



WORSHIP

featuring:
- The body of Christ
- Sexual abuse



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SECONDARY SCHOOL
SCOM BIBLESTUDY GUIDE

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Guidelines to this Bible study:

- ⇒ Every member of the group must contribute to the discussions.
- ⇒ As much as possible, concentrate on the given passage.
- ⇒ No one should preach to the others, study the word together.
- ⇒ Do not forget to ask the Holy Spirit to bring more light as you study.
- ⇒ Take this study personal.
- ⇒ Some questions are meant for you to look at the passage again, spend little time on them.

Study one:

WORSHIP

Many times I get surprised when I go to many Churches. In the middle of the service I usually hear the Pastor/convener saying "... **now this is time for worship, let us now worship God...**" I always ask myself, what were we doing all this time we have been in Church? Many have taken worship to be some slow songs and individual prayers just five or ten minutes before the preacher stands. WORSHIP literary means to recognize the WORTHY-SHIP and it is the whole life, it is a lifestyle. Worship has got something to do with attitudes, motives, actions of honor love and respect towards one we revere or fear, our Master. Only God is worthy to be worshipped.

Study texts: John 4:5-26, Romans 12:1-2, Genesis 22:3-10

Memory verse:

But the hour is coming, and now is,

when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth;

for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. Jn. 4:23

A. JESUS INITIATES WORSHIP (Jn 4: 5-15)

Key verse: 7: A woman of Samaria came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."

Do a role play, let one of you be Jesus and the other be the Samaritan woman and act the story in John chapter 4.

Study Questions

1. What is your definition for the word worship?
2. What was Jesus doing in Samaria?
3. Of all the places, why do you think Jesus (being a Jewish man and leader) chose to sit at the well?
4. When was the last time you saw a reputable leader doing a thing that could be compared to what Jesus did in this passage?
5. What argument did the Samaritan woman give when Jesus asked her for water? Verse 9.
6. How many times have you failed to help someone because they do not belong to your group, e.g. church, school/class, tribe, home etc.?
7. Jesus diverted the whole story of asking for water from a Samaritan woman to the living water. Why do you think he did this?
8. What was the woman's response to the issue of living water? Did she understand what Jesus was meaning?
9. Why do you think the woman diverted the issue to "...are you greater than our father Jacob?"
10. The woman seemed to give a lot of respect to Jacob and not Christ. Why did she do that? How did Jesus tell the woman that He was indeed greater than Jacob? Verse 13.
11. What are some of the reasons that make us today to give a lot of respect to people and systems (e.g. Pastors, teachers, parents, friends, denominations, clubs etc) than to God?

B. BE MADE RIGHT FIRST (verses 16-18)

Key verse: 16: Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here."

The woman had just asked Jesus to give her the living water when Jesus diverted the conversation further to make the woman look into her own life as He asked the woman to go and call her husband.

Study Questions

12. a. What do you think was the reason behind Jesus telling the woman to call her husband yet He knew that she did not have her own husband?
- b. What might have been going on in the woman's mind when Jesus was narrating her story?
- c. What would your reaction be if someone was to tell you everything you do without anyone telling him/her?
- d. Was this helpful to the woman? Explain.
- e. Can it be helpful to you? Say something.

C. TRUE WORSHIP (verses 19-26)

Key verse: 24: "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

13. What made the woman to call Jesus a Prophet?
14. Why do you think the woman started talking about worship soon after referring to Jesus as a Prophet? What was the connection between worship and prophet?
15. The woman emphasized about the place of worship. Why was she so concerned with the place of worship?
16. Today when we talk about worship, what things come to your mind?
17. What was Jesus' answer to the issue of worship? What message was He trying to put across?
18. According to Jesus' answer, where and when should worship

take place?

19. What is to worship in Spirit and truth? Is it speaking in tongues? Is it about how or where you worship?
20. Why must we worship in spirit and truth? Verses 23-24
21. Worshiping in spirit and truth is about the condition of your heart and your attitude towards God and His creation. Is this statement True or False? Discuss.
22. Who is to be worshiped, according to this passage?
23. What other things do people worship today?
24. The woman knew about the Messiah but she did not know that Jesus was the Messiah, verse 25. How was that possible?
25. Is it possible for us to know about God but not know Him? Explain.
26. Jesus revealed to the woman that He was the Messiah, verse 26. How do you think the woman felt?
27. All what Jesus and the Samaritan woman did at that well was worship, and the climax of it was the woman's knowledge that Christ was and is the Messiah. Discuss this statement.

D. WORSHIP IS SERVING GOD (verses 28-30, 39-42)

Key verse: 39: And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified that, "He told me all that I ever did."

Study Questions

28. What did the woman do after talking with Jesus (after realizing that He was the Messiah)?
29. Why do you think the woman responded that way?
30. How do you respond after knowing that Jesus is the Savior

and Lord of Lords?

31. Can we say that the woman's response, by going to call the people to Jesus, was worship? Debate on this.
32. What happened after the woman had shared her testimony to the people in the city?
33. Jesus stayed in Samaria for two more days, and many other people believed. What reasons did they give for believing, verses 41-42?
34. Why do you believe Jesus, if you do? Why don't you believe Jesus, if you do not?
35. How did the woman serve God in this passage?
36. How do you serve God in your daily life?
37. Refer to Romans 12:1-2.
 - a. Say the two verses in your own words.
 - b. What is the meaning of "presenting your bodies as a living sacrifice to God" verse 1?
 - c. How can you present your body as a living sacrifice to God?
 - d. What other instruction is Paul giving? Verse 2.
 - e. What do you think is the connection between worship and the instruction in verse 2?
 - f. If you were to be assessed using this passage, how much would you score out of 100? Explain your answer.
 - g. What is worship according to this passage?

E. ABRAHAM WORSHIPED GOD (read Genesis 22:1-5)

Key verse: 5: And Abraham said to his young men, "stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."

Study Questions

38. What did God tell Abraham? Verse 2.
39. What was God's motive in telling Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice?
40. Do you think it was pleasing for Abraham when he got that instruction? Defend your answer.
41. If such an instruction came to you how would you respond?
42. What do you think made Abraham to respond the way he did?
43. What did Abraham do in verses 3-5?
44. In verse 5, Abraham told his servant to stop somewhere while he and Isaac would "go further to worship". Abraham knew that he was going to kill his only son and offer him as a sacrifice.
 - a. Why didn't he want his servants to go with them to the place of sacrifice?
 - b. He told his servants that he and Isaac were going to worship. Was killing his son, Worship? Explain.
 - c. Do you think Abraham was happy with that kind of worship? Elaborate.
 - d. If it were you, could you call that worship? Why or why not?
 - e. Think of something or somebody you love very much. If God can instruct you to give-up that thing or person, can you call that worship? How can you react?
 - f. How can you compare what we call worship today and the different things the Bible call worship? Is worship only about singing and praying before the Preacher starts preaching? Discuss.
 - g. Worship has to do with your everyday life. Is this statement true or false? Discuss.
 - h. What is your new plan for worship?

F. THE WORD OF GOD (Key to true worship)

God orders our day-to-day lives in many ways through many things. He can use our friends, teachers, parents, bosses, and even SCOM, to give us the right direction. Surprisingly, He might even use circumstances and creation (water, trees, and animals, e.t.c) to make us go the right way.

However, we all agree that the readily available guidance from our God is His written word, the Holy Scriptures, the Bible. It might not be easy for us to understand God's will on our lives through other things, but it is very clear to understand what God wants us to do through His written word. It is for this reason that we need to emphasize the importance of God's word. **READ IT, STUDY IT, MEMORISE IT, MEDITATE ON IT, OBEY IT & LIVE IT!!!!**

All the 150 verses of Psalm 119 talk about the word of God. I wish we could study the whole Psalm, but for the sake of time let us study the following:

F.1 BLESSEDNESS

Read Psalm 119:1-6

Key verse: Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord. Verse 1

Study Questions

45. From verses 1-6, what words refer to the "word of God"?
46. What advantage do those who follow God's word have according to the passage?
47. Talking about blessings:
 - a. Why do you think the Bible is calling those mentioned in

this passage "Blessed"?

- b. In our thinking, whom do we say to be "blessed"? Is it what the word of God says? Why?
- c. Are you one of the "Blessed" people? If 'yes', explain how, if 'no' explain why? (Each member of your group must explain)
- d. How can this help you to worship in spirit and truth?

F.2 DISCOVER THE SECRET

Key verse: I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. verse 11.

Read verses 11, 45, and 97-100

Study Questions

48. What is the secret of a holy life, v 11? What does 'Hiding God's word in the heart' mean?
49. What is verse 45 saying? What is your understanding of "Freedom"? Compare with what the Bible is saying.
50. Mention some interesting statements from verses 97-105.
51. According to this passage, what is the secret of understanding, v 100?
52. Is what is written in verses 103-105 true to your life? Share.
53. From this study, what is your new understanding of the word of God? What decision have you made about the word of God?
54. True worship is a result of living God's word. Discuss the statement.
55. In pairs, pray for each other for God to help you on your decisions about His word.

Study two:

THE BODY OF CHRIST

The Church, otherwise called the body of Christ, faces a lot of challenges ranging from stunted numerical growth to spiritual growth. In some parts of the world especially developed countries over the years the church has faced hostility. The trend is gradually drifting towards our continent and let alone our country; this has been so due to a number of reasons. Topping the list of reasons could be, other opposing religions/faiths and lack of integrity among Christians. So in this study we want to find out what the Church is and what are the things that God would want us to do as a Church? Are we meeting His expectations? What about the expectations of people? We will do well if we work as a church, wake-up from our slumber and start doing things that uphold the integrity of the Church so that the Church can grow numerically and spiritually.

A. THE CHURCH

Study book: Ephesians 5:1 – 32

Study questions

1. How do you define the word church in your understanding?
2. What is Paul's understanding of the church? Ephesians 5:23,

Ephesians 1:23.

3. Suggest some ways you think the church should conduct itself. Ephesians 5:1-21
4. Who is the owner of this church? Matth 16:18
5. How was it founded?
6. What names were given to the members of the Church according to the following passages?
Acts 4:32, Acts 9:13,
Acts 12:17 Acts 11:26,
Mark 13:27
7. Why was the church instituted? Eph 2:10; 2:19; 4:4-6; 4:24, 2 Cor. 6:16-17, Eph 5:25-32.
8. What did Jesus call those that assembled locally for example Rev 2:18, 12; Rev 3:7 & 14?

B. CONDUCT OF THE CHURCH

Study Questions

9. In your understanding do you see any importance in having different churches (denominations)? In fact almost every letter of the alphabet has more than 10 denominations. What are the advantages and disadvantages?
10. How best can we work together despite being people of different denominations? What does Christ the owner of the church want us to do? John 17
11. In Matthew 5:13-16, Christ calls the Church as Salt and Light, that's what we always preach. Do you see the church in Malawi being salt and light? Explain. Do we really walk the talk, what about our branch?
12. Issues of tribalism and regionalism are visibly present in our nation, this is reflected during general elections as people al-

ways vote for the party that comes from their regions; unfortunately this has even clipped into the Church, churches are divided according to regions. Many of you have heard stories of people failing to get married because they are from different regions or tribes. Wakwithu, wakwathu and wakumangwetu is the name of the game. Read Ephesians 2:14-18, 1 Cor. 12:12-13.

- a. What is the Bible saying in the passages regarding being one?
- b. Why do you think the Bible is emphasizing on the need to be one?
- c. What does this reveal about the Church in Malawi?
- d. What should we do in order to be one? What will your SCOM branch do? What will you (individually) do?

Study three:

SEXUAL ABUSE

Nowadays it is not strange to read in papers or hear from the radio issues of sexual abuse, like defilement and molestation. In last term's study we addressed the issue of HIV/AIDS and in this study we would like to address this issue of sexual abuse because it is increasingly becoming a bother in our society. This topic has found a space in this study guide because of its urgency, we do not want you to be ignorant on this issue.

Text: 2 Samuel 13:1-22

Memory verse:

*"But he refused to listen to her,
and since he was stronger than she,*

He raped her." 2 Samuel 13:14

Study Questions

1. Narrate any domestic sexual abuse story you have ever heard or been involved.
2. In verses 1 and 2, why was Amnon frustrated to the point of sickness?
3. Do you think it was normal for Amnon to get sick because of

sexual desire? Explain.

4. Have you ever desired something to the point of becoming sick? Share.
5. Is it possible for a person to be sexually attracted by his/her sister/brother, daughter/son, mother/father, aunt/uncle, or any relative in the home? Has it ever happen to you? Discuss.
6. In verses 6 and 7, David seemed not suspicious when Amnon said, "I would like my sister Tamar to come and make some special bread in my sight, so I may eat from her hand". And in verses 9 and 10, no one even Tamar seemed to be suspicious with what Amnon said, "send everyone out of here... bring the food here into my bedroom so I may eat from your hand"
 - a. What do you think made the people not to be suspicious?
 - b. How did these people contribute to what happened in verse 14?
 - c. How do other people, knowingly or unknowingly, contribute to domestic sexual abuse today?
 - d. Choose any character in this story and say what you could do differently to avoid the rape, if you were him/her.
7. What role did Jonadab play in this issue?
8. If you may rate, what percentage of your decisions do your friends influence? How many times have your friends encouraged you to do something evil? Share to the group if you remember any.
9. Read verses 1,2 and 15. What is interesting? Why was it like that?
10. What do you think was Tamar thinking and feeling from verse 15-20?
11. If you were Tamar, what could you think, feel and do?

12. Imagine that Tamar got HIV from that rape, how could you counsel her?
13. There are a lot of girls who are sexually abused by their fathers, brothers, Uncles, bosses, pastors, teachers and others, but they do not share this to anyone. How can we help such people?
14. Have you ever been sexually abused? Did you report to anyone? Why?