

Discussion Guide

“Beyond Sunday”: Worship: Old Testament vs. New Testament

September 11, 2022



Big Idea

We get to worship an approachable God!



Icebreaker

What are your traditions surrounding football season? Who are your 3 favorite NFL teams & why?



Discussion Questions

1. Read John 4:19-24. Why was Jesus' speaking to this Samaritan woman counter-cultural (three reasons)? Do you see Jesus' willingness to communicate with this woman as an act of his own worship of God, the Father? If so, why/how?
2. Re-read John 4:21-24. What does Jesus communicate to this woman (& us) about worship, which was revolutionary to her current, Old Testament, understanding of it? Note that Jesus communicates *“God is spirit”* in vs 24. As we think about where we are to worship God, why may this concept be important? Look up or talk about the word *“omnipresent”*, which describes our God. How may knowing *“God is spirit”/“omnipresent”* impact your current worship life? What needs to change regarding it?
3. Read Hebrews 4:14-16. What is our attitude to be as we approach God? How is this possible? Why is this important? What does approaching God like this look? Do you typically approach God in that way? Why or why not? How can that be corrected?

4. Below is a statement regarding the Spirit & Truth Jesus speaks of in Jn 4:23-24. There is a lot to “chew on” from this statement. What jumps out at you from it and why? Discuss

True worship must be “in spirit,” that is, engaging the whole heart. Unless there’s a real passion for God, there is no worship in spirit. At the same time, worship must be “in truth,” that is, properly informed. Unless we have knowledge of the God we worship, there is no worship in truth. Both are necessary for God-honoring worship. Spirit without truth leads to a shallow, overly emotional experience that could be compared to a high. As soon as the emotion is over, when the fervor cools, the worship ends. Truth without spirit can result in a dry, passionless encounter that can easily lead to a form of joyless legalism. The best combination of both aspects of worship results in a joyous appreciation of God informed by Scripture. The more we know about God, the more we appreciate Him. The more we appreciate, the deeper our worship. The deeper our worship, the more God is glorified.



Concluding Question

What we worship can be identified by: what we place our highest value on; what we order our choices by; what we surrender our will to. Anything come to mind that is dethroning God to some degree or another in your life? What can you do about that?



Application

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?



Prayer

-Pray for 9/11 victim families, first responders w/perhaps PTSD, etc.. Pray we will be truer worshipers.