

# Essentials

## Worshiping and Inviting

### Week of August 9

READ: John 4:4-15

What resonated with you from Sunday's message, the teaching video, or the Scripture we just read?

Worshiping and Inviting are essentials for devoted followers of Christ. The passage we are going to focus on during our time together is John 4:23-24 where Jesus says, "true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth."

#### 1) Worshiping

Before we go any further, it should be noted that "worshiping" and "worshipping" are both correct spellings. It just depends on if you are British or American. If you are British, it is spelled, "worshipping." If you are American, it is spelled, "worshiping." For our purposes, we will use the American spelling.

What does it mean to you to worship something?

In this passage, the Greek word for worship is *proskuneó* (pros-koo-neh'-o), which means to "go down on my knees" in adoration. The latter part of the word (-kuneo) literally means, "to kiss," and symbolizes kissing the ground or feet before the one being worshiped. So, worship is bowing before God, and in loving awe, recognizing His supremacy.

How do you worship God? Read Romans 12:1.

Jesus goes on to say that we should worship, ". . . in spirit and truth." Read the following quote from a Bible commentary:

"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 God, the more we appreciate Him. The more we appreciate, the deeper our worship. The deeper our worship, the more God is glorified."

Do you identify more with having a "joyless legalism" during worship (see Isaiah 29:13), or an empty and temporary "emotional fervor" (see Isaiah 1:13-15)? How does this discussion of worshiping in spirit and in truth change your perception of worship?

True worship involves our heads and our hearts. We can express our worship in a multitude of places, styles and actions. Ultimately, our worship stems from knowing the truth of God through His Word, and communing with the Spirit of God who lives in us.

#### 2) Inviting

Read: John 4:39-42

Imagine you are like the woman at the well. Now that you have met Jesus, what would you say to people to invite them to meet Him? She said, "He told me everything I ever did!" What would you say to them about who He is to you?

Invitations come in many different forms. They make us feel special, wanted and accepted by the one who has invited us, because they desire our presence. The woman at the well invited others in her village to meet Jesus, but it was Jesus who first invited the woman to know Him. Our God is a God of invitation.

Read: Isaiah 55:1-3

Sometimes invitations are tossed to the side or ignored. Just ask God (see Luke 14:16-24). However, we should still invite anyone and everyone, as He does. We can invite others to a Sunday morning service, life group, service projects, or simply for a cup of coffee. If we truly have the living water, we shouldn't keep Him to ourselves.

Is it difficult for you to invite others to church or life groups? What are some ways you have found to make it easier? Does it help knowing that the Master of the Great Feast has given you full permission to invite anyone you know to a banquet that will never end?

As we say here at Christ Church, "Found people, find people." If you struggle with inviting others, pray for God to give you boldness and courage. Also, pray to ask Him reveal how great and needed His gift of salvation is for those who don't know Him.

Think of one person you can invite this week to either a Sunday morning service or a life group. Pray for them by name. Regardless of their reply, thank God for the invitation He has given to all of us.

# ESSENTIALS

Text: John 4: 4-15

**The Plain Truth:** We all face spiritual \_\_\_\_\_—So once you drink from \_\_\_\_\_ you are compelled to \_\_\_\_\_ others.

**Today, we will focus on two of the six ESSENTIALS - \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_**

**A) Why Does \_\_\_\_\_ Matter?**

**B) \_\_\_\_\_ we worship Matters.**

## One Year Bible Reading

August 9: Ezra 8:21-9:15, 1 Corinthians 5:1-13, Psalm 31:1-8, Proverbs 21:1-2  
August 10: Ezra 10:1-44, 1 Corinthians 6:1-20, Psalm 31:9-18, Proverbs 21:3  
August 11: Nehemiah 1:1-3:14, 1 Corinthians 7:1-24, Psalm 31:19-24, Prov. 21:4  
August 12: Nehemiah 3:15-5:13, 1 Cor. 7:25-40, Psalm 32:1-11, Prov. 21:5-7  
August 13: Nehemiah 5:14-7:73, 1 Cor. 8:1-13, Psalm 33:1-11, Prov. 21:8-10  
August 14: Nehemiah 7:73-9:21, 1 Cor. 9:1-18, Psalm 33:12-22, Prov. 21:11-12  
August 15: Nehemiah 9:22-10:39, 1 Cor. 9:19-10:13, Ps. 34:1-10, Proverbs 21:13

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