

# king's chapel

## *Community Group Discussion Guide*

Week of December 20, 2015

**This Week's Focus:** True, proper, and satisfying worship is experienced through an abiding relationship with Jesus Christ through whom the Father seeks and saves the lost.

**This Week's Text:** John 4:15-26

"Should we not remind ourselves that worship is a transitive verb? We do not meet to worship or to experience worship; we aim to worship God. 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.' This is the heart of the matter. In this area one must not confuse what is central with the by-products. If you seek peace, you will not find it. If you seek Christ, you will find peace. If you seek joy, you will not find it. If you seek Christ, you will find joy. If you seek holiness, you will not find it. If you seek Christ, you will find holiness. If you seek experiences of worship, you will not find them. If you worship the living God, you will experience something of what is reflected in the Psalms. Worship is a transitive verb, and the most important thing about it is its direct object." **D. A. Carson**

### **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- What are your general impressions about this week's sermon?
- What has been the conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman in verses 1 through 15? Who were the Samaritans and what were the cultural distinctions between them and the Jews? How did Jesus break the cultural barriers in his conversation with this woman?
- How does Jesus steer the conversation from the physical to the spiritual? Reference verses 13-14. What is the permanent, abundant, sufficient spring of water that Jesus is talking about?
- Even when she does not understand, Jesus does not give up on her. Reflect on this truth: Though we do not understand and we sin, God does not give up on us.
- How does Jesus point to the woman's spiritual need in verses 16-18? Why does he do this? How does pointing out her sin help her understand her deepest need and longing (thirst)? What is God's motivation when he reveals our sin?

- What is the woman's response when Jesus reveals her sin? Why does she bring up the issue of worship?
- Read Jesus' response to the woman's question (verses 21-24). How does Jesus shift the focus of worship from geography to theology? What is Jesus revealing about himself? What is Jesus revealing about the Father by the statement "God is spirit"?
- What is true worship? In other words, what does it mean to worship God "in spirit and truth"? Discuss why it is important that we have right understanding of God and ourselves to properly worship.
- Reflect on Jesus' words: "the Father is seeking such people to worship him."
- How does this passage encourage you to declare and demonstrate the gospel in your community and spheres of influence?