



**Moving Beyond Motions : Corporate**  
**Sermon Discussion Questions – February 14, 2021**

**Scripture Passages:**

**Hebrews 10:25 (NIV84)** Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

**John 4:23 (NLT)** But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way.

**Matthew 4:10 (NLT)** “Get out of here, Satan,” Jesus told him. “For the Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.’”

**Jeremiah 29:12-14 (NLT)** “In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. I will be found by you,” says the Lord.

**James 4:8 (NLT)** Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

**Psalms 63 (NLT)** O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in your sanctuary and gazed upon your power and glory. Your unfailing love is better than life itself; how I praise you! I will praise you as long as I live, lifting up my hands to you in prayer. You satisfy me more than the richest feast. I will praise you with songs of joy. I lie awake thinking of you, meditating on you through the night. Because you are my helper, I sing for joy in the shadow of your wings. I cling to you; your strong right hand holds me securely...

**Warm Up:**

Today is Valentine's Day! Just for fun, would you describe yourself as someone who loves Valentine's Day, hates Valentine's Day, or is indifferent toward this day? Take some time to share with the group!

**Discussion:**

1) In the beginning of his message, Pastor Tom mentions the importance of having each other spiritually and the difficulty of experiencing spiritual renewal in isolation.

What are some ways you have stayed connected to community throughout this season?

What have been some of the negatives and positives of experiencing community and isolation in this season? What effect has this had on your spiritual life?

2) In his message, Pastor Tom shared this excerpt from Martin Luther:

*At home, in my own house, there is no warmth or vigor in me, but in the church, when the multitude is gathering together, a fire is kindled in my heart and it breaks its way through.*

What does "a fire in your heart" mean to you? How might experiencing "a fire in your heart" effect your words and actions? What does this have to do with worshipping together?

3) Pastor Tom described worship as *drawing near to the presence of God through adoration and holy living.*

Take a few minutes to talk through the different parts of this definition. What are some ways you draw near to the presence of God? What does it mean/look like to you to adore something? What are some facets of holy living?

4) Read John 4:23.

What might it look like to worship in spirit and in truth?

5) Excerpt from Pastor Tom:

*If seeking to know about something is defined by control, knowing someone is defined by surrender... If we are to know Christ, it is He who takes the initiative. If he doesn't take the initiative, we never find him. This is what God did through Christ.*

What does it mean to surrender to something or someone? How is Christ an example of God's initiative? How might knowing God takes the initiative impact the way you worship?

6) Read Psalm 63.

What stands out most to you? Why? How does this passage reflect a "drawing near to the presence of God through adoration and holy living?"

7) In his message, Pastor Tom gave six points of application for what it looks like to worship, to know God, and to surrender to God:

*Practice the presence of God daily.*

*Prepare for gathered worship experiences.*

*Gather in the power of the Lord.*

*Cultivate a holy dependency.*

*Learn the sacrifice of worship.*

*Worship begins with holy expectancy and ends with holy obedience.*

Which of these points is most difficult for you? Which is easiest for you? What daily or weekly life rhythms can you begin to incorporate to fully embrace these points?

**Next Steps:**

Pastor Tom's sixth point of application was that *worship begins with holy expectancy and ends with holy obedience*. What did God teach you in your time of worship this week, about himself and what does that mean about you, the people you love?

Take some time this week to reflect on which forms of worship best help you to be in a place of surrender and knowing God.