



TEACH IT COFFEEHOUSE SESSION 4

1. Materials

For this session each student will need—

- his or her own Bible
- optional: the student journal page for Session 4 (Using the student journal page is optional in the coffeehouse setting since table space will be limited.)

You'll also need—

- a pack of pencils with erasers
- optional: a few spare Bibles for students who've forgotten theirs

2. Session Intro

GOALS OF SESSION 4

As students experience this session, they will—

- examine the details of a dialogue between Jesus and a Samaritan woman.
- discover the kind of worshiper for whom God is looking.
- be challenged to become that kind of worshiper.

PRAYER

To help your group members prepare their hearts, read aloud the verses from Habakkuk below. Share that it's easy to let things we can see (the physical) rather than what we can't see (the spiritual) shape our worship. Ask the Lord to open their spiritual eyes to the worship he desires through this study in John 4.

“Woe to him who says to wood, ‘Come to life!’ Or to lifeless stone, ‘Wake up!’ Can it give guidance? It is covered with gold and silver; there is no breath in it. But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him.” (Habakkuk 2:19-20)

OPEN

Distractions

Before you dive in, ask a few questions about distractions.

What are some things that can distract you when you're trying to—

- study?
- drive?
- take a test?

Then ask the question below, and let the group brainstorm 10 to 12 ideas.

What are some things that can distract you when you're trying to worship?

-hunger

-a busy schedule

-the temperature of the room

- daydreaming
- friends talking
- mistakes in the church bulletin or worship folder


Transition into the study with a statement like this:

Our physical surroundings have a way of crowding out our spiritual needs. That's why it's so easy to get distracted when we worship.

3. Digging In

Testing the Waters

Tell the group—

1. **Read John 4:1-15 using your Bibles. As you read, mark every mention of water with an ocean wave . It will help if you distinguish between physical water (the woman's type of water) and spiritual water (Jesus' water).**
2. **If you are hesitant about marking in your Bibles, write lightly so you can erase the markings later. If you're still not comfortable with it, that's okay. Just eyeball the passage and remember any info about physical and spiritual water.**

When most students have finished, ask—

What do we learn about Jesus' water in this passage?

- Jesus gives it (v. 10).
- It's living (v. 10).
- If you drink it, you'll never thirst again (v. 14).
- It will become a spring that wells up into eternal life (v. 14).

Then ask—

To what extent did the woman understand Jesus' living water?

After some discussion, draw their attention to verse 15. The woman understood what physical water was, and she wanted some because she was tired of bringing her bucket to the well. But she didn't quite get the idea of "living" water.


Remember our brainstorming session at the beginning? How does what we listed earlier relate to this conversation between Jesus and the woman?

Remind the students about the things they said distracted them from worship. Guide them to the idea that we can get so caught up in physical things that we miss the spiritual gift Jesus wants to give us.

4. Digging Deeper

This Just In

Ask students to read John 4:15-26 and, as they read have them—

Draw a cross  over every word for Jesus, including words such as you, him, he, and I.

Then ask—

Take a second to put yourself in this woman's shoes. When she first encountered Jesus, how did she view Jesus?

How did her view change as the conversation went along?

Did you notice that as the woman listened to Jesus, she couldn't seem to break free from a *physical* mindset, even though Jesus was talking about *spiritual* things? In what ways are you like this woman? What are some ways *physical* things distract you from *spiritual* things?

What did Jesus teach the woman about worship?

If you're using the optional student journal pages, have students record their responses under Digging Deeper.

-True worshipers worship the Father in spirit and truth (v. 23).

-The Father seeks this kind of worshiper (v. 23).

-God is spirit; his worshipers must worship him in spirit and truth (v. 24).

5. Taking It Inward

The Truth of Worship

Help students process their experience in Scripture by asking these questions:

Look back at John 4:23. What kind of people is God seeking?

He is seeking those who worship him in spirit and truth.

When you come to church for worship, what things are usually on your mind?

The opposite of worshipping *in spirit* is worshipping *in the physical realm*. Which do you think our group (or church) does more—worship in the physical realm or the spiritual realm? Why?

If God desires people who worship him in spirit and in truth, why do you think many churches and youth groups experience “dry” worship?

When people are worshipping in the physical realm, they're on a road that will never intersect with what God wants. They need living water to cure their dry worship!

Speaking of truth, what was the ultimate truth Jesus conveyed to the Samaritan woman? (Hint: See John 4:25-26.)

He is the Messiah.

How does this revelation relate to what Jesus taught the woman about worship?

Point out to your students that to “worship in truth” means to worship in authenticity and sincerity. But true worship must also entail recognizing Jesus as the Messiah—anything less than that isn't authentic worship and may simply be a form of “playing church.”

6. Wrapping It Up

Jesus-Style Worship

After you read each question below, have students write responses on a restaurant napkin or on their journal pages that will remind them of what God said to them during this session.

How can you change your worship habits so that you worship God in the way he's seeking—in spirit and in truth?

Jesus wasn't just referring to Sunday-morning worship, but to a lifestyle of worship. What can you change in order to worship *daily* in spirit and in truth?

Ask any volunteers to share their insights. Discuss setting a time when the group can practice worshipping in spirit and in truth. It doesn't have to be elaborate (with a band, lighting, etc.). In fact, it's better to keep it simple and free of distractions. Maybe you could gather at a nearby park, or you could meet in the basement or great room of a student's home. Commit to making it a time of distraction-free, sincere worship.

