

Deep Practice Discipleship Guide

Text: John 4:16–26

Theme: Worship in Spirit and in Truth

1. Share — Checking In Together

Invitation:

Let's begin by sharing how we did with our deep practice commitment from last week. Be honest and real—this is not about perfection but about progress and practice.

- What did you commit to last week?
- How did it go? What was challenging? What was encouraging?
- How can we support one another as we keep practicing discipleship?

(Encourage brief sharing from each participant. Remind the group this is about accountability, encouragement, and grace.)

2. Learn — Exploring the Sunday Sermon

Sermon Outline: Worship in Spirit and in Truth (John 4:16–26)

Hook

- Story of the woman at the well who turns the conversation to worship.
- Samaritan woman: “Where’s the right place?”
 - Oftentimes, people’s question today: *What church do I go to?*
- Jesus reframes: not where, but who, how, why.

Head — Understanding the Text

1. Where Do I Worship? (vv. 19–22)

- Woman: Gerizim vs Jerusalem
- Jesus: Not about place, but the Father revealed in Him
- → Worship anywhere — God is spirit

2. How Do I Worship? (vv. 23–24)

- **In Spirit**

- Spirit = our God-ward capacity
- Deeper than emotions — core of who we are
- Like a radio receiver — spirit tunes us to God
- Spiritual ≠ emotional
 - Emotional fades; spiritual transforms
 - Emotional: “Did I feel?” / Spiritual: “Did I honor God?”

- **In Truth**

- Truth as facts — rooted in who God is
- Truth as Person — Jesus is the truth (John 14:6)
- Truth as authenticity — honest, real, not performance

3. **Why Do I Worship? (vv. 23, 25–26)**

- Woman waits for Messiah → Jesus: “I am he”
- Father is seeking worshipers
- → Worship = response of our spirit to God’s worth

Summary Statement

“Not a sacred place, but a sacred posture — our spirit tuned to God in Spirit and truth.”

Heart — Why It Matters

- God is seeking you — not for performance, but for your heart
 - Not polish. Not perfection.
 - The woman brought her thirsty heart — Jesus met her there
 - God wants your heart — honest, open, surrendered, ready to receive Him

Hands — Living It Out

- **Examine:** Is my spirit engaged?
- **Practice daily:** Scripture, prayer, obedience
- **Engage weekly:** with others in community worship

3. Discussion — Bloom’s Taxonomy Questions

Remembering (Knowledge):

- What did Jesus say about where true worship should take place?
- What words or phrases did Jesus use to describe how we are to worship?

Understanding (Comprehension):

- How would you explain the difference between emotional worship and spiritual worship to someone else?
- What does it mean that worship is “not a place but a posture”?

Applying (Application):

- How can you check whether your worship is rooted in Spirit and Truth rather than just feelings?
- What practices could help you tune your “spiritual receiver” more consistently to God?

Analyzing (Analysis):

- Compare the Samaritan woman’s view of worship with Jesus’ teaching. What are the key differences?
- How does Jesus’ identity as the Messiah change the entire conversation about worship?

Evaluating (Evaluation):

- Do you think most Christians today focus more on “where” and “how” we worship or on “who” we worship? Why?
- What dangers do you see in focusing too much on the external aspects of worship?

Creating (Synthesis):

- If you were to describe “worship in Spirit and truth” to a new believer, what short phrase or illustration would you use?
- What new ways could you bring Spirit and Truth into your daily or weekly worship rhythms?

4. Storying Exercise

Scripture Passage: Isaiah 6:1–8 — Isaiah’s vision of God’s holiness and his response.

Tell the Story:

Read Isaiah 6:1–8 aloud slowly. Then, as a group, retell the story in your own words without looking at the passage. Fill in details together until the story feels complete.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Isaiah’s vision of God’s holiness shape his understanding of worship?
 2. What parallels do you see between Isaiah’s response (“Here am I, send me”) and Jesus’ teaching about worship in John 4?
 3. What does this story teach us about the posture of our hearts when we worship?
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5. Live — Commitment Writing Exercise

Take a few quiet minutes to write down your **deep practice commitment for this week**.

- It may be continuing last week’s practice, or something new from today’s discussion.
 - Be specific: What will you do? How often? When?
 - After writing, share your commitment briefly with the group for encouragement and accountability.
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6. Prayer Prompt

Close with prayer. You may pray in pairs or as a group. Use this prompt to guide your prayers:

- Thank God that He seeks us, not for our performance, but for our hearts.
- Ask God to tune our spirits to Him in Spirit and Truth.
- Pray for courage to live out our commitments this week with honesty and faith.