (3)
    - 1. Proskuneo - "meaning to kiss, like a dog licking his master's hand), to fawn or crouch to, homage (do reverence to, adore): worship." It occurs 59 times in the

New Testament. It originally carried with it the idea of subjects falling down to kiss the ground before a king or kiss their feet.

- 2. Sebomai - "to reverence, hold in awe." Used 10 times in the New Testament.
- 3. Latreuo - "to render religious service of homage." Used 21 times in the New Testament. (Strong's Concordance)
- Look up verses with the word worship or describing worship practices:
  - observe body language – bowed head, faces to ground, fell down, bowed down,
  - compare false worship (Baal) with true worship
    - "worshipped the works of their own hands" (Jeremiah 1:16)
    - fell down (Nebuchadnezzar's image)
    - Baal worship – drunkenness, prostitution, child sacrifice
    - Calf worship (Aaron)
      - "And when Moses saw that the people were naked" (Exodus 32:25)
      - naked – out of control, unrestrained
  - The word worship comes from the old English word "worthship," which means worthy of worship
    - literally mean "to ascribe worth to something"
    - to worship God, you need to understand He is worthy
  - Vine's Expository of New Testament Words
    - "not confined to praise; includes devotion, reverence, service, done voluntarily"
- We were created to worship
  - everyone worships something
  - Review Scriptures commanding us to worship
- **#2 – How Does One Worship?**
  - "In spirit and in truth" (John 4:24)
    - spirit
      - God is a Spirit (uppercase "S")
      - we worship Him in spirit (lowercase "s")
      - cannot truly worship unless our spirit is in it
        - compare to body (going through motions)
    - truth
      - truth = reality, honesty, not hidden, concealed
      - must have honest worship
      - honestly acknowledge and appropriately respond to what God reveals to us
      - Psalm 139:23 – "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts."
    - spirit & truth – prevents a form of worship
  - Worship must be "God centered"
    - not true worship = worshipers centered
      - false worship in O.T.
        - out of control, unrestrained, drunkenness, prostitution – promoting self

- "what do I get out of it?"
  - "what do I enjoy?"
- today's false worship
  - entertainment
  - "what did I get out of it?"
  - "I didn't get my soul fed"
  - this thinking can lead to ways to "liven up" worship services
- instead, we need to ask ourselves
  - "Did I truly worship God, did I praise God, did I serve God in this worship service?"
- blessings & encouragement are a by-product, not the primary reason we worship
- worship is not focused on people, but on God
- vertical not horizontal
- worship begins in the heart
  - look up verses with "worship" and "heart"
    - Deuteronomy 11:16; 30:17; Jeremiah 13:10; Acts 16:14; 1 Corinthians 14:25
    - link between heart condition and type of worship
  - if God is not first, your worship will be affected
  - inward attitude of reverence, praise, thankfulness, humility
  - must be fixed in one's mind before true worship can occur
  - "acts of worship" come from the attitude of the heart
    - otherwise – just going through the motions
    - sing because it's expected
    - attend services because you have to
- **"Acts of Worship"**
  - a heart of worship will do something (what?)
    - Someone said, "I ponder God's worth and then do something about it."
  - examples of "acts of worship"
    - singing, testifying, praying, teaching, speaking
    - showing others that God is "worthy . . . to receive glory and honour" (Revelation 4:11)
- **Three Types of Worship**
  - **Listening** – to preaching, Sunday school lessons, others singing or testifying
  - **Speaking** – give your testimony, sing a song, pray, bring a thought or message
  - **Doing** – raise your hand, positive attitude, stay awake, smile, cry, shout, stand
  - mind (listening), heart (speaking), body (doing)
    - heart, mind & strength
      - Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27
    - three-fold being
  - all three types are needed
    - cannot be always doing & never listening
    - cannot be always listening & never doing

- participant (take part) or spectator (audience)?
  - which worship style is pleasing to God?
- **Elements of Worship** (look for Scriptures supporting the following)
  - **Love** – "love the Lord . . . with all thy heart, soul, and mind" (Matthew 22:37)
  - **Admiration**
  - **Wonder**
  - **Adoration**
  - **Longing for God**
  - **Holiness**
    - "The key words then and the keynote still of our worship must be, 'Holy, holy, holy!'" (A. W. Tozer)
- **#3 – Where Does One Worship?**
  - Worship used to be confined to a location
  - Jesus said "the hour cometh" – soon it would NOT be limited to a location
  - why was it limited to a certain location?
    - God's dwelling was confined to a location
      - compare to God's dwelling place today
    - "ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you" (1 Corinthians 3:16)
  - similar thought today
    - do Christians believe worship is confined to a church service?
  - **where** should worship take place?
    - (1) church services (publicly)
    - (2) family devotions
    - (3) personal devotions (privately)
    - worship is not limited (confined to a location)
    - importance of private worship
      - "The more we worship God in secret, the fitter shall we be for family worship, and the more we worship God in our families, the fitter shall we be for public worship" (John Angier).

### Preparing for Public Worship

- What preparations were made in the Old Testament?
- **Heart preparations**
  - Psalm 24:3-4 – "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully."
- "keep thy foot"
  - guard your steps
  - be careful of the places you're going
- "be more ready to hear"
  - think about it beforehand

- who are you worshiping?
- why are you worshiping Him?
- "I was glad"
  - what is your attitude?
  - "I have to . . ." or "I get to . . ."?
    - what can you do to change your attitude about worship?
- "keep thy heart"
  - be careful what you allow in your heart
  - what is in your heart will come out
  - what you think on and allow in your heart determines your life's path
- "clean hands & pure heart"
  - anything sinful in your life will prevent true worship
  - just going through the motions
- "not deceitful"
  - pretending to God that you are something you are not
- "not lifted up to vanity"
  - idols = vanities in Bible
    - putting value on the vain things of this life (such as honor, riches, pleasures)

You can't live a self-centered, worldly life all week long  
and then come to church on Sunday and worship.

- **Private Devotions**
  - Public worship is absolutely dependent upon what we are and do in private
  - Until we learn to experience God through private worship, we will have great difficulty worshipping Him in public
- **Other Preparations (Ideas/Suggestions)**
  - Saturday night – not staying up too late
  - Sunday morning – limit worldly influences (music, news)
  - Week nights – 30 minutes before leaving, begin to "shift gears"
  - Pray before leaving home
  - Pray on the way to church
  - Listen to Godly music (at home, on the way to church)
  - Walking into the building
    - how can I help my mind and spirit to be ready for worship?
    - come early, sit & meditate
    - discuss/consider: other ways?
  - Watch for distractions during worship service
    - cellphones
    - making a to-do list
    - talking
    - mind wandering
  - Beware of going through the motions

- half-heartedly
- singing without meaning or thinking
- thinking about others instead of God
  - what is she wearing?
  - what is he doing?
  - why are they sitting there?
  - did she get a new dress?
  - horizontal versus vertical
- **Worship Step-by-Step**
  - journey to service (preparation)
  - walk into church building
    - why did you come to worship service?
    - what are you thinking about?
    - who do you talk to?
    - what are you talking about?
    - where do you sit?
    - who do you sit with?
    - how could you change these to be pleasing to God?
  - **Opening Prayer**
    - what should you be doing?
    - why do we close our eyes & bow our heads?
    - how can you worship God through prayer (someone else's)?
      - what should our mind be doing during prayer?
      - takes concentration – your mind will try to wander
  - **Choir Singing**
    - what should choir members be doing?
    - what should the audience be doing?
    - how can you worship God through singing (your own & someone else's)?
  - **Congregational Singing**
    - how can you worship God through congregational singing?
      - participate
      - mean what you're saying
  - **Special Singing**
    - how can you worship God through special singing?
      - look past the person
      - pay attention
      - think about the words
      - do you agree with the words?
      - raise your hand
      - smile (pleasant look)
      - say "Amen"
  - **Testimony**
    - how can you worship God through someone's testimony?

- look past the person (faults and quirks)
- pay attention
- mentally thank God for helping that person
- say "Amen"
- **Preaching**
  - how can you worship God through the preaching?
  - look past the person (favorite preachers; others, maybe not so much)
  - pay attention
    - **ways to help pay attention:** take notes, follow along in Bible, sit close to front, be careful who you sit with, avoid excessive talking
  - stay in your seat (avoid excessive going in and out)
  - say "Amen"
  - ask God to show you how this message can help you
  - don't be critical – "keep thy heart"
    - we all have our opinions – it's what we do with them that matters
    - watch saying "that's just his opinion"
- **Altar Call**
  - how can you worship God through the altar call?
  - sing, pray for others, ask God to reveal any needs you might have
  - do not be "altar shy"
  - things to avoid during altar call:
    - unnecessary talking
    - going out
    - looking around
  - how can you worship God during altar call (when everyone sits down)?

**Source**

- <https://khouse.org/articles/2004/529/>