Questions for Reflection:

1. What competes with God for first place in your heart? What would it look like to trust him with that part of your life?
2. When we gather for worship, are you listening to God and responding to him? What could help you participate more thoughtfully in prayer, singing, and hearing his Word?

Positive Prescription	Scriptural Data	
Read the Word	"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom" (Colossians 3:16)	"Devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching" (1 Timothy 4:13)
Preach the Word	"The word of God is… useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16–17)	"Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort." (2 Timothy 4:2)
Pray the Word	"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people." (1 Timothy 2:1)	"Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)
Sing the Word	"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." (Colossians 3:16)	"Addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart." (Ephesians 5:19)
See the Word (ordinances)	"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit…" (Matthew 28:19)	"This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me….This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood." (Luke 22:19–20)

"God is at the Center of Christian Worship"

November 1, 2026

Sermon Text: John 4:19-26

Main Truth: Christian Worship is God-centered and God-directed.

Main Questions of Leviticus: How can sinful people live in the presence of a holy God?

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3 Aspects about Christian Worship

1. The Father Seeks Worshipers *(John 4:23)*

What is worship?

Worship is our response to God's revealed **worth**, honoring him with our hearts, words, and lives.

We were **made** for worship, and we are **saved** for worship.

*Consider***:** What do I find hardest to entrust to God?

Worship throughout the Bible:

Creation → Fall → Israel and the sanctuary → Jesus Christ → The nations → New creation

Sinners need the sacrifice God provides, the mediator he appoints, and the instructions he gives, because the God who welcomes us is **Holy**.

Ephesians 2:18, "*For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father*."

We come to the **Father**, through the **Son**, by the **Spirit**.

John Piper, "*Missions exists because worship doesn't*."

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2. The Word Shapes Our Worship *(John 4:24)*

Revealed Truth

Those who worship God must worship in **spirit** and **truth**.

Having strong **feelings** does not necessarily mean we are worshiping God.

Revealed Directions

The regulative principle of worship: Our acts of corporate worship must be **positively prescribed** in Scripture.

Our guiding question: What has God told us will honor him?

Liturgical Flow

God **speaks**; we **respond**.

The conversation always begins with **God**.

*Consider***:** When we pray, am I praying? When Scripture corrects me, am I willing to receive it?

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3. Our Lives Show His Worth *(Romans 12:1-2)*

We worship **gathered** and **scattered**.

Everyday worship: Asking forgiveness at home, telling the truth at work, turning from private sin, and trusting God in suffering.

*Consider***:** Does my life agree with what I sing?

We respond by confessing our sin, receiving God's grace, and **obeying** what we have heard.

We gather to **declare** his worth, and we scatter to **display** his worth.

My response this week: Where is God's Word calling me to trust or obey him?