

WORDS OF JESUS

SERMON SERIES

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH

SPEAKER: Steve Michel

DATE: May 3, 2026

TEXT(S): John 4:23 and Psalm 95:1-7

***HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:** This resource is designed to help you, and your group, step through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message.*

Our goal is to help you and your group better understand and apply B4's teaching.

MESSAGE SUMMARY + DISCUSSION PROMPTS

Jesus calls us in John 4:23 to worship the Father in Spirit and truth. Worship is not about a place or a performance but about recognizing and proclaiming God's ultimate with our whole being. Our mind, will, and emotions. Psalm 95 shows that true worship flows from recognizing who God is: Creator, King, and Shepherd. In part, we worship because humans are always worshiping something, but only God satisfies. True worship happens in community, is grounded in Scripture, and is awakened by the Spirit. As we behold God's glory, worship transforms us, producing peace, hope, and deeper communion with Him.

LEAN IN: *These are icebreakers and warm-ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5 minutes.*

1. What kinds of environments help you feel most connected to God?
2. Do you tend to engage God more emotionally, intellectually, or practically?
3. What is a meaningful worship experience you've had recently, if at all?
4. What distractions most often pull your attention away from God?
5. Why do you think music is so central to worship gatherings?

LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) from the teaching. Spend about 10 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. In John 4:23, what does it mean that the Father "seeks" worshipers?
2. What does Psalm 95 reveal about God's character?
3. How does Psalm 95 describe engaging our emotions, will, and mind in worship?
4. What is significant about the psalmist's move from praise to listening ("hear His voice today")?
5. How does Jesus redefine worship compared to location-based religious practice?

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.*

Spend about 10 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:

1. What are common “*objects of worship*” in modern culture, or your culture of origin?
2. How does individualism shape the way people approach worship today?
3. How does performance culture affect church worship experiences?
4. Why is gathering in a community for worship increasingly countercultural?
5. How do cultural values compete with worshiping God fully?

LOOK IN: *These questions help you consider how to engage the teaching for yourself.*

Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:

1. What currently holds the highest value in your life? Where do you “ascribe the most value?”
2. Where do you struggle to engage God, with your emotions, will, or mind, and why?
3. How can you more fully engage in corporate worship?
4. Where might God be inviting you to surrender control, trusting that He is worthy?
5. What might move you to worship God more honestly and sincerely?

LIVE IT OUT: *These prayer practices can help you integrate this message into day-to-day life.*

Choose one prompt and discuss how you will embrace it this week (5 minutes):

1. A daily “Inventory of God” prayer: As you daily read Scripture this week, list 3-5 perfections of God’s character or His works. Thank Him specifically in prayer and personalize these, encouraging your heart to engage, as well as your mind. Ask God to help you reflect His character and actions in whatever you say and do.
2. Worshipful prayer for the whole person: Structure your prayer times this week in three movements: 1. Engage your mind, declaring the truth about God; 2. Express your emotions through gratitude or awe at the Glory of God’s perfections; 3. Willfully surrender something specific to God (e.g., something you’re struggling with or something you’re asking God for, or something you’re praying about for someone else), asking Him to make you sensitive to that surrender throughout your week.

You can find B4’s [Series Resources here](#).

