

# SCRIPTURES FOR 2/19/06 LIFEGROUP LESSON

## John 4:23-24

“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

## John 14:16-18

“For I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor\* to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you

know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”

\* *The Greek word used here does not refer to a marriage counselor or a guidance counselor, or a psychologist, but it refers to someone who is looking out for your best interests specifically someone who helps those who are in trouble with the law, like a defense attorney.*

## John 16:12-13

“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.”

NOTE TO LEADER: There is a lot of material here. Familiarize yourself with it so you know which stuff you are most comfortable with and what you will cut if you get short on time. Try to keep the lesson/discussion 20-30 minutes in length. Good luck and let me know if you have any questions. - Ed

## Christian Life Profile

*adapted from the Pantego Bible Church assessment instrument*

*Love the Lord your God with all your **heart**, and with all your **soul**, and with all your **strength**, and with all your **mind**; and Love your neighbor as yourself*  
- Luke 10:27

I will be developing an assessment tool utilizing these 30 core spiritual competencies, but until then, this list could be used as it stands to help individuals identify areas they wish to work on. I suggest you have each member of your LIFEGROUP read these over, pray about them, and return with one core belief, one core practice, and one core virtue they wish to work on. Then, on a regular basis (weekly, monthly, quarterly, or as often as you like) your group brings out their three areas and talks about what they have done to work on them and discuss suggestions for continued progress. Concentrate on concrete action steps to growth.

This tool is in no way to be misconstrued to suggest that we can attain perfection in this life or project perfection on our fallen world, but is merely a way to assess whether we are following Paul's exhortation in his letter to the Christians in Philippi, to "continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling". Development of these competencies needs to be intentional on our part, but we must involve God in all aspects of spiritual development and bathe all of our efforts in prayer.

### **30 CORE COMPETENCIES**

Our mission in life is to be a follower of Christ. A follower of Christ is someone who loves God and loves their neighbor. Loving God and loving neighbor involves:

#### **SEEKING TO UNDERSTAND GOD'S PLAN THROUGH**

##### **10 Core Beliefs**

Authority of the Bible  
Church  
Compassion  
Eternity  
Humanity  
Identity in Christ  
Personal God  
Salvation  
Stewardship  
Trinity

#### **SEEKING TO SERVE GOD AND THE CHURCH THROUGH**

##### **10 Core Practices**

Worship  
Prayer  
Bible Study  
Single-mindedness  
Spiritual Gifts  
Biblical Community  
Give Away My Time  
Give Away My Money  
Give Away My Faith  
Give Away My Life

#### **SEEKING TO REFLECT AND PROJECT GOD THROUGH**

##### **10 Core Virtues**

Joy  
Peace  
Faithfulness  
Self-Control  
Humility  
Love  
Patience  
Kindness/Goodness  
Gentleness  
Hope

**NOTE TO LEADERS:** All items in *italics* are for your information and not designed to be read aloud.

**INTRODUCTION:**

We've been talking all this month about WCC core value #7, which reads, "We are committed to God-honoring worship". This can take many forms and, because of God's transcendent nature, can take place anywhere at any time. But what sort of worshiper does God seek?

*Have someone read John 4:23-24.*

**BALANCED WORSHIP**

<i>SPIRIT</i>	&	<i>TRUTH</i>
<i>Emotional (senses and feelings)</i>	&	<i>Intellectual (knowledge and logic)</i>
<i>Passive (receiving)</i>	&	<i>Active (participating)</i>
<i>Subjective (communion with God)</i>	&	<i>Objective (focus on God)</i>
<i>Mysterious (awe and reverence)</i>	&	<i>Immanent (proximity and access)</i>

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We need to have balance in our worship life. We must balance **SPIRIT & TRUTH**, and in order to do that, we must balance our **emotions** and our **intellect**.

Have you ever attended a worship service where emotions and intellect were out of balance – where one or the other was clearly dominant?

In order to worship in spirit and in truth, we must experience both **passive** and **active** worship. Psalm 37:7 says, "Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him," but Matt 7:8 says, "...everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

How can we do both of these things?

Which is easier for you to do? Why?

To worship in spirit and in truth, your encounters should be both **subjective** and **objective**.

How does our knowledge *about* God become our knowledge *of* God.

To worship in spirit and in truth, we must embrace God's **mystery**, but not ignore His **immanence**. Psalm 19:1 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands," but Psalm 73:28 says, "...it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge."

How do you grapple with the idea that God is so vast and powerful and yet wants to have a relationship with you?

**KNOWING THE BALANCE**

How do you feel about Ed's statement that worship is "for the believer"?

Did you ever feel uncomfortable in a worship service before you became a Christian?

*Have someone read John 14:16-18.*

So Jesus will be present with us in spirit through the Spirit of truth or the Holy Spirit. But He will also reveal His truth to us through the Spirit of truth...

*Have someone read John 16:12-13.*

The Spirit of truth will guide us to the balance of spirit and truth. Only the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit can show us where that line is and spur us on to authentic communion with God. All of these areas seem complicated and perhaps daunting, but we need to strike a balance in our worship between spirit and truth. Fortunately, we don't have to go it alone. The Spirit of truth will direct you and catch you when you fall. Just trust Him.

What is your main area of struggle in balancing spirit and truth? Emotional/intellectual? Passive/active? Subjective/objective? Mysterious/immanent?

What will you do this week to grapple with it?

**OPTIONAL RECOMMENDED ACTIVITY:**

Briefly go over the 30 Core Competencies and either pass out the four-page description or show them how to find it on the web (home>plugin>lifegroups>resources>Christian Life Profile [the link is in the Seven Functions list]). Have them identify the top three areas they struggle with and would like to work on in each category (beliefs/practices/virtues for a total of nine areas) and bring the list back next week for discussion.