

School of Theology - Follow Up Discussion Questions

1. What did you find striking or surprising about the session?
2. In the session we heard that everybody worships something. Do you find that a convincing way to understand the human condition? How might you use that idea in a conversation with a friend who doesn't follow Jesus?
3. John traced a thread from Eden through Exodus to Jesus, centred on two themes: the **word of God** and the **presence of God**. Read John 4:19-24. How does Jesus' conversation with the woman at the well draw these two threads together? What does it mean in practice to worship "in spirit and in truth"?
4. John made a distinction between asking *"what is the worship I like?"* and *"what is the worship the Father is seeking?"* What does it look like to approach worship with the second question rather than the first?
5. Read Romans 12:1. John spent time on the phrase "offer your bodies." Why bodies specifically, rather than just "your lives"? What would it look like for your everyday work and responsibilities to be genuine acts of worship?
6. The Psalms contain roughly as many laments as songs of praise and celebration, yet lament is almost entirely absent from most contemporary church worship. Why do you think that is? What might be lost because of it?
7. Calvin described the Psalms as *"an anatomy of all parts of the soul."* Which of the worship voices John identified (celebration, adoration, confession, proclamation, lament, longing) do you find most natural? Which feels most unfamiliar or uncomfortable, and why?

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8. Pray together — and if you're feeling adventurous, try praying using the words of one of the Psalms mentioned in the session (Psalm 98, 27, 51, or 63 are good starting points).