

Unit Title : **WORSHIPPING GOD**  
Lesson 2c : **THE ONE TO WORSHIP**  
Bible Story : **THOMAS & THE DAY OF PENTECOST**  
Lesson Scripture : **Luke 24:36-39; John 20:19-29; Acts 2:1-4; John 4:24**

**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. recognize God is spirit;
2. define Pentecost;
3. explain what it means to worship God in spirit;
4. explain what it means to worship God in truth;
5. acknowledge exercising faith by worshipping God pleases Him;
6. determine the right way/means to worship the true God;
7. acknowledge the One they should worship;
8. acknowledge the triune God (Father, Son, & Spirit) and how glorious and unique He is;
9. assess their knowledge and their hearts about the One they worship;
10. recite the memory verse.

**Words to Remember:**

***Spirit*** – no human body or physical form (unseen); infinite or no limitations.

***Pentecost*** – refers to the fifty days that have elapsed since the wave offering of Passover; day on which the Spirit descended upon the apostles and led the beginning of the church age.

**Memory Verse:**

***Psalm 100***

<sup>1</sup> *Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.*

<sup>2</sup> *Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.*

<sup>3</sup> *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:** Optical illusions

**Lesson Proper** :

By far the most important organs of sense are our eyes. We perceive up to 80% of all impressions by means of our sight. And if other senses such as taste or smell stop working, it's the eyes that best protect us from danger.

The teaching that "God is spirit" is found in **John 4:24**. Basically, God cannot be seen with our eyes physically for He does not have a human body or physical form. In addition to His uniqueness of being a triune God, He is infinite for He is omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent, unlike man who is limited to his physical and mortal body. But there are instances where God reveals Himself by taking into physical form. Just like Jesus became flesh, without losing His divinity.

Jesus appeared to some of the disciples, but Thomas was not with them the first time. In **Luke 24:39**, when they saw Jesus and were frightened, He explained that **a spirit has no flesh and bones**. In **John 20:25**, Thomas did not believe Jesus has risen from the dead in spite of his fellow disciples' testimony.

Eight days later, Jesus appeared before His disciples again and Thomas was present at that time. Jesus told him to stop doubting and believe. Thomas said to him, **'My Lord and my God!'** Then Jesus told him, **'Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed'** (John 20:26-29).

God is pleased when He is worshipped in spite the fact that the worshipper cannot see the God he is worshipping. That is why the Scripture says **without faith it is impossible to please Him** (Hebrews 11:6). It takes faith to worship the triune God and to worship Him in spirit and in truth.

To worship God in truth, one should acknowledge and know Him, not only by His name. Know that God is spirit, He is a triune God, He is omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent, etc. In **1 Samuel 2:1-10** shows Hannah worshipping God in truth for she glorifies God's power and capabilities implying she knows and experiences God in her life.

To worship God in spirit, one should have a sincere heart and a good spirit. In addition, one must be filled with the Holy Spirit. In **Acts 2:1-4**, during the day of Pentecost, the disciples were filled by the Holy Spirit and spoke in different languages thus worshipping the Lord enabling them to preach the gospel in which thousands were saved. The Holy Spirit gives power and wisdom to those who desire for them to effectively worship God in spirit and in truth.

### **Life Application :**

In **1 Kings 19:11-13**, the Lord passed by and a strong wind, earthquake, and fire came but the Lord was nowhere to be found. That's because God cannot be found anywhere for God is spirit and we cannot see Him physically. But God is always with us (Emmanuel) to protect, guide and bless His children. Even if God's presence does not manifest physically, we must still worship Him with faith and confidence personally and in public.

Which is of more importance or a priority, in spirit or in truth?

Both are necessary for satisfying a God-centered worship. Spirit without truth leads to a shallow, overly emotional experience that could be compared to a high. As soon as the emotion is over, when the passion cools, so does the worship. Truth without spirit can result in a dry, passionless encounter that can easily lead to a form of joyless legalism.

The best combination of both aspects of worship results in a joyous appreciation of God informed by Scripture. The more we know about God, the more we appreciate Him. The more we appreciate, the deeper our worship. The deeper our worship, the more God is glorified. A God-centered worship is worshipping the triune God in spirit and in truth.

### **Evaluation :**

- 1. What do you mean by "God is spirit?"**
- 2. How must we worship God?**
- 3. What does it mean to worship God in spirit? In truth?**
- 4. Why didn't Thomas believe in spite of what his fellow disciples say?**
- 5. What did Jesus say about Thomas worshipping Him?**
- 6. In Acts 2, what happened during Pentecost?**
- 7. Which is more important or must be given priority, worship God in spirit or in truth?**
- 8. Do you think your worship in spirit is pleasing to Him? Worship in truth?**

## Background of the Lesson (For Teachers):

Question: "Is God male or female?"

Answer: In examining Scripture, two facts become clear. First, God is a Spirit and does not possess human characteristics or limitations. Second, all the evidence contained in Scripture agrees that God revealed Himself to mankind in a male form. To begin, God's true nature needs to be understood. God is a Person, obviously, because God exhibits all the characteristics of personhood: God has a mind, a will, an intellect, and emotions. God communicates and He has relationships, and God's personal actions are evidenced throughout Scripture.

As John 4:24 states, "God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." Since God is a spiritual being, He does not possess physical human characteristics. However, sometimes figurative language used in Scripture assigns human characteristics to God in order to make it possible for man to understand God. This assignment of human characteristics to describe God is called "anthropomorphism." Anthropomorphism is simply a means for God (a spiritual being) to communicate truth about His nature to humanity, physical beings. Since humanity is physical, we are limited in our understanding of those things beyond the physical realm; therefore, anthropomorphism in Scripture helps us to understand who God is.

Some of the difficulty comes in examining the fact that humanity is created in God's image. Genesis 1:26-27 says, "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.' So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."

Both man and woman are created in the image of God, in that they are greater than all the other creations as they, like God, have a mind, will, intellect, emotions, and moral capacity. Animals do not possess a moral capacity and do not possess an immaterial component like humanity does. The image of God is the spiritual component that humanity alone possesses. God created humanity to have a relationship with Him. Humanity is the only creation designed for that purpose.

That said, man and woman are only patterned after the image of God—they are not tiny "copies" of God. The fact that there are men and women does not require God to have male and female features. Remember, being made in the image of God has nothing to do with physical characteristics.

We know that God is a spiritual being and does not possess physical characteristics. This does not limit, however, how God may choose to reveal Himself to humanity. Scripture contains all the revelation God gave to humanity about Himself, and so it is the only objective source of information about God. In looking at what Scripture tells us, there are several observations of evidence about the form in which God revealed Himself to humanity.

Scripture contains approximately 170 references to God as the "Father." By necessity, one cannot be a father unless one is male. If God had chosen to be revealed to man in a female form, then the word "mother" would have occurred in these places, not "father." In the Old and New Testaments, masculine pronouns are used over and over again in reference to God.

Jesus Christ referred to God as the Father several times and in other cases used masculine pronouns in reference to God. In the Gospels alone, Christ uses the term "Father" in direct reference to God nearly 160 times. Of particular interest is Christ's statement in John 10:30: "I and the Father are one." Obviously, Jesus Christ came in the form of a human man to die on the cross as payment for the sins of the world. Like God the Father, Jesus was revealed to humanity in a male form. Scripture records numerous other instances where Christ utilized masculine nouns and pronouns in reference to God.

The New Testament Epistles (from Acts to Revelation) also contain nearly 900 verses where the word *theos*—a masculine noun in the Greek—is used in direct reference to God. In countless references to God in Scripture, there is clearly a consistent pattern of His being referred to with masculine titles, nouns, and pronouns. While God is not a man, He chose a masculine form in order to reveal Himself to humanity. Likewise, Jesus Christ, who is constantly referred to with masculine titles, nouns, and pronouns, took a male form while He walked on the earth. The prophets of the Old Testament and the apostles of the New Testament refer to both God and Jesus Christ with masculine names and titles. God chose to be revealed in this form in order for man to more easily grasp who He is. While God makes allowances in order to help us understand Him, it is important to not try to "force God into a box," so to speak, by placing limitations on Him that are not appropriate to His nature.

OPTICAL ILLUSIONS:

