



# MC Bible Study

## John 4:19-24

### Leader's Guide

Subject(s): Gospel Worship

Discover the heart of worship as Jesus reveals it in the Gospel of John.

Objective: Christ-Centered Worship

The goal of this lesson is to look at the type of worship that God prefers.

Plumb Line: We seek God's Presence not our preference.

### **Prayer**

Lord, please help us as we begin to study Your precious revealed Word. We are incapable of understanding the Bible without the help of Your Holy Spirit. So, we ask that You would come and open our eyes and our hearts to see and cherish the truths of the Scriptures. Amen.

### **Reading**

*"The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:19-24)*

## **Observations**

1. Why do you think that the woman asked about worship?
  - a. She perceived that Jesus was at the very least a prophet (spokesman for God) and seems to have been concerned with the validity of her worship.
2. What three primary aspects of worship were originally being discussed?
  - a. The woman mentions location and then Christ mentions time (dispensation) and the object of worship.
3. Where does Christ say that salvation is from? Why does that factor into the conversation about worship?
  - a. Christ communicates that the Jews know more about worship because that is where salvation originates from. It shows us that we shouldn't worship blindly or ignorantly. We should seek to know the One that we worship.
4. What two things make up the type of worshiper that the Father is seeking?
  - a. Spirit and Truth
5. What does Jesus reveal about the nature of God in verse 24?
  - a. God is Spirit
6. What does He tell us that this means for the worshiper?
  - a. The only acceptable worship is that which is Spirit and Truth.

## **Gratitude**

Father, we thank you for teaching us about how you desire to be worshiped. May we never be consumed by our preferences or those insignificant things again. Teach us what it means to worship in Spirit and in Truth. Amen.

## **Reflection**

1. What can we learn from the three things originally mentioned about worship?
  - a. The conversation was about the location, time and object of worship. There are at least two things that we can learn from this.
  - b. First, we can realize that our preferences and traditions are really not that important in the grand scheme of things.
  - c. Second, we can see that when Christ says to worship in Spirit and Truth, He is speaking to these same things. It is not simply about "method"

but about location, time, and the object of worship. We worship the Truth, as it is revealed in Christ, while we are eternally abiding in the Spirit of God.

2. Why is it important that we know the object of our worship?
  - a. God is very zealous concerning His glory and will not allow it to be shared with idols. If we fail to know Who it is we worship, we might find ourselves guilty of idolatry, paganism, etc.
3. Whose preference, concerning worship, actually matters?
  - a. Only God's Preference matters.

## **Application**

1. What should we take away from this passage?
  - a. The primary thing to take away from this is that we are worshiping God and not ourselves. Therefore, we should not be caught up in silly things like location, type of music, etc. but should be wholly devoted to seeking God's Presence.
2. How does it look to worship in Spirit and Truth?
  - a. Again, the conversation was primarily about location, dispensation, and the object of our worship. Therefore, the instruction to worship in Spirit and Truth was not merely about a method. We are to worship according to the Truth, which is revealed in God's Word, and we are to worship whilst abiding in the Spirit of God.

## **Meditation**

Lord, we are thankful for the Special Revelation found in the Holy Scriptures. Without this, we would be completely unable to know Who or what to worship. Thus, we are grateful that You have revealed Yourself to us and taught us how to worship according to Your preference. May we never squabble over our own insignificant wishes again. May we fully seek Your Presence. Amen.

# MC Bible Study

## John 4:19-26

### Participant's Guide

Subject(s): Gospel Worship

Discover the heart of worship as Jesus reveals it in the Gospel of John.

Objective: Christ-Centered Worship

The goal of this lesson is to look at the type of worship that God prefers.

Plumb Line: We seek God's Presence not our preference.

### **Prayer**

Lord, please help us as we begin to study Your precious revealed Word. We are incapable of understanding the Bible without the help of Your Holy Spirit. So, we ask that You would come and open our eyes and our hearts to see and cherish the truths of the Scriptures. Amen.

### **Reading**

*"The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:19-24)*

## **Observations**

1. Why do you think that the woman asked about worship?
2. What three primary aspects of worship were originally being discussed?
3. Where does Christ say that salvation is from? Why does that factor into the conversation about worship?
4. What two things make up the type of worshiper that the Father is seeking?
5. What does Jesus reveal about the nature of God in verse 24?
6. What does He tell us that this means for the worshiper?

## **Gratitude**

Father, we thank you for teaching us about how you desire to be worshiped. May we never be consumed by our preferences or those insignificant things again. Teach us what it means to worship in Spirit and in Truth. Amen.

## **Reflection**

1. What can we learn from the three things originally mentioned about worship?
2. Why is it important that we know the object of our worship?
3. Whose preference, concerning worship, actually matters?

## **Application**

1. What should we take away from this passage?
2. How does it look to worship in Spirit and Truth?

## **Meditation**

Lord, we are thankful for the Special Revelation found in the Holy Scriptures. Without this, we would be completely unable to know Who or what to worship. Thus, we are grateful that You have revealed Yourself to us and taught us how to worship according to Your preference. May we never squabble over our own insignificant wishes again. May we fully seek Your Presence. Amen.