

Session Four Worship Engagement

The Purpose: To become authentically engaged worshipers who see the value of participation. God invites us to participate personally, corporately as a church, and in ways that engage in all of life. Engaged worshipers come to worship eagerly asking, "What can I bring to God today?" instead of "What can I get out of worship today?"

1. Describe a hobby or activity that you enthusiastically embrace and enjoy. What about that hobby engaged your total person?

Jesus calls out true worshipers as people who worship in Spirit and truth. In John 4: 23-24 Jesus says, *"Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is Spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."*

2. How do the two essential components Jesus mentions, the Holy Spirit and truth help us to more fully engage in worship?

Jesus also warns of the danger of not being fully engaged in worship. He says in Matthew 15: 7-9, *"You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.'"*

3. Describe what it looks like to try to worship God without engaging your heart?

Jesus tells us that true worshipers engage in worship in very personal and intimate ways. In Matthew 11: 28-30 Jesus says, *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

4. Identify all the action words in Jesus' invitation to engage with Him personally. What does it look like for you to engage personally in worship?

5. We are also called to gather together to engage in worship corporately. Take a few minutes to divide the following list of Scriptures between your group members and study them. Share the types of corporate worship activities in the passages. Why is it important to God and to us that we engage in each of these types of worship activities together?

Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16
1st Timothy 4:13
1st Timothy 2: 1-2, 8
Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-34
Hebrews 10: 24-25

6. Engaging in worship also means engaging seven-days-a-week, in all of life. Paul says this in Romans 12:1: *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."*

7. What does it mean to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice? What would it look like to engage as a living sacrifice at your work, as a parent or spouse, as a neighbor, or an involved person in the church? What might need to change in your life to be an engaged worshiper in all of life?

8. Imagine what your church would look like if people asked each other after the corporate worship service, "What did I bring to worship today?" instead of asking, "What did I get out of worship today?" How might we prepare our hearts in advance to engage in corporate worship?

9. How might your community group help each of you become more engaged worshipers? How might CPC help each of you become more engaged worshipers?