

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures

from the Message:

John 4:4-26

Isaiah 30:15

Start **reading**.

John 4:13-14

"Jesus answered,
"Everyone who drinks
this water will be thirsty
again, but whoever
drinks the water I give
them will never thirst.
Indeed, the water I give
them will become in
them a spring of water
welling up to eternal
life."

Isaiah 30:15

"This is what the
Sovereign Lord, the Holy
One of Israel, says:
"In repentance and
rest is your salvation,
in quietness and
trust is your strength,
but you would have
none of it."

Start **talking**. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Are you typically a glass half full or a glass half empty person? Why and would your family members agree with you?
- Have you ever lost your love for life and thought, "If I can just get through the day/week, so that I can get to _____."
- When you look around at our world, what kinds of things do you see people pursuing in order to fill their lives with meaning and purpose? Do any of these things really satisfy long-term?

Start **thinking and sharing**. Ask a question to get your group thinking, to create openness.

- Read John 4:4-30; 39-42. John tells his readers that Jesus "had to pass through Samaria." Did Jesus really have to go through Samaria? Why would most Jews avoid traveling through Samaria? Did Jews and Samaritans have a good relationship with one another? (Verse 9)
- Troy referred to sin as "pond scum". What "pond scum" are you drinking?
- If you had met Jesus at Port City Java, what would he share with you about your life? How would you respond?
- Webster's definition of conviction: to find or prove to be guilty; to convince of error or sinfulness. Read John 16:7-8 and Psalm 51:4. What does it mean to be convicted of our sin? Share examples of God convicting you of your sin. What was your response? Read and discuss Proverbs 28:13.
- Look again at John 4:13-14 and read John 7:37-38. What does Jesus say about the Living Water?

Start **doing**. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- What happens to your cell phone if you neglect to charge it? Read Isaiah 30:15. How can we charge our spiritual batteries? How do YOU charge your spiritual batteries?
- What guardrails do you need to set up to keep you away from your scummy pond? Share them with your group and hold each other accountable.
- Jesus has come into our world so that we might believe and have eternal life. This gift is for everyone regardless of who they are, where they come from, how irritating they are, or what their past has been. We all know someone (and maybe it is you) who is the "woman at the well." Instead of "going around/avoiding" them, make a commitment to share with _____ the message of living water that leads to eternal life.

Start **praying**. Be bold and pray with power.

- Pray that you will all set up your guardrails, schedule a time daily to spend in God's Word, go to God in prayer, and walk with Him all day long.

Start **digging**. For further study.

- For further study on your own or with your group, read this gotquestions.org article "What does it mean to worship the Lord in spirit and truth?"

Question: "What does it mean to worship the Lord in spirit and truth?"

Answer: The idea of worshipping the Lord “in spirit and truth” comes from Jesus’ conversation with the woman at the well in John 4:6-30. In the conversation, the woman was discussing places of worship with Jesus, saying that the Jews worshipped at Jerusalem, while the Samaritans worshipped at Mount Gerizim. Jesus had just revealed that He knew about her many husbands, as well as the fact that the current man she lived with was not her husband. This made her uncomfortable, so she attempted to divert His attention from her personal life to matters of religion. Jesus refused to be distracted from His lesson on true worship and got to the heart of the matter: “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such to worship Him” (John 4:23).

The overall lesson about worshipping the Lord in spirit and truth is that worship of God is not to be confined to a single geographical location or necessarily regulated by the temporary provisions of Old Testament law. With the coming of Christ, the separation between Jew and Gentile was no longer relevant, nor was the centrality of the temple in worship. With the coming of Christ, all of God’s children gained equal access to God through Him. Worship became a matter of the heart, not external actions, and directed by truth rather than ceremony.

In Deuteronomy 6:4, Moses sets down for the Israelites how they are to love their God: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” Our worship of God is directed by our love for Him; as we love, so we worship. Because the idea of “might” in Hebrew indicates totality, Jesus expanded this expression to “mind” and “strength” (Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27). To worship God in spirit and truth necessarily involves loving Him with heart, soul, mind and strength.

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 satisfying and 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, so does the worship. 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.

This melding of spirit and truth in worship is best summed up by Jonathan Edwards, the 18th-century American pastor and theologian. He said, “I should think myself in the way of my duty to raise the affections [emotions] of my hearers as high as possibly I can, provided that they are affected with nothing but truth.” Edwards recognized that truth and only truth can properly influence the emotions in a way that brings honor to God. The truth of God, being of infinite value, is worthy of infinite passion.