

## WATER Lesson 4: Created for Worship



**Q: Read Genesis 1:26-27. Why do you think that God created mankind? How are we different from the rest of God's creation?** We are not just a part of God's amazing creation; we are His pièce de résistance, His Magnum Opus, His masterpiece, the apple of His eye! We are created to be in relationship to Him, to have a mutual expression of love; we are created to worship Him out of reverent awe and gratitude.

**Q: Seeing that we no longer celebrate the festivals of the Old Testament, how can we intentionally commit to remembering what God has done in our lives and spend time praising Him for His goodness? In what ways do we already do this?** We do celebrate some significant holidays such as Easter and Christmas, but that really only covers two days a year. It's important to have a regular habit to remember what God has done in the history of mankind and what He has done in our own past. Reading the Bible can be a reminder of His workings with mankind. Daily reflection, meditation, and prayer can give us a regular opportunity to evaluate the hand of God at work in our lives. He is always at work. We will see it if we are watching for it!

**Q: Why is it important for us to go to church? Is it absolutely necessary? Why or why not? Look at Acts 2:46-47 and the surrounding verses for further discussion.** Going to church doesn't make us a Christian, and not going to church doesn't necessarily mean that we aren't a believer. On the other hand, going to church is incredibly important. We need to feed our own spirit, and there are people who need us to minister to them. It's also an opportunity for us as brothers and sisters to come before God our Father to worship together as one family. Being a part of a church family is also one of the ways that God ministers to our needs and the needs around us - physical and spiritual.

**Q: Consider the words of Psalm 100:4-5. How do we cultivate an expectant heart as we enter into worship? What are we expecting God to do?** I think it's important to intentionally take time to count your blessings before heading into the sanctuary or standing for worship. We have so much to be thankful for, but also so much that we take for granted. God has been good to us even on our worst days. Being expectant means acknowledging that we are not just observers in God's creation, but are active participants in His plan and we join Him in the work that He is doing to redeem this world from sin. We expect God to prepare us, to build us up, to equip us, to reveal Himself to us, and to send us out to do His will.

**Q: What are your favorite parts about the church service? What gets you charged up?** Some people are charged up by engaging with others in conversation. Some people enjoy the energy in the room. Some come for the music, some for the message, some get excited about the coffee. What we should be most excited about is the presence of God and the work that He is doing in our lives and through our church! God is always present with us, but when we come together there is a synergetic experience that can be a blessing to all who attend.

**Q: For what reasons might a person or family have a habit of coming in late or leaving early from a church service? How should we respond to these people?** Sometimes people may lose track of time or have something come up just before service and occasionally we might need to be somewhere after church, but if it is a regular habit we will miss out on part of what God intended for church to be. Church is a big “family” gathering where we come together to build one another up and if we fail to interact then we are not able to fulfill that part of His plan for the church. If we know someone who has a habit of doing this, it would be good to engage them in conversation to find out why. Perhaps they have a legitimate reason. If they don’t have a good reason, we can share with them how we find our time before and after service to be a blessing to us.

**Q: Is it okay to stay home from church if you are feeling tired and worn down? What can happen if we allow our emotions to dictate our decisions?** Of course it is okay to stay home from church if we are not feeling well, but we ought to be careful not to become lazy or undisciplined in how we view or treat our church attendance. It is vital to our overall spiritual health. Emotions can be powerful, but to not go to church because we don’t feel like it can be the start of an unhealthy pattern that leads us away from the presence of God. Apostasy is the end result of letting our heart fall away from God and it starts when we willfully isolate ourselves from the fellowship of others.

**Q: Read the words of Paul in Romans 1:16. Do people know what you believe and what you stand for?** We should be careful not to be obnoxious to others about our faith, but it’s not something that we should hide or be ashamed of. Jesus said that we should not put our light under a bowl; instead we should let it shine for all to see. Our light is the love of God lived out in action. Self righteousness can deceive us into thinking we are shining God’s light, but it really is a hindrance to our ability to reach others. People that we spend much of our time with should know what we believe and why we believe it and it will hopefully impact them in a way that makes God attractive.

**Q: In Titus 2:10 believers are encouraged to do what they can to make “God our Savior attractive in every way”. When people hear about Faith Community Church, what do they think? How does a community’s opinion about our church bring glory to God?** Our church has a reputation. You may know other churches that have a reputation as well. We want people who hear about our church to think, “Man, the people who go to that church sure are friendly and kind! I wonder what makes them this way? I want more of that in my life...” One bad interaction can leave a lasting impression, however. We must always be prepared to show God’s love, even when we don’t feel up to it. Historically speaking, a community will turn to the church in times of crises, either on a personal level or as a source of leadership through disaster. When that time comes, we need to be ready with open arms!

**Q: In what way is serving people a form of worship? Doesn’t it put the focus on a person rather than God?** Serving people communicates that we all have inherent value. We are showing our love for God when we love them, and we are showing them that they are loved not for what they can do for us, but because of who they are before God. It’s important for us to look beyond their flaws and see them as God sees them - and how He chooses to see us. We are His children; sometimes wayward, but always loved!

**Q: Where do you think you are or would be most comfortable serving in the church?** If you don't currently serve in the church, please consider joining the next GPS Workshop to start the process of getting plugged in to ministry! There are limitless possibilities and God has uniquely created each of us to be a part within His larger plan.

**Class Assignment:** Have you given any more thought to whom God might want you to connect with to help you grow in your faith? It's time to make this connection. If you don't have someone in mind yet, spend some time in prayer and look for people that you would enjoy getting to know. Then reach out to them with an invitation to get together. Start by just getting to know one another. When you have built some trust, then you can begin to talk more about what challenges you face in this life that God has given to you.

**Memory Verse:**

**1 Corinthians 12:25-27** - *"there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."*

PRAYER REQUESTS: