Discussion Guide
Worship — Part 2
LEADER GUIDE

We're made to worship! It's part of our design. But how we worship matters just as much as the fact that we do. In this series, we're exploring what it means to worship God on His terms instead of ours and rediscovering the wonder of approaching Him the way He invites us to. This series will reshape how you see every moment you spend in His presence.

NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or discipleship@rockbridge.cc

"Come, Lord, stir us up and call us back. Kindle and seize us. Be our fire and our sweetness. Let us love. Let us run."
[Augustine]

LEADER RESOURCES || Leader Note *We do our best to equip, empower, and encourage you to shepherd your group well.*

- **Passage Summary**
  - Samaria wasn't a place where Jewish people wanted to spend time. They looked down on Samarians as half-breed people with tainted worship–they represented compromise, dilution, and a history of tension. But Jesus had living water to offer, and his first missionary was rejected from even her own town. As she and Jesus held dialogue, He addressed her concerns and moved past her hangups to reach her at the soul level. He didn't just pass through Samaria or even arrive–He stayed.

ENGAGE & CONNECT || Leader Note *The goal for the icebreaker is to prepare your group for the conversation ahead by connecting with one another's hearts and building joy together.*

What is the best tasting water you've ever drank?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER || Leader Note *Begin your time together thanking God for his presence and praying His word back to Him. Ask a few people to pray, taking a posture of humility and dependence!*

Jesus, help us to receive worship on a deeper level–past our arguments and the things we use to hold You at arm's length. Meet with us. Amen.

MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE || Leader Note *Help your group memorize this verse together by having each person read it aloud. If you like, you can have each person read a single word. The goal is to enjoy hiding God's word in our hearts together.*

"I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.'"
[Psalm 34:1, ESV]

BIG IDEA || Leader Note *Read this aloud so your group knows the theme of today's reading and discussion.*

Jesus is a soul hunter, and our souls were made for worship.

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION || Leader Note *Have people read aloud John 4:3-26. Your role is to FACILITATE, so keep your group moving along, encourage people to share, and look for opportunities to point out the grace and glory of God! Here are two reminders: 1) Every question does not have to be answered … go where the Spirit leads! 2) Answers do not have to be read aloud … they're for guidance!*

1. How does Jesus come across this particular encounter? *He was just passing through. He was just tired. He was just thirsty. It feels almost random, but also so much like a divine appointment.*

2. How can we spot the divine appointments among the "just so happened" like Jesus did? *Being open to the Spirit of God means being awake to the likelihood that He is working at all times. At any point, we could be the available hands and feet of Jesus to care for and love one of His sheep.*

3. What water are you drinking that leaves you thirsty again? *Jesus is definitely talking about more than physical thirst here. To try to be satisfied with something, to have your needs met by something, and to come up wanting again is disappointment that wears on your soul.*

4. What needs are you drinking that water to meet? *Idolatry is a very easy trap to fall into. All you need is an unmet need. Something steps up with a promise to fulfill that need. You don't even need to know that you HAD the need. It doesn't even have to keep its promise. But once we see where we're getting water and what thirst we're trying to quench, we can come to the Christ who is the Living Water to meet that need instead.*

5. What keeps you on the surface? Schedule/lifestyle, fears, or theology/religion? *We see where all of these are at play with the woman here, and they're often the same things we use to stay on the surface. To worship God in Spirit and truth will mean facing all three of these things and letting Him speak to each area.*

6. What astonishes you about God? *He is mind-blowing in so many ways, but different people will be captivated by different things.*

7. What would take your worship past externals into Spirit and truth territory? *Being vulnerable with God is difficult, but it's worth it. It might be valuable for you to go first in this question–whether it be to really pour out how you're feeling in prayer, to bring hard or "negative" emotions to Him, to face something you're afraid of, or to take a look at ways your theology has held God away from transforming you.*

8. How can you practice the presence of God in your daily life, so that everything you do becomes an act of worship? *Walking in constant prayer will do this. Being still before God will do this. Seeing everything your hands find to do as worship to the Lord and service in His kingdom will do this. There are many ways to increase your awareness of God and worship Him in Spirit and truth all day long.*

STEP OF OBEDIENCE || Leader Note *This is an opportunity for people to put into practice what the Spirit is inviting them to do and live in obedience to God for the sake of love! You can encourage your group to be accountable to one another and use these to follow up with one another throughout the week.*

True worship comes at a cost. Resolve to pay it.

As you consider your next step, reflect on: 1) What stokes the fires of your faith? 2) What sources of

water do you need to abandon to seek the living water instead?

Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 2 or 3 for this question, so each person has others praying with them for the needs they're taking before the throne.

PRAYER FOCUS || Leader Note *Be intentional about saving at least 5 minutes to pray together. Try the prayer activity below or pray for one another's personal requests!*

"Jesus, come close and purify our worship. Let us seek You as the source for our every need and watch with thankfulness as You provide for us in a way no other water can. Satisfy Your sheep and let us be content within Your fold. Amen."