

WE WILL WORSHIP THE LORD

unit 7 | session 5



CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus said one day people would worship Him in “Spirit and in truth” ([John 4:23](#)). Because of Jesus’s sacrifice and the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, we can worship Him all the time and anywhere. True worship is a posture of the heart paired with appropriate obedience.

HALF-HEARTED WORSHIP

This week, we're covering the passages and main points below. But we encourage you to dig in and read all of the content on this timeline.

Joshua 23—Joshua 24

GOD IS WORTHY OF OUR FULL WORSHIP

JOSHUA 24:14-18

14 “Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. 15 And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” 16 Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods, 17 for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed. 18 And the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

OUR WORSHIP INCLUDES OBEDIENCE

JOSHUA 24:19-25

19 But Joshua said to the people, “You are not able to serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. 20 If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good.” 21 And the people said to Joshua, “No, but we will serve the LORD.” 22 Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” 23 He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your heart to the LORD, the God of Israel.” 24 And the people said to Joshua, “The LORD our God we will serve, and his voice we will obey.” 25 So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and put in place statutes and rules for them at Shechem.

MAIN POINT.

True worship can't happen without our obedience.



THEOLOGY CONNECTION

WORSHIP

While many reduce worship to an event or the singing of worship songs, worship is first and foremost something of the heart and extends to all areas of life. The aim and focus of worship is God, giving Him the praise and adoration He deserves. Worship should be carried out at a personal level within a Christian's life and at a community level by joining other Christians in the corporate act of worship and stewarding our gifts for the glory of God. Corporate worship serves to edify and strengthen other Christians, but it also serves as a witness to non-believers of the greatness of God.

DISCUSSION

GOD IS WORTHY OF OUR FULL WORSHIP

JOSHUA 24:14-18

- 📖 • What does it mean to do something halfway? How do we fall into this type of worship?
- What keeps us from taking a stand like Joshua did to live for God even if others don't (v. 15)?
- ♥ • Israel's legacy was marked by idolatry. What needs to change so that modern believers leave a legacy of wholehearted worship?

OUR WORSHIP INCLUDES OBEDIENCE

JOSHUA 24:19-25

- Look at verse 19. What about Joshua's response is confusing to you? What was he really saying?
- ✝ • Joshua called for Israel's obedience. How can any of us obey God?
- 👤 • Can we worship God without obeying Him? How does our understanding of worship and obedience need to change?



WHAT EVIDENCE SHOWS THAT YOU'RE WORSHIPING GOD THROUGH OBEDIENCE? HOW COULD THIS ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO THE SAME?

CULTURAL CONNECTION

How much of your social media life is superficial? How much of what you show to the world is real? We're really good at managing the perceptions people have of us. We control what kind of content we share; we control what pictures we post. Often, we only post the highs and not the lows. We showcase one side of a story. We can spin an event to look laid back and fun even though it may have been boring or stressful. We may be struggling with loneliness, but online, we appear to be surrounded by friends and good times. We create a fake reality online. If we're not careful, we do this with our faith too. We know how to manage perceptions: We look the part or say the right words, but in our hearts, we're far from God. We raise our hands in worship, but we walk in disobedience to our God. God calls us higher. He demands real, authentic faith. We can't manage our Maker's perception of us because He knows us, inside and out (1 Sam. 16:7).



DAY ONE

REVELATION 3:15-20

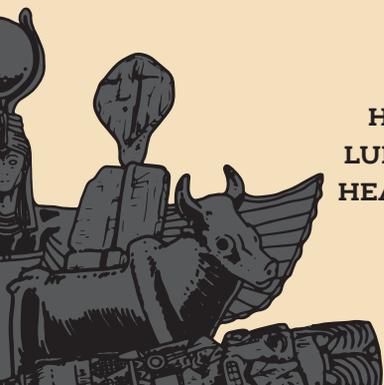
Certain foods are better hot, while others are better cold. For instance, ice cream should be cold, right? While something like lasagna is best served hot. Some of us would argue that pizza could go either way! Regardless, most of us want our food to be the appropriate temperature, and this doesn't typically mean lukewarm.

If something is lukewarm, then it's neither hot nor cold. It's just somewhere in the middle. This week, we talked about attempting to worship God in a half-hearted way. In reality, it's not really possible. Worship in itself means that we're bowing before God and lifting Him high. It means we're giving Him glory, and if we're doing that, then we can't take any for ourself. In the passage today, God spoke to the church at Laodicea, but His words could so easily apply to a lot of us. We become apathetic in our relationship with God, in our worship toward God, and in the way we serve God. Our love for Him becomes lukewarm—neither hot nor cold. God's response to this? He isn't satisfied with only half our heart. He wants our entire heart. And He's the only One worthy of it. Live your life in such a way that it belong entirely to God. Let your love for Him be so complete that it overflows onto everything you say and do.

- **IN WHAT AREAS OF YOUR LIFE ARE YOU LIVING LUKEWARM?**
- **HOW CAN YOU TAKE STEPS TO LIVE WHOLEHEARTEDLY FOR GOD INSTEAD OF LIVING LIKE YOU'RE LUKEWARM?**

PRAY

GOD, I'M SORRY FOR THE TIMES I'VE LIVED HALFHEARTEDLY FOR YOU. I DON'T WANT TO BE LUKEWARM; I WANT TO LOVE YOU WITH MY ENTIRE HEART. I WANT MY LIFE TO REFLECT THAT I BELONG TO YOU ENTIRELY.





DAY TWO

PSALM 86:11-13

Have you ever had a difficult time making your mind up about something? Maybe you couldn't decide what sport you wanted to play. Maybe you couldn't decide whether to date someone or not. Maybe you couldn't decide on something really serious, like whether to live with your mom or your dad after a divorce. It's likely that your mind and heart were divided—torn in two. You may have even made a list of pros and cons to help you decide.

A lot of us have experienced the feeling of being divided. Sometimes, we even feel this way about following Jesus. Here's the thing: we often struggle with our devotion to Him. Our hearts and minds are constantly attracted to lesser things. And what happens when we face whether to really give our time, attention, and devotion to God or to something else, we often choose something else. In this psalm, David seemed to acknowledge the same struggle. He asked God to help him have an undivided heart and mind. This struggle is real, but we can ask God for help. We can ask Him to help our minds be solely devoted to Him—every thought, all of our worry, all of our beliefs. We can ask for help for our hearts too—for all of our love and devotion to belong to God. It is a daily surrender to give God our entire heart and our entire mind. It won't happen overnight, and it won't happen without discipline. But we can hand them over to the Lord daily, as often as it takes.

- **IN WHAT WAYS IS YOUR MIND DIVIDED? YOUR HEART?**
- **WHY DOES IT MATTER FOR GOD TO HAVE YOUR ENTIRE MIND AND HEART?**

PRAY

GOD, I GIVE YOU MY ENTIRE MIND AND HEART. I KNOW I'LL NEED TO DO THIS EVERY DAY. I WANT ALL MY THOUGHTS TO CENTER ON YOU, AND I WANT MY HEART TO BE DEVOTED TO YOU ONLY.



DAY THREE

JOHN 4:21-26

How would you define worship? Is it singing? Raising your hands to a song? Praying? There are a lot of opinions about what worship is and what it should look like. This was true during biblical times too. Jesus made a strong statement about worship when He talked with a Samaritan woman at a well. Jews looked down on Samaritans, viewing them as half-breeds who took part in pagan traditions. The Samaritans felt that the temple in Jerusalem and the priesthood were illegitimate. So, it's even more important to look closely at what Jesus said to this woman.

Jesus said a time would come when people wouldn't simply worship God in the temple or in some other location deemed appropriate by humans. A time was coming when people from all over the world would worship God "in spirit and truth." In fact, Jesus said the Father wants people who will worship Him in this way. What does worshiping in spirit and truth look like? True worship isn't confined to a certain place. As believers, we are the temple of the Holy Spirit: He lives within us, and everywhere we go is a place of worship. Everything we do can be an act of worship if we're pointing to God. To worship God in truth means we truly know Him. We worship God for who He is, as revealed in the Word. Worshiping God in spirit—with our whole heart and devotion—and in truth—with our whole mind—is how we offer God the worship He deserves.

- **WHEN HAVE YOU STRUGGLED TO WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH?**
- **IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU SEE THAT MODERN BELIEVERS SOMETIMES MISDIRECT OUR WORSHIP?**

PRAY

GOD, I CONFESS I DON'T ALWAYS WORSHIP YOU IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH. I WANT TO WORSHIP YOU THROUGH MY DAILY LIFE. I WANT MY HEART TO BELONG TO YOU AND TO KNOW YOU BETTER THROUGH YOUR WORD.



DAY FOUR

JOEL 2:12-13

Think of a time when you got into an argument with someone you cared about, like a friend or family member. Over time, you hopefully came to a place of peace with this person. To restore the relationship, you likely came together and discussed the situation. For reconciliation to happen, you may have had to make some changes. For restoration to happen, it likely took more than just apologetic words; it took action.

When we sin, we create distance between us and God. It hurts our relationship with Him. Repentance brings reconciliation, but when we repent, it often means that we must make some changes too. In these verses, the prophet Joel spoke to God's people during a time of devastation, when locusts had destroyed the land. The prophet urged them to return to the Lord, but he told them not to simply tear their clothing—which was usually an act of grief, lament, and repentance—but to tear their hearts. In other words, Joel said to bring their hearts to God—their inner motives, their devotion, their true repentance—rather than just doing what looked like repentance. We sometimes attempt to fix our relationship with God on our own by looking the part, by doing all the right things. But if we don't bring Him our hearts, then repentance can't take place. We'd just be bringing empty words. Instead, we must bring our brokenness and shame before the Lord and allow Him to give us a clean heart in return.

- **WHEN HAVE YOU TRIED TO REPAIR DISTANCE BETWEEN YOU AND GOD WITHOUT TRULY REPENTING?**
- **HOW CAN YOU NOT ONLY BRING GOD YOUR RIGHT ACTIONS BUT ALSO YOUR HEART?**

PRAY

GOD, I REPENT OF MY SIN. I KNOW I CAN'T BE IN A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU UNLESS I AM HONEST WITH YOU ABOUT MY SIN. I KNOW YOU WANT MY HEART MORE THAN MY RIGHT ACTIONS.



DAY FIVE

REVELATION 2:2-5

New friendships and relationships are often exciting and fun. We tend to try harder in the beginning. We're more willing to devote our time and to be less selfish. The beginning is just special. The verses in today's reading were directed at another church in Ephesus. They were doing all the right things in many ways: they exhibited works for the Lord, hated evil, tested those who claimed to be apostles, and endured hardship. But the one thing God found against them? They had lost their love for Him. They were outwardly doing all the right things, but inwardly, they weren't in love with the Lord like they were in the beginning.

We can outwardly do all the right things too. We can sing, lift our hands, and pray beautiful prayers out loud, but if we don't have love for God, then these actions are meaningless (1 Cor. 13:1-3). What does God tell the people of Ephesus to do? He told them to repent and "do the works you did at first" (v. 5). When we first come to know Christ, we're often more zealous. We're more committed. It's new, and we are overwhelmed with love and appreciation for Jesus's sacrifice. But over time, these feelings wear off. It all somehow becomes commonplace. What can we do? Do the things you did in beginning. Faithfully get back into God's Word. Spend time in prayer. Spend time with other believers who are walking faithfully with the Lord. Spend time thinking about Jesus's sacrifice. Our relationship with God doesn't have to become commonplace. Our love for Him can continue to grow as we continue to walk closely with Him.

- **ASSESS YOUR LOVE OF GOD: HAS IT LESSENERED? IS IT THE MOTIVE BEHIND ALL YOU DO?**
- **WHAT ARE THE THINGS YOU DID IN THE BEGINNING THAT YOU'VE STOPPED DOING? HOW CAN YOU TAKE STEPS TO RENEW YOUR LOVE FOR CHRIST?**

PRAY

GOD, I WANT TO LOVE YOU MORE EACH DAY. I WANT MY LOVE FOR YOU TO GROW AND FOR IT TO BE THE MOTIVE BEHIND EVERY GOOD WORK. HELP ME TO DO THE THINGS THAT WILL RENEW MY LOVE FOR YOU.