

## Home Group Questions - February 24, 2019

from Michael Womble

1. Do you have a favorite worship song? What is it that you like about it?
2. Do you have a favorite place to worship or to pray? What is so special about this place?
3. Read John 4:19-24 with your group.
4. The woman's question in verse 20 refers to a centuries old debate between the Samaritans and the Jews: "Where is the proper place to worship?" In those times, one had to travel to the temple to make offerings and worship. Jesus mostly does not get into the discussion she is looking for, but points the discussion toward the future. He speaks of a coming time when worship will no longer be tied to sacred sites, but will take place "in Spirit and in truth".
  - What does Jesus mean when he says this?
5. The woman (along with as countless others throughout history) was more concerned with the logistics of worship (place, style, proper rituals, etc.) than with matters of the heart. The Tyndale Commentary of the Gospel of John says, *"The Father seeks people who will worship him in the Spirit and in accordance with the teaching of Jesus. This is a reminder that worship is not restricted to **what we do** when we come together in church, but about **the way we relate to God** through the Spirit and in accordance with the teaching of Jesus, and that touches the whole of life."*
  - When and why do we fail to worship "in Spirit"? How can we ensure that we do?
  - When and why do we fail to worship "in truth"? How can we ensure that we do?
  - How can we worship in Spirit and in truth even when we are not in Church service?
6. In verse 24 Jesus lets us know that we worship in Spirit and in truth, because God himself *is* Spirit. In other words, God is a spiritual being, and he is more concerned with what is going on in our heart, and whether or not the Holy Spirit is working in our lives, than whether or not we are obeying rituals and traditions.
  - What kinds of rituals and traditions do we like to hold onto in the church when it comes to worship?
  - Why is it so hard for us to stray from these things?
  - How might it benefit us to actually think outside the box and try some new things in our worship settings, so long as we are still worshipping in Spirit and in truth?