

# Application

As you continue to dig into the idea of “church,” we invite you to take an adventure this week and try on different expressions of worship as you preoccupy yourself with God. But first, an inventory...

Consider your heart when it comes to worship. How would you fare if a “worship diagnostic test” was conducted on your heart?

What is some negative baggage you carry concerning worship?

When have you felt the closest to God that you’ve ever been?  
What were the circumstances of that time?

How would you define “worship” to a friend?

In what ways do you worship in your everyday life right now?

## Some Practical Steps:

We encourage you to continue on in the goal of reading your Bible every day. The Book of Acts would be a great companion to this series.

Swing by the Christian bookstore or go online this week and buy a worship album. Play it in the car or listen as you workout. Some of my favorite worship artists are *Shane and Shane*, *Matt Redman*, *Andrew Peterson* and *Hillsong United*. Find something new and lift up your heart to God.

Below are six passages that would be great to read and meditate on each day this week (Monday - Saturday). As you read, ask 3 simple questions:

- ◆ What does this passage teach me about God?
- ◆ What does this passage teach me about me?
- ◆ What does this passage teach me about worship?

**Exodus 14:30-15:21**

**Exodus 24:1-18**

**Psalms 96 and 97**

**Isaiah 6:1-8**

**Revelation 4:1-5:14**

**Church(ology)**  
a biblical study of God's design for the body of Christ

Church(ology)

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# Why Worship?

John 4:3-26

## For Further Study

Worship is a difficult thing to discuss. On the one hand, everyone in the world does it...and I mean *everyone*. On the other, few of us know how to express the idea of worship in words.

Without exaggeration, there is perhaps no other subject except God himself, that gets more Biblical square footage in verses, passages and whole books than the subject of worship. See the application section on the back for some great passages to read in your private time with God this week.

**John 4** is a passage that must be included (near the top of the list) in any systematic discussion on worship. It is directed teaching on worship from the mouth of Jesus. For more of the chapter context for **John 4** see the sermon for 10/11/09 on our website under Messages.

**4:3-19**—This portion of the conversation covers several critical topics that are central to the gospel of John. The discomfort of the conversation leads the Samaritan woman to (very likely) change the subject to worship. Jesus happily obliges in **4:20-24**, verses crucial to our biblical concept of worship.

**4:21**—Notice a time “is coming” in this verse. Then in **4:23**, a time “is coming and now is.” The point here is that Jesus’ incarnation (*God becoming flesh and bone*) and Jesus’ passion (*trial, death, burial and resurrection*) transform human worship for all time. See **4:26** and the aftermath in **4:39ff**.

**4:23-24**—“Spirit and truth” describe authentic and accurate worship. Notice that location, dedication or knowledge does not make worship true. Jesus teaches that worship is not self-validating. It is only true if it has a true object. And the only true object is the only true, triune God.

“Spirit” here does not refer to the Holy Spirit, but more “spiritual.”

God’s nature is spirit and we must worship him in spirit, with our heart’s invisible affections. “Truth” refers to God’s design for worship, revealed in His Word and Christ. True worship is Word-centered and Word-defined.

Both the OT and NT offer great insight into true worship.

- Worship is not optional for believers. Worship is the center of life.  
**Ex 20:2-6; Psalm 22; 99; Rom 12:1; Phil 3:3; etc.**
- Worship is primarily a community practice. It happens in the assembly.  
**Acts 2:42-47; 1 Cor 11-12; Heb 10:19-25; Rev 5:14; 7:11; etc.**
- Worship often involves singing joyfully to God. (It also includes prayer, the Lord’s Supper, service, witness and other creative expressions.)  
**Phil 2:6-11; Col 3:16; Book of Psalms; etc.**
- Worship always includes the Word of God. It flows out of the gospel.  
**Luke 24:13-35; Acts 2:42; Col 1:3-8; 1 Tim 4:13; etc.**



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