

Unit Title : **WORSHIPPING GOD**
Lesson 2 : **THE ONE WE WORSHIP**
Bible Story : **SAMARITAN WOMAN AT THE WELL**
Lesson Scripture : **John 4:23-24; 1 Tim. 2:5**

Main Emphasis : A God-centered worship is worshipping the triune God in spirit and in truth.

Objectives : By the end of this session, the students should be able to:

1. identify who the Samaritans and the Jews are;
2. compare how Samaritans and Jews worship;
3. determine the right way/means to worship the true God;
4. give examples of praises (e.g. "Praise God!", "Hallelujah", etc.);
5. acknowledge the One they should worship;
6. acknowledge the triune God (Father, Son, & Spirit) and how glorious and unique He is;
7. assess their knowledge about the One they worship and their hearts;
8. dramatize the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman; and
9. recite the memory verse.

Words to Remember:

Samaritans – group of people who are half-Jews and half-Gentiles; had their own unique copy of the first five books of Scripture as well as their own unique system of worship; had no dealings with the Jews.

Mount Gerizim – selected by the Samaritans as their place of worship.

Memory Verse:

Psalm 100

¹ Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

² Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

³ Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.

Pre-Session Activity: **Guessing the RECEIVER or "TO:" of a certain mail/letter**

Lesson Proper : **SAMARITAN WOMAN AT THE WELL (John 4:5-26)**

Jesus, tired from traveling, chose a sensible rest stop—Jacob's well outside the town of Sychar—while waiting for his disciples to go into town for food. When our unnamed woman appeared with a clay jar in hand, Jesus made a simple request: "Will you give me a drink?"

(1) Jews weren't supposed to speak to Samaritans.
(2) Men weren't permitted to address women without their husbands present. And
(3) Jews weren't supposed to consume those produced or handled by Samaritans for they are considered unclean (e.g. Jesus asked to drink from the Samaritan woman's cup)

Jesus was willing to toss out the rules, but our woman at the well wasn't. She focused on the law; Jesus focused on grace. She talked about worship, Jerusalem, the differences between Jews and Samaritans.

The Samaritans built a temple for themselves on "Mount Gerizim," which the Samaritans insisted was designated by Moses as the place where the nation should worship. They were instructed from the books of Moses, but still retained many of their idolatrous customs for Israelite inhabitants of Samaria had intermarried with the foreigners and adopted their idolatrous religion

GOD IS SPIRIT, AND HIS WORSHIPPERS MUST WORSHIP IN THE SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH. The fact that God is spirit means that God the Father does not have a human body.

In John 4:24, Jesus makes the connection between God being spirit and worshipping Him in spirit and in truth. The idea is that, since God is spirit, people must worship Him accurately (in truth) and in spirit (with their soul or heart), as opposed to relying on traditions, rituals, and physical locales.

In 1 Timothy 2:5, PAUL LEAVES US IN NO DOUBT AS TO WHICH GOD WE ARE TO WORSHIP. THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD; AND HE IS THAT ONE TO WHOM WE COME THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

THERE IS NO OTHER BEING SO GLORIOUS AS THE TRIUNE GOD (FATHER, SON AND SPIRIT – EACH IS DISTINCT AND YET ALL TOGETHER ONE GOD).

CHRISTIANS, BEING QUICKENED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, SHOULD PRAY TO GOD THE FATHER, ON THE BASIS OF THE MERITS OF JESUS CHRIST. But it would not be wrong to worship each of the divine persons, AS LONG AS THEY ARE NOT THOUGHT OF AS SEPARATE FROM THE OTHERS.

Life Application :

People tend to get caught up in where they should worship, what music they should sing in worship, and how their worship looks to other people. Focusing on these things misses the point. Jesus tells us that true worshippers will worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).

This means we worship from the heart and the way God has designed. **WORSHIP** can include PRAYING, READING God's Word with an open heart, SINGING, etc. It is not limited to one act, but is done properly when the heart and attitude of the person are in the right place.

True worship is the acknowledgment of God and all His power and glory in everything we do. To do this, we must know God; we cannot be ignorant of Him (Acts 17:23). That's why we ATTEND Sunday School and Junior Church to know God more. A God-centered worship is worshipping the triune God in SPIRIT (HEART) and in TRUTH (HEAD).

The Samaritans occupied the country formerly belonging to the tribe of Ephraim and the half-tribe of Manasseh. The capital of the country was Samaria, formerly a large and splendid city. When the ten tribes were carried away into captivity to Assyria, the king of Assyria sent people from Cutha, Ava, Hamath, and Sepharvaim to inhabit Samaria (2 Kings 17:24; Ezra 4:2-11). These foreigners intermarried with the Israelite population that was still in and around Samaria.

These "Samaritans" at first worshipped the idols of their own nations, but being troubled with lions, they supposed it was because they had not honored the God of that territory. A Jewish priest was therefore sent to them from Assyria to instruct them in the Jewish religion. They were instructed from the books of Moses, but still retained many of their idolatrous customs. The Samaritans embraced a religion that was a mixture of Judaism and idolatry (2 Kings 17:26-28). Because the Israelite inhabitants of Samaria had intermarried with the foreigners and adopted their idolatrous religion, Samaritans were generally considered "half-breeds" and were universally despised by the Jews.

Additional grounds for animosity between the Israelites and Samaritans were the following:

1. The Jews, after their return from Babylon, began rebuilding their temple. While Nehemiah was engaged in building the walls of Jerusalem, the Samaritans vigorously attempted to halt the undertaking (Nehemiah 6:1-14).
2. The Samaritans built a temple for themselves on "Mount Gerizim," which the Samaritans insisted was designated by Moses as the place where the nation should worship. Sanballat, the leader of the Samaritans, established his son-in-law, Manasses, as high priest. The idolatrous religion of the Samaritans thus became perpetuated.
3. Samaria became a place of refuge for all the outlaws of Judea (Joshua 20:6-7; 21:21). The Samaritans willingly received Jewish criminals and refugees from justice. The violators of the Jewish laws, and those who had been excommunicated, found safety for themselves in Samaria, greatly increasing the hatred which existed between the two nations.
4. The Samaritans received only the five books of Moses and rejected the writings of the prophets and all the Jewish traditions.

From these causes arose an irreconcilable difference between them, so that the Jews regarded the Samaritans as the worst of the human race (John 8:48) and had no dealings with them (John 4:9). In spite of the hatred between the Jews and the Samaritans, Jesus broke down the barriers between them, preaching the gospel of peace to the Samaritans (John 4:6-26), and the apostles later followed His example (Acts 8:25).

In John chapter 4, Jesus has a discussion with a woman of Samaria:

The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship."—John 4:19-20 (ESV)

She indicates that the fathers of the Samaritans worshiped on this mountain, perhaps referring to Mount Gerizim, but the Jews claimed that it was only appropriate to worship in Jerusalem.

This is the historical record regarding The Temple and the Samaritans from the Bible.

Moses instructed the Israelites that there should be only one place of worship.

Deuteronomy 12:8-11 (NIV)

You are not to do as we do here today, everyone doing as they see fit, since you have not yet reached the resting place and the inheritance the Lord your God is giving you. But you will cross the Jordan and settle in the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, and he will give you rest from all your enemies around you so that you will live in safety. Then to the place the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name—there you are to bring everything I command you: your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, and all the choice possessions you have vowed to the Lord.

Later King Solomon built the Temple in Jerusalem and God approved it for the one place of Worship.

1 Kings 9:3 (NIV)

The Lord said to him: "I have heard the prayer and plea you have made before me; I have consecrated this temple, which you have built, by putting my Name there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.

After The Kingdom of Israel was destroyed and the people were exiled to Assyria and other places, (many of the tribes of Israel were lost till today) the empty place of Samaria was occupied by foreigners, who were latter called Samaritans even at the time of Jesus.

2 Kings 17:24-29 (NIV)

The king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Kuthah, Avva, Hamath and Sepharvaim and settled them in the towns of Samaria to replace the Israelites. They took over Samaria and lived in its towns. When they first lived there, they did not worship the Lord; so he sent lions among them and they killed some of the people. It was reported to the king of Assyria: "The people you deported and resettled in the towns of Samaria do not know what the god of that country requires. He has sent lions among them, which are killing them off, because the people do not know what he requires." Then the king of Assyria gave this order: "Have one of the priests you took captive from Samaria go back to live there and teach the people what the god of the land requires." 28 So one of the priests who had been exiled from Samaria came to live in Bethel and taught them how to worship the Lord. Nevertheless, each national group made its own gods in the several towns where they settled, and set them up in the shrines the people of Samaria had made at the high places.

Mount Gerazim was regarded as a place of blessing.

Deuteronomy 11:29 (NIV)

When the Lord your God has brought you into the land you are entering to possess, you are to proclaim on Mount Gerizim the blessings, and on Mount Ebal the curses.

Later, the Samaritans selected it for the Place of Worship.