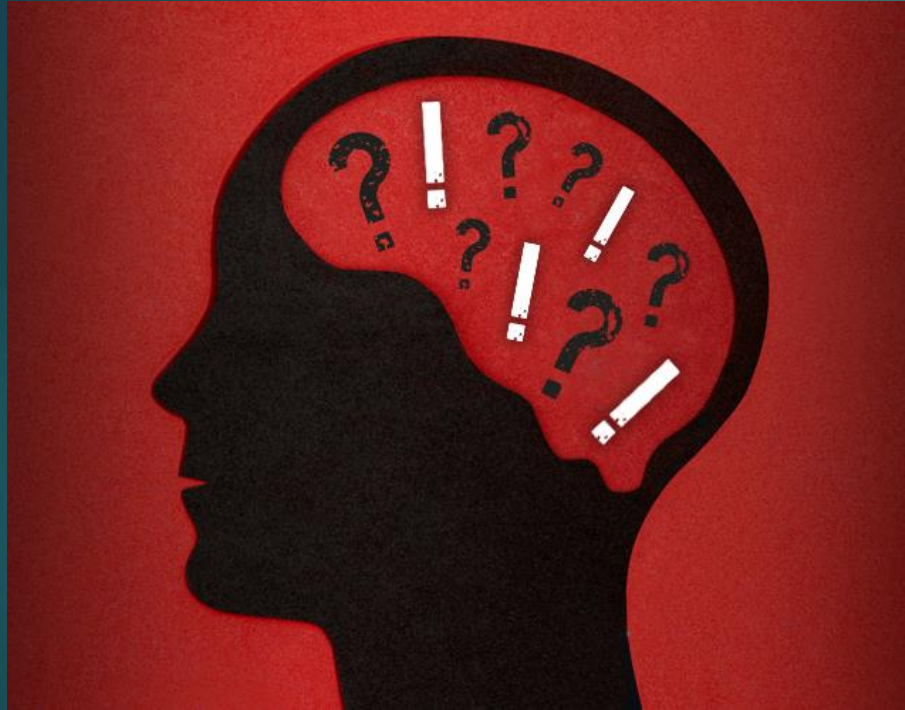




Called to Worship

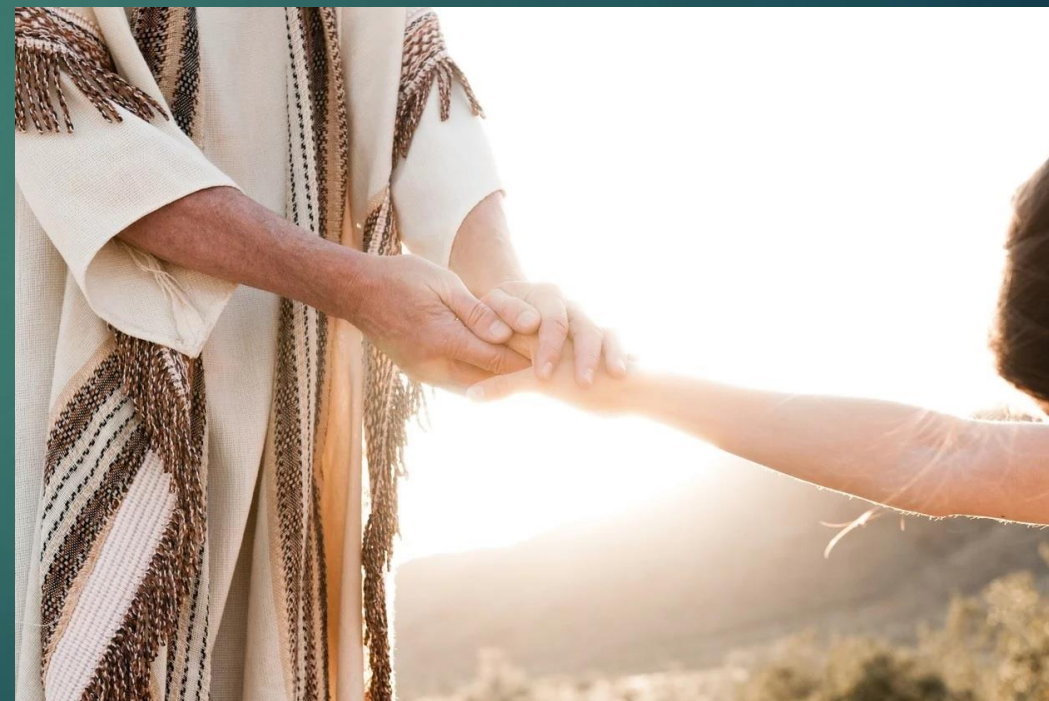
JOHN 4: 1-28, 39-42

What do you think worship is?



- ▶ Songs
- ▶ Services
- ▶ Liturgy/Sacraments
- ▶ Scripture reading
- ▶ Exposition
- ▶ Prayer
- ▶?

What do you notice?



What happened next?

Her response

- ▶ Could this be the Messiah?
- ▶ Shared the revelation
- ▶ “Come and see” – her worship
- ▶ Others open to Jesus – recognise him as the Saviour

Jesus' response

- ▶ My food is to do the will of the Father – his worship
- ▶ People are more open than you think!



Living water

Eph 3:16 I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. ¹⁷Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong.... ¹⁹May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.



Worship words in the Bible

- ▶ Hebrew – *Todah* – thanksgiving
- ▶ Greek – *proskuneo* – reverence
- ▶ *Latreuo* – service/minister to God
- ▶ *Sebomai* – respect
- ▶ Old English – *weorpscipe* – honour
worthiness – you are worth it!



Image of God

Col 1:15 The Son is the image of the invisible God¹⁹For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things.

Heb 1:3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.



Imago Dei – in us



- ▶ Gen 1:27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Free-will choice

- Love, fellowship
- Rejection/estrangement



Toxic images of God

- ▶ Celestial policeman; a God who punishes
- ▶ Demanding
- ▶ Exclusive
- ▶ Unsympathetic – distant; Too busy to care
- ▶ Abusive, angry bully
- ▶ Unreliable/superficial
- ▶ Abandoning
- ▶ Narcissist
- ▶ Issues of gender



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- ▶ Issues of gender
- ▶ Family history
- ▶ Negative childhood experiences
- ▶ Distortions from faith community
- ▶ Failure to answer prayer
- ▶ Culture – dominance of patriarchy
- ▶ Religious experiences
- ▶ Representation in art
- ▶ Traumatic life events

What does Matt 5:48 mean!

- ▶ NIV says “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”
- ▶ Matt 5:48 “Therefore you all will be complete, even as your Father in heaven is complete.”
 - ▶ Berean Literal
 - ▶ New King James
 - ▶ New American Standard
 - ▶ Legacy Standard
 - ▶ Amplified
 - ▶ Literal Standard
 - ▶ World English

Confirmed elsewhere!

- ▶ Rom 8: 29 - “being conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters “
- ▶ In Jn 17:20 Jesus speaks of us being “one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. “
- ▶ Phil 1: 6...I am confident that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.
- ▶ Phil 3:12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

Healing our images of God

- ▶ Invitation by the God who is Love.
- ▶ 1 Jn 4:16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.
- ▶ Lk 4:18 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”



Positive images of God in the Bible

- ▶ Shepherd
- ▶ Mother/Father
- ▶ Counsellor



- ▶ Comforter/Compassionate
- ▶ Saviour
- ▶ Healer
- ▶ Light
- ▶ Refuge/Rock
- ▶ Servant King

Why Worship?



In the meantime....

- ▶ Progressive transformation as we focus on Jesus
- ▶ 2 Cor 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
- ▶ Then worship will just “happen” naturally.

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.



2 Corinthians 3:18