

- 1) Begin your time by briefly praying and asking the Holy Spirit to help you as you discuss and study.
- 2) When you think about the word "worship," what comes to mind? (These can be both good and bad answers).
- 3) Read John 4:23-24 together.
- 4) Jesus tells the woman at the well that there is a time coming when true worshipers will worship the Father in "spirit" and "truth." Break down these two words. What does it mean to worship in spirit? What does it mean to worship in truth?
- 5) D.A. Carson says this about "spirit and truth." It's a slightly complicated quote, but it's helpful: "There are not two separable characteristics of the worship that must be offered: it must be 'in spirit and truth', *i.e.* essentially God-centred, made possible by the gift of the Holy Spirit, and in personal knowledge of and conformity to God's Word-made-flesh, the one who is God's 'truth', the faithful exposition and fulfillment of God and his saving purposes . . . The worshippers whom God seeks worship him out of the fullness of the supernatural life they enjoy ('in spirit'), and on the basis of God's incarnate Self-Expression, Christ Jesus himself, through whom God's person and will are finally and ultimately disclosed ('in truth'); and these two characteristics form one matrix, indivisible."¹
- 6) The end of verse 23 says that God is seeking true worshipers, why is God seeking worshipers? Does He need people to worship Him? Why is He seeking worshipers?
- 7) Read Hebrews 13:15-16 together.
- 8) What is worship according to these verses?
- 9) In verse 15, the writer of Hebrews describes worship as a sacrifice. Why is worship sacrificial?

- 10) The writer of Hebrews spells out two things that God sees as worshipful, these things are: 1) Doing good, and 2) Sharing what we have. Does thinking of worship in this way make it easier or harder for you to worship?
- 11) Read Romans 12:1-2 together.
- 12) What is a living sacrifice? This is a strange picture. What does it mean?
- 13) What does it mean to present our bodies to God?
- 14) Based on the three passages you've discussed and studied above, how well are you worshiping God? Is God leading you to change anything in your life? Discuss.
- 15) End your time in prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to help apply to your life what you've been learning and discussing.

¹ D. A. Carson, <u>The Gospel according to John</u>, The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans, 1991), 225–226.