

## Small Group/Sermon Notes for Vision: Spirit and Truth Part 1

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- **Spirit and Truth** based on **John 4:23-24**.
  - The Father seeks worshipers. True worshipers at that.
  - In our culture we are much more comfortable being “believers” or “followers” rather than “worshipers.” What are your thoughts about that?
  - The set of worshipers is a sub-set of believers.
    - Harsh example: **James 2:19**
    - Here James is pointing out the contradiction in people who claim Christ but who don't live their lives accordingly. (Truth)
    - Step forward into being a worshiper.
  - True worshipers worship in spirit and in truth.
    - Spirit: (extra emphasis on this in **v24**)
      - The mystical spiritual things. Gifts (also normal gifts.)
      - The emotional/attitude things. Fruit.
    - Truth:
      - Knowledge/understanding the things of God.
      - Living right. Holding to the teachings.
- 2 Goals for this series:
  - Goal 1: For each of us to receive the fullness of the new life in Christ, rather than settle for a one dimensional faith.
    - Spirit is good. Truth too! Truth is good. Spirit too!
    - God isn't looking for people who just want to get their ticket punched.
  - Goal 2: For each of us to embrace the God ordained differences between people and peoples.
    - Extreme homogeneity is just not the Biblical plan for the Body of Christ. Our devotion to God should be the same but there are many differences!!
- **John 4:1-9**. Let's get the context.
  - So, Jesus is fleeing persecution. He is viewed as a threat by the Pharisees.
  - He ends up in Samaria. There are significant “tensions” there.
    - Example of the tension: **Luke 9:51-56**.
- **John 4:10-26**
  - Jesus reveals to a ‘Samaritan woman of questionable character’ that he is the Christ!!!!
  - How was she doing as far as “worshiping in spirit and in truth?”
    - Why would Jesus have this conversation with this Samaritan woman??
    - When Jesus does unusual things there are lessons to be learned!
    - I think the lesson here is “What does God really care about?”
  - Jesus offers her living water.
    - He doesn't seem to care about gender. Foreshadow of **Acts 2:18**?
    - He doesn't seem to care about race. Foreshadow of **Ephesians 2:14**?
    - He doesn't seem to care about her off center religious background.
    - He doesn't even seem to care about her messed up life!
  - Jesus wants her to have some living water! That's what God really cares about!
    - God wants her to worship Him in spirit and in truth. And he wants that for you!
- Pray for each other before you finish up!