



Sermon Growth Guide

September 5, 2021

Belong - Open to God

John 4:20-26

Key Verse: John 4:23 “Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.”

Big Idea: In Worship, we belong to God and one another.

Foundations

John Ortberg wrote, “The yearning to attach and connect, to love and be loved, is the fiercest longing of the soul. Our need for community with people and the God who made us is to the human spirit what food and air and water are to the human body.”

For the third week we’re looking deeply into the interaction between Jesus and the woman at the well. During their conversation, the woman asks about worship. Where is the right place to worship? The Jews said Jerusalem, but the Samaritans said Mt Gerizim.

But Jesus turns all this on its head by saying, “a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks,” (John 4:23).

Pastor John writes, “Jesus is saying that when we worship God, all of who we are becomes aligned with all of who He is, under the Holy Spirit’s influence. Our worship is also grounded in the truth of what Christ has done for us, as well as the truth of who we are.”

Pray that God gives you understanding of true worship on this side of the cross. Pray that you come to understand in a rich way how true worship ties directly into belonging, belonging to God and belonging to one another.

Understanding God’s Word

Host a discussion on the meaning of verse 24: “God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

In verse 26, Jesus responds by saying, “I am he,” (*ego eimi*). Who is Jesus affirming that He is? Why is this important?

Applying God’s Word

In Worship, we belong to God and one another. Pastor John notes that in worship we are known, we are one, and we are equal. But we must press into this belonging.

How can you take steps to deepen your experience of belonging here among the First Pres worshipping community?

Witnessing God’s Word

Who is the “woman at the well” in your midst? Who is near you, but uninterested in belonging to God and His family? Who is hiding because they do not know the hope and freedom of the gospel? Close your time this week praying for these individuals together. Pray that God will give you open doors to “meet them by the well” and Share Good News.

ALONE IS NO GOOD. JESUS INVITES YOU TO BELONG.