**The Basics of Worship - Thursday**

**INTRODUCTION**

Today we are going to talk about two types of worship--public worship and private worship. What do you think public worship is? What about private worship?

**MEMORY VERSE**

True worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truthJohn 4:23

**BIBLE VERSE**

19 The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you *Jews* say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." 21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." 25 The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." 26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am *He."*John 4:19-26

What does this story tell us? This is the story we usually call “The Woman at the Well?” Jesus and his disciples were walking back to Galilee. About

lunchtime they came to Jacob’s well and Jesus sat down to rest. His disciples went to the nearby town to buy food. While they were gone, a woman came to the well to get water. Jesus asked her for a drink. As they were talking, the woman told Jesus she could see he was a prophet. Since she knew he was a man of God (because that’s what a prophet is), she wanted to ask him a question. “Is it all right to worship in this mountain, or do I need to go to Jerusalem?”

Jesus told her that the time was coming when men would worship in spirit and truth and not at a place. She replied that she knew the Messiah who is called Christ was coming. Jesus then told her that He was the Messiah. This is the first recorded time that Jesus told anyone He was the savior!

**LESSON**

Our Lord Jesus was not what the Jews, or even his apostles, expected. They thought that when the Savior came, He was supposed to rule like a king and defeat the Romans! They would kill the Romans and make Jerusalem a great city again under the rule of King Jesus! But the Savior God sent wasn’t like that at all. When they cursed and said bad things about Him, he “reviled not again.” That means He did not curse them back…He kept quiet. When the soldiers came to arrest Jesus and Peter wanted to defend him, Jesus told him to put up his sword (Matt. 26). Then Jesus healed the officer that Peter had hurt .

Heal the man that is going to drag you off to court? Bless people with salvation who are busy cursing you? Tell people to pay their taxes and live peaceably? No, this wasn’t the Jesus they expected, but it **is** the Jesus we all should love. Jesus is worthy of all our devotion, our heartfelt worship.

Let’s get some things straight:

Where should I worship? What did Jesus say in John 4:20-21? He said You should not pay too much attention to the place of worship. As long as it is not a distraction for you, you could worship under a shade tree as well as in the best building. Look where we are worshipping today! Sometimes the place of worship may cause you to think about something you haven’t thought of before.

When should I worship? In Acts 20:7 we see that the early Christians met on the first day of the week, but was that the only time they met for worship? Sometimes it is good to worship daily together. Can you find verses in Acts chapter 2 that show they worshipped on other days?

### Public Worship vs Private Worship

How does God want us to worship Him? Acts 20:7 says

*7 Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.*

This verse tells us that the disciples met on the first day of the week—that’s Sunday. What did they do? They “broke bread”. What does that mean? It means they “took the communion or the Lord’s Supper.” What else? Paul spoke his message to them. That means Paul preached.

In 1 Corinthians 16: 2 Paul tells the Corinthian Christians:

2 On the first *day* of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

What does this mean? It means that we put some money up and give it on the first day of the week depending on how much money we got that week so that the needs of Christians can be met when they arise.

So far we see that we need to meet on Sunday and (1) Take the Lord’s Supper, (2) Preach or listen to preaching, and (3) Give money.

In Ephesians 5:19 Paul tells the Ephesian Christians that they should be

*19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,*

Since Paul didn’t tell us to do this on Sunday we can do it any day of the week, but if we are speaking to each other, it has to be a time when we are together. Finally, Paul told the Colossian Christians in Colossians 4:2 that they should

*2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;*

So we are to pray when we are together remembering to be thankful to God for His blessings to us. It can be anytime we are together. Being together is what we call public worship. Now you can list five ways we can worship God in public. Fill in the spaces below with those five ways. Look at the Bible verses by each blank for a hint.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Acts 20:7

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Acts 20:7

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I Corinthians 16:2

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Ephesians 5:19

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Colossians 4:2

Can you worship God privately in all these ways? Let’s think about it. Can you meet on the first day of the week by yourself? No, you would need someone to meet with. Can you listen to preaching without a preacher? No. Can you take the Lord’s Supper alone? There is no example of that in the New Testament. That leaves singing and praying. Let’s look in the Bible and see what is said. James says in chapter 5 verse 13:

13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.

Here is one verse that answers the question about the other two ways we can worship God. James says “anyone”. That means you can sing or pray when you are by yourself. I am really glad we can pray when we are alone.

James says to pray when you are suffering. What does that mean? Suffer means to feel pain or distress. Could worry cause you distress? Think about some things you might worry about:

I have a test and I’m not ready. I broke something and haven’t told my

parents. I broke the rules and I’m afraid somebody will tell the teacher. Someone made fun of me and I acted like I didn’t’ care, but now I’m worried about how I look. There are a million different things that we could worry about.

When I get worried I’m glad I don’t have to wait until Sunday to pray about it. Aren’t you? When we pray to God we can ask Him to take care of our worry. Then we can thank Him for being there to talk to. This would be worshipping Him. When we feel better we can thank God for helping us.

James also says if we are happy we can sing to God. Do you ever sing a song to God when you are by yourself? When we are in a group usually someone else decides what we will sing. When you are alone, you get to decide every time.

Think about what we talked about today in this lesson and then we can talk about these questions.

## Discussion

1. Do you think worship is only for grown-ups?
2. What should you do if other people around you won’t be quiet and let you think when you worship?
3. Paul wanted to preach about God after he saw the idols in Acts 17. What does worshipping at camp make YOU think about? When you worship at camp in the woods, can you think of some things you want the preacher to talk about? What songs does it make you want to sing? Does worshipping at camp make you want to thank God when you pray to Him?
4. We are supposed to be good to people, does that mean doing whatever they like to do? What are some things they might like in church that we shouldn’t do?

## Application

1. Have one person try to read their Bible. What are some things other children do that keeps this person from reading (poking them, snapping fingers, talking to them, giggling, etc.). Show how you can react when your friends are keeping you from worshipping.
2. When I am in public worship how should I behave? What would Jesus want me to do? Can I text others or play games? How old should I be when I start listening to the preacher? Should I sing with everyone else, or can I just sit and listen?
3. Without getting into names and such, tell of someone you know who you saw praying or singing or reading her Bible when he or she thought they were all alone. What do you think God thought about what they were doing?
4. Tell your class how you would get ready to enter into public worship or how you would prepare to worship God privately (e.g. would you turn off the radio? Would you get cleaned up to go to church?) How do you get ready to worship?
5. Practice makes perfect. How can you get you to go to church more or get your family to go more often?
6. Sing a VBS or devotional song.
7. Bonus: Let’s answer these questions together. I’ll read the question, then everyone can tell me the answer.
   1. The bread in the Lord’s Supper represents \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   2. The juice in the Lord’s Supper represents \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

8. Name 5 VBS songs:

a. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

e. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name 5 songs we have sung at camp:

a. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

e. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9. What is another word used in the Bible for the “Lord’s Supper”

(hint: it starts with “C”)?

10. What is another word for giving in the Bible

(hint: it also starts with “C”)?

WORD FIND

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| S | I | E | H | B | B | O | W |
| K | N | A | H | T | L | R | N |
| R | G | D | A | I | S | E | E |

Words: Adore, Bible, Bow, Bread, Cup, Prayer, Preacher, Sermon, Singing, Spirit, Supper, Thank, Truth (The letters not used in the puzzle form a secret word!) What is it? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.