



## **Sermon Discussion Guide**

What is a Christian?: Worship  
John 4:5-29; Jeremiah 2:13-14  
August 28 & 29, 2021

### **Part 1: Pray**

The primary goal for our Life Group meetings is to experience Jesus in our midst in his presence and power. We want him to be at work by His Spirit ministering to us and through us to one another so that people are cared for and encouraged to lead God-pleasing lives. Ask God to reveal his truth in this passage to transform you through your discussion time.

### **Part 2: Read the Text**

Read the passage(s) from the sermon. Keep a focus on key words, repeated phrases or major themes.

### **Part 3: Reflect on the Sermon**

*Introduction*

1. What is worship? Do you know worship when you see it?

*Worship: Thirst.*

1. Read Proverbs 4:23. The things that we want—our deepest thirsts and desires—are the things that drive our souls. Take a moment and think about the things in your life that motivate you. What are you thirsting after?
2. We tend to view things like the mall as “neutral spaces.” But as James K.A. Smith, in his book *You Are What You Love* points out, the mall is actually trying to shape your

loves, to get you to thirst for what it has to offer. Consider and discuss together how other seemingly neutral things (sports, leisure activities, TV advertisements) are shaping you. What do they want you to worship?

*Worship: Idolatry.*

1. The ultimate tragedy of idolatry is that not only do idols fail to satisfy our thirst; they also ultimately destroy their worshipers. Charles Darwin wrote,

My chief enjoyment and soul employment throughout life has been scientific work. From this work I am never idle. It is the only thing which makes life endurable to me. But it has taken something from me...Up to the age of 30, poetry gave me great pleasure, and I took intense delight in Shakespeare, but now, for many years, I have found it's so intolerably dull that it nauseates me. My mind seems to have become a kind of machine for grinding out general laws out of a large collection of facts. This loss is a loss of happiness to me, a loss of beauty. I have become a withered leaf for every subject except science. Now, even science itself has become a great evil to me.

Reflect on your own life. How have you seen this truth play out in your story? In the story of your loved ones? Where has your idolatry robbed you of beauty and joy?

2. Everybody worships something, and if it isn't the living God, then it is something else. Part of how we discern the idols in our own life is by looking at 1) what occupies our time, money, and resources, and 2) what are we most upset by (we get upset when our idols fail to work). What are the idols in your life?

*Worship: The Hour.*

1. Jesus is seeking those who will worship him in spirit and in truth. Worship in spirit means worship that is not only external but from the heart. How does truth (the truth about God and the truth about ourselves) lead us to worship?

2. Love isn't just all feelings and emotions. Our habits and rituals actually shape our loves. What are some tangible things you can do this week to reorder your loves away from broken cisterns that will never satisfy and towards the living water?

**Part 4: Summarize the Message**

How would you summarize the sermon to someone who has never heard it? What are your two or three key takeaways from the message and your discussion?

How does this sermon change your perspective on God? Your own heart? And/or, how to follow Jesus?