

# LIFE GROUP LESSON

Now more than Ever - Week of August 24

## Fourth Core Value in C-H-R-I-S-T

I – Inspirational and Incarnational worship is at the heart of who we are as we seek to connect people to Christ.

### Introduction

What is your attitude these days? From the days of our childhood, many things shape the way we think and feel, our attitude or grid. But as we mature, we begin to see – hopefully at an early age – that we do not have to be victims of our impulses. We can choose how we respond to circumstances and people. Looking at this fourth core value of Christ Church makes me think of a conversation I had several years ago with an older gal volunteering in the church office. As we folded newsletters, chatting about whatever the subject was at hand, I made the comment: “Attitude is important” ... and she quickly responded: “Attitude is everything!” In that moment, I knew she was right, and that something in me needed to change if I didn’t want to grow old, hopeless and bitter.

This seasoned gal said she learned that she could *choose* ‘how’ she responded to disappointments, setbacks, dissolved marriage, job loss, moving away from home, salty family members, and poor choices of others. She had learned to live what she believed. That in Christ there is hope no matter what we face! She was pleasant to be around... kind, positive and realistically optimistic, despite life’s difficulty. I zoned in and listened. Here she was midweek, not isolated in some dark room at her house depressed, but in the work room, smiling and volunteering at Christ Church. I will never forget how she inspired *me* to assess one of my biggest challenges, my attitude. Though she has since gone home to be with the Lord, may we hear and take to heart her words today: “Attitude is everything!”

### Background

Has your poor attitude ever been your own worst obstacle? Bearing the name of Christ or ‘Christ-follower’, means we do just that: follow Christ. We must discover and then maintain the same attitude Christ Jesus had: an attitude of emptying ourselves; for suffering precedes the honor. This will mean not only living counter to the culture, but counter to the flesh. In our own strength we probably won’t default to laying aside self-interests and offering ourselves sacrificially as Jesus did. But when Christ through the Holy Spirit dwells within us, we will! Jesus expects this of us (see Mark 8:34). As we choose to offer our lives in worship to Christ, we are then inspired through the power of the Holy Spirit to live

incarnationally among others in the world as Jesus did.

## Read Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:24-29

An attitude of humility leads to a place of surrender and freedom. Selfishness – self-glorification, self-centeredness, self-worship – leads to a place of chains, brokenness, and bondage. We were not created to worship ourselves. Christ, the Alpha and Omega, invites us to himself where he generously gives himself, living water that ever-flows with refreshing water of life. Emptying ourselves of ourselves, makes room for Jesus to fill us with his very Presence, the Holy Spirit. His Spirit inspires us to see people through his eyes and live in humility. Inspirational time in the presence of the Lord enables us to live incarnationally.

Christ humbled himself when he came to this earth. He is not afraid to meet sinners where they are ... in the sickness, shame, the dirt and brokenness. Jesus hugged children, laughed, cried, touched lepers. He healed the blind, deaf, and crippled and raised from death the only son of a widow, a 12-year-old daughter, and his friend, Lazarus. Upon the onset of his public ministry, he spoke with a woman who was enduring a living death, divorce. The Samaritan woman had been married five times. And at the point of her encounter with Jesus beside a well in the heat of the day, she was living out-of-wedlock with a man. Surely her attitude was one of defeat, despair, and indifference. Yet, Jesus engages her and begins to inspire her when he said:

“If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water.... Anyone who drinks this (*physical*) water (*from the well*) will soon become thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.”  
(John 4:10, 13-14, parenthetical italics added)

### Discussion:

- How is the Samaritan woman inspired by Jesus, according to John 4:15?
- What must first be acknowledged for her to receive living water, according to vv16-26?
- How does her faith become incarnational, according to vv28-30?
- How were the people of the village affected by the woman’s inspirational and incarnational worship of the Messiah, the Savior of the world, according to vv39-42?

The trajectory of this woman was changed forever *and* everyone she inspired with her raw honest proclamation of the Messiah. It was important for her to be honest before Jesus, for he said, “God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24). The apostle Paul says our lives are an open book to people around us. For some, we may be a comic book, as Pastor

Henrietta shared with the Teaching Team in the message preview. But for others, we are a glimpse of the hope available in the Person of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ:

“Your lives are a letter written in our hearts; everyone can read it and recognize our good work among you. Clearly, you are a letter from Christ... This ‘letter’ is written not with pen and ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. It is carved not on tablets of stone, but on human hearts” (2 Cor. 3:2b, 3).

Because Christ lives within us, we are tangible expressions of Christ to the people around us. Hear the apostle Paul encourage us as he did born again believers in Philippi to be of one mind and purpose—

“... make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too” (Philippians 2:2-4).

### In Closing

When we choose to honestly own our sin to the Lord and receive his forgiveness, like refreshing living water we are made clean and new. Born again (2 Corinthians 5:17). We can then ask the Holy Spirit to help us take the attitude of humility and optimism that Jesus had. Close by reading together,

**“Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross.**

**Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:6-11).**

### One Year Bible Reading For This Week:

August 24: Job 12:1-15:35, 1 Corinthians 15:29-58, Psalm 39:1-13, Proverbs 21:30-31  
August 25: Job 16:1-19:29, 1 Corinthians 16:1-24, Psalm 40:1-10, Proverbs 22:1  
August 26: Job 20:1-22:30, 2 Corinthians 1:1-11, Psalm 40:11-17, Proverbs 22:2-4  
August 27: Job 23:1-27:23, 2 Corinthians 1:12-2:11, Psalm 41:1-13, Proverbs 22:5-6  
August 28: Job 28:1-30:31, 2 Corinthians 2:12-17, Psalm 42:1-11, Proverbs 22:7  
August 29: Job 31:1-33:33, 2 Corinthians 3:1-18, Psalm 43:1-5, Proverbs 22:8-9  
August 30: Job 34:1-36:33, 2 Corinthians 4:1-12, Psalm 44:1-8, Proverbs 22:10-12

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**Text: Job 1:18-21, Phil. 2:5-11**

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## PLAIN TRUTH

If you can’t worship God in the \_\_\_\_\_, you can’t worship God in the \_\_\_\_\_.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is the first step in \_\_\_\_\_ worship as we come not to \_\_\_\_\_ but to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ worship happens when we put our \_\_\_\_\_ in a \_\_\_\_\_ God and His \_\_\_\_\_ Presence.

**August 24, 2025**