

3rd week of January
Jesus Taught True Worship

- **Text:** John 4:21~24 (January 12 text)
- **Bottom line:** True worshippers worship God in spirit and truth.

≡ 1. Prayer

God, we have gathered to worship you. Help us Listen to Your Word, understand what You want us to live for, and obey You.

≡ 2. Praise

(Worship and praise) 내 눈 주의 영광을 보네

≡ 3. The Word

Read John 4:21~24 together (read the verse three times).

* Reading the text over and over again in different translations will help us to deepen our understanding of the material.

<ESV>

²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

<NASB>

²¹ Jesus *said* to her, "Believe Me, woman, that a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You *Samaritans* worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But a time is coming, and even now has arrived, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks *to be* His worshipers. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Understanding Text

Jesus met a woman in Samaria, a place where Jews were reluctant. When the woman asked about the "place" of worship, Jesus replied that it was time to truly worship the Father. Worship is more about the relationship with God than the location. Those who believe in Jesus and have a restored relationship with God can truly worship Him in spirit and truth.

□ Understanding the text for leaders

The Jews didn't get along well with the Samaritans. After the destruction of northern Israel in 722 B.C., Gentiles came to live in Samaria, and many people of mixed race were created. The Jews believed that Samaria had lost its faith, so they discriminated against the people who lived there and excluded them from all religious observances. The Samaritans were also dissatisfied with this attitude, and they had friction with the Jews as they passed through Samaria. The Jews deliberately chose to go back to another place, even though passing through Samaria was the fastest way to get between Jerusalem and Galilee. In such a situation, Jesus deliberately passed through Samaria. And in the Samaritan region, He met a woman at a well in Suga City. The Samaritan woman was unfamiliar with Jesus, a Jewish man, asking her to talk to her. But as she continued to have a serious conversation with Jesus, she realized that Jesus was special, so she asked a question that she had in her heart. It's about the place of worship. But Jesus answered the question of "when" to worship, not the place of worship that the woman was curious about. In other words, the time has come to truly worship God, not Mount Gerizim, where the Samaritans worshipped, or Jerusalem, which the Jews insisted on. It's because I can worship God directly through Jesus. He taught us that the Jews and Samaritans used to worship based on place and appearance, but now through Jesus, they can communicate with God, who is Spirit, in spirit and truth, and offer the true worship that He wants.

4. Sharing

1) What did Jesus teach us about true worship? (Verses 23~24)

■ Upper Grades

What is the right way to worship God? (verse 24).

■ Lower Grades

How did Jesus say that those who worship God should worship? (verse 24).

□ Question Guide

Share what it means to worship in spirit and truth to be true worship. We can take a hint from Jesus' words, "You worship what you do not know, but we worship what we know" (verse 22). Explain that it means that you are able to know and worship God correctly through Jesus, whom God has sent.

□ Comments for Leaders

The woman, who thought that Jesus was a special prophet, asked the most important question of the Jewish people's grievances and concerns: "Where should we worship the truth?" I asked about The Jews insisted that the only true worship was to worship in the temple in Jerusalem, and the Samaritans accused the worship on Mount Gerizim as false worship. But Jesus said they worship something they didn't know. In order to worship the true worship that God wants, we must believe that Jesus, whom God has sent, is our Savior, and we must restore our relationship with God through Jesus, who became the propitiation. Only then can we truly worship God as He wants us to be. In other words, worshipping in spirit and truth means that the children who have been saved through faith in Jesus know who God is and what He wants. When we believe in Jesus, we can know what God is like and worship Him as He wants us to be.

2) Look back on what kind of heart and how you worship on a daily basis, and share what you need to change.

■ **Upper Grades**

Look back on how you used to worship and tell us what needs to change.

■ **Lower Grades**

Am I doing a good job of worshipping without messing around during worship time? How does God want me to worship?

□ **Question Guide**

When I worship God, what God pays the most attention to is my heart and attitude of devotion. Check how each of you worships not only on Sundays, but also on every day and share what is distracting you from worship. And think about how God will be pleased when you worship.

□ **Comments for Leaders**

Worshipping in spirit and truth means that children who have been saved through faith in Jesus know God and worship Him with sincerity. Worship the way I want to do it can't please God. It seems to be the same form of worship every time, but we should always prepare and worship with the first heart, thinking of God who meets us with unchanging love. If you have a desire to meet God personally and to be His joy, think about how you will be different when you come to worship. Remind them that family worship is also worship to God, and encourage each other to participate in home worship with a prepared heart.

≡ **5. Be grateful**

Thank Jesus for opening the way for us to truly worship God.

≡ **6. Prayer**

God, we want to know you correctly and worship you through Jesus. Let us be worshippers who please You, who is Spirit, with all our heart, mind, and strength.

- End the family worship service with the "Lord's Prayer"
