

## Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of January 17, 2016

John 4:21-24

*These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.*

*Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.*

### **New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

<sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.

<sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

### **New Living Translation (NLT)**

<sup>21</sup> Jesus replied, “Believe me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem.

<sup>22</sup> You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes through the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. <sup>24</sup> For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.”

### **Connection Questions:**

1. What does worship mean to you personally? What is the significance of corporate worship?

2. Jim Stuart, in his book, *Voices, the State of the Economy, Fast Company*, says when he learned to trust the leadership around him, his team became so high-performing that they could almost walk through walls. How could his analogy help us understand the importance of learning to trust God with our lives?
  
3. How does worship help in building trust in our relationship with God?
  
4. Read John 4 aloud and discuss why you think it was unusual for Jesus to talk at a public well to a Samaritan woman who had been married numerous times.
  
5. Jesus tells this woman, "...we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him." For Jesus, what was the difference between worship in the Jewish faith and worshipping in spirit and truth?

6. Knowing the division between Samaritans and Jews, why do you think the Samaritan woman still listened to Jesus' words?
  
7. Why after the conversation Jesus has with this woman does she question whether he is the Messiah or not?
  
8. Our text from John is an indicator that God seeks us out and is in love with us before we are even aware of his presence. If you agree with this statement, discuss how this happens through Jesus' encounter with this woman.
  
9. Rev. David Adkins mentioned in his sermon Mark Tuttle, a church member, making the statement that when he missed Sunday morning worship service, his life felt out of balance the following week. What is it about regular worship attendance that assists you in growing in our relationship with God?