**Series Big Idea**

To “recalibrate” something means “to carefully adjust or align something again.”

As we go through the crazy twists and turns of our days, we can get quite out of whack. We lose perspective. We forget the truths we know. We become overwhelmed with the cares of this world.

Worship recalibrates our hearts to God.

This series will remind us of how critical a regular practice of CELEBRATE is in our lives. The Holy Spirit works through this practice as we Remember, Receive, and Respond. A key passage reminding us of how the Holy Spirit works through this time:

*“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” -John 14:26-27*

Specifically, we’ll focus on what happens when we come together to worship corporately, but each week we’ll also remember that what happens “in here” is also something we can experience “out there” to continually recalibrate our hearts.

**Message 1  | July 29 | Recalibrate**

**Scripture: John 4:10-26, Colossians 3:17, 1 Corinthians 10:31, Romans 12:1-2**

**Message Big Idea**Through worship we recalibrate our hearts to God and the life he wants for us.

*10 Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”*

*11 “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”13 Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”15 The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”16 He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”17 “I have no husband,” she replied.*

*Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. 18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”19 “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. 20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”21 “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”25 The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”26 Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.” John 4:10-26*

*And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. -Colossians 3:17*

*So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. -1 Corinthians 10:31*

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. -Romans 12:1-2*

**Message Description**

As we go through the crazy twists and turns of our days, we can get quite out of whack. We lose perspective. We forget the truths we know. We become overwhelmed with the cares of this world.

Worship recalibrates our hearts to God and the life he wants for us.

What is worship? In this opening message of the series, we’ll try to take a big picture view of what it means to worship and why it is important in our lives.

The most common word for worship in the Old Testament is the Hebrew word *“hishtavah”* – which essentially means, *“to bow down with reverence.”* It occurs 171 times, and 164 of those instances are translated by the Greek word, *“proskuneo.”*

Here’s the interesting part.

* In the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) this word shows up 26 times (i.e. “bowing down to Jesus”).
* In the book of Revelation it shows up 21 times (i.e. “angels bowing down to the Father”).

But get this:

* In the letters of Paul – it shows up once (1 Corinthians 14).
* In the letters of Peter, James, and John – it doesn’t show up at all.

Isn’t that strange?

The letters written specifically to help the church be and become what it’s supposed to be and become is almost completely devoid of this hugely significant word. The cardinal word for “worship” in the Old Testament is almost entirely absent from much of the New Testament. Why?

Perhaps the answer is found in John chapter 4 in a conversation between Jesus and a Samaritan woman who met him at a well. As they engage in a conversation about “living water,” the woman attempts to divert the conversation away from what was becoming an uncomfortably personal dialogue. She attempts to turn the conversation more “theological” by asking Jesus which mountain was the proper one to worship at – the one of the Israelites or the one of the Samaritans.

In that day, *“hishtavah”* or *“proskuneo”* were associated with a particular place. Worship was tied to the sacrificial system that took place first in the tabernacle and later the temple. But Jesus says something to the Samaritan woman that completely redefines worship:

*“Woman, I tell you that neither is so. Believe this: a new day is coming—in fact, it’s already here—when the importance will not be placed on the time and place of worship but on the truthful hearts of worshipers.” John 4:21-22 (The Voice)*

Jesus strips *“hishtavah”* and *“proskuneo”* of their localized, confined connotations. Worship is not about going to a place or going through certain religious motions. Jesus says “true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth.” *(NIV)* In this message we’ll want to explore what that means. What does it mean to worship God “in the Spirit and in truth?”

We can worship God anywhere, all the time! Here at COMMUNITY, we call this CELEBRATE. The practice of CELEBRATE is something we do together corporately, and in our daily life individually. This practice recalibrates our hearts to God and allows us to live every aspect of life as an expression of this inward reality of worship.

**Docent Requests:**

* Commentary on John 4:10-26 focusing on v. 19-24.
* Commentary on Colossians 3:17, 1 Corinthians 10:31, Romans 12:1-2.
* Additional word study info on *“hishtavah”* that could be helpful to this message.
* Explanations/Quotes from spiritual writers on what it means to worship “in the Spirit and in truth.”
* Word pictures/analogies for the concept of “recalibrate.” What is something from the physical world that needs to be recalibrated? How is it done?
* Misconceptions people have about what “worship” is. (Possibly humorous)

**Message 2  | August 5 | Remember**

**Scripture: 1 Samuel 7:1-14, John 14:26**

**Message Big Idea**

Through worship we remember who God is and who we are.

*1 So the men of Kiriath Jearim came and took up the ark of the Lord. They brought it to Abinadab’s house on the hill and consecrated Eleazar his son to guard the ark of the Lord. 2 The ark remained at Kiriath Jearim a long time—twenty years in all.*

*Then all the people of Israel turned back to the Lord. 3 So Samuel said to all the Israelites, “If you are returning to the Lord with all your hearts, then rid yourselves of the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths and commit yourselves to the Lord and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.” 4 So the Israelites put away their Baals and Ashtoreths, and served the Lord only.5 Then Samuel said, “Assemble all Israel at Mizpah, and I will intercede with the Lord for you.” 6 When they had assembled at Mizpah, they drew water and poured it out before the Lord. On that day they fasted and there they confessed, “We have sinned against the Lord.” Now Samuel was serving as leader of Israel at Mizpah.7 When the Philistines heard that Israel had assembled at Mizpah, the rulers of the Philistines came up to attack them. When the Israelites heard of it, they were afraid because of the Philistines. 8 They said to Samuel, “Do not stop crying out to the Lord our God for us, that he may rescue us from the hand of the Philistines.”9 Then Samuel took a suckling lamb and sacrificed it as a whole burnt offering to the Lord. He cried out to the Lord on Israel’s behalf, and the Lord answered him.10 While Samuel was sacrificing the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to engage Israel in battle. But that day the Lord thundered with loud thunder against the Philistines and threw them into such a panic that they were routed before the Israelites. 11 The men of Israel rushed out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, slaughtering them along the way to a point below Beth Kar.12 Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, “Thus far the Lord has helped us.”13 So the Philistines were subdued and they stopped invading Israel’s territory. Throughout Samuel’s lifetime, the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines.14 The towns from Ekron to Gath that the Philistines had captured from Israel were restored to Israel, and Israel delivered the neighboring territory from the hands of the Philistines. And there was peace between Israel and the Amorites. -1 Samuel 7:1-14*

*26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will* ***remind you*** *of everything I have said to you. -John 14:26*

**Message Description**:

So much of what we do when we come together to worship God is about remembering…

* Remembering who God is…
* Remembering what he has done…
* Remembering who we are…
* Remembering our need for God…

The ancient Israelite people knew the importance of remembering. They would often set up altars as a way to recall the faithfulness of God.

In this message, we’ll look at an example of this “altar-building” from 1 Samuel 7. Maybe at one time or another you have sung the old hymn *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* which includes the line “Here I raise my Ebenezer. Here there by Thy great help I've come.” This line comes from this story in 1 Samuel 7.

Chapters 4 through 7 of 1 Samuel describe a series of battles between the Israelites and the Philistines. In an attempt to defeat the Philistines, the Israelites took the ark of the covenant into battle as a sort of good luck charm. To their anguish, however, the Philistines captured the ark and took it back to their pagan temple. God then sent plagues upon the Philistines and caused the idol of their god Dagon to fall over on its face. Fearing God, the Philistines sent the ark back to the Israelites, but continued to fight. As they fought more battles, the prophet Samuel led the Israelites as their last judge. As prophet and judge, Samuel offered sacrifices to God, so that when the Philistines approached, God thundered with a great thunder. (1 Samuel 7:10) In the confusion that followed, the Israelites soundly defeated the Philistines.

As a reminder of the great victory God gave to Israel, Samuel took a great stone and raised it as a memorial between Mizpah and Shen. As he raised it he called the name of it Ebenezer, which means “stone of help”, saying, *“Thus far the Lord has helped us.”* (1 Samuel 7:12) Whenever the Israelites looked at the stone, they would remember how God had helped them.

All of us are prone to forget. We can get so fixated on and overwhelmed by our current circumstances that we lose sight of who God is and who we are. Through worship, we remember.

In fact, that is one of the primary roles of the Holy Spirit in our lives...to remind us, to help us remember what we know (John 14:26). The Holy Spirit does that “in here” as we come together to CELEBRATE God, but he also is the helper who is constantly reminding us “out there”

This service could lend itself to creative elements that help us “remember.” Brainstorm away!

**Docent Requests:**

* Insights on the practice and significance of building altars in the Old Testament.
* Commentary on 1 Samuel 7 (focusing on v.12) and John 14:26 (focusing on “remind you”).
* Humorous illustrations of how easy it is to forget things.
* Insights from science about why we tend to forget things.
* Insights from spiritual writers on the practice of “remembering.” How does “remembering” help recalibrate us?
* List of “I Am” statements and “You Are” statements with Scripture references.

**Message 3  | August 12 | Receive**

**Scripture: John 14:26, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Luke 22:14-20**

**Message Big Idea**

Through worship we receive Jesus and his truth for our lives.

*26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will* ***teach you*** *all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. -John 14:26*

*23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. -1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

*14 When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. 15 And he said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.16 For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.” 17 After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, “Take this and divide it among you. 18 For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”* *19 And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”*

*20 In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. -Luke 22:14-20*

**Message Description**

Have you ever left a church service saying, “I didn’t get anything out of it?” Admittingly, I have. Yet, whose fault is that?

A few years ago I (Tammy) was traveling and visited a church with some relatives. I will confess, I didn’t enjoy it. I didn’t like the style of music. I got distracted by something I noticed in the pastor’s style of delivery. I started zoning out during the message. I left thinking, “I got nothing out of that.” However, later that day, I felt convicted by the Holy Spirit about how I had approached the whole service. I sat in the church as more of a critic than a participant. Honestly, because the service was not my “preferred style,” I didn’t go into it expecting to receive anything.

But does that mean God didn’t have something he wanted to give to me there?

Through his Holy Spirit, God is always giving to us. He is always speaking. He is always revealing. He is always reminding. The question is: Are we ready to receive what he has for us?

In this message, we can challenge one another to examine ourselves to identify some of the things that might keep us from receiving what God has for us when we gather to worship. Some possibilities:

* Lack of expectation.
* Rushing in late.
* Unresolved conflict (Matthew 5:23-24).
* Distractions.
* Resistance.

Jesus said that the Holy Spirit will teach us all things (John 14:26). Every time we gather together, the Holy Spirit is active wanting to reveal truth to us. And there are lots of ways we might receive from him…

* Through the message.
* Through a phrase in a song.
* Through a conversation with the person sitting next to you.
* Through the ministry of prayer.
* Through a sense of his presence.

We’ll hit the above list quickly, but in this message we’ll focus in on one way we receive from God in every service: Communion / The Lord’s Supper / The Eucharist. As Paul describes the The Lord’s Supper in 1 Corinthians 11, he says, “For I *received* from the Lord what I also passed on to you…” We don’t *take* Communion; we *receive* it.

If we have time, in this message we could help people understand the symbolism of the cups and the bread in Communion by explaining how it is the Passover meal redefined for Christ-followers by Jesus (Luke 22).

We’ll also help people recognize what God has for them to *receive* in this ancient practice...the truths that it symbolizes and how we can take hold of those truths every time we receive Communion.

This previous COMMUNITY message on [Communion](https://drive.google.com/file/d/18pSIPTayBmhoFAMilWmuec0dS3pRCFLr/view?usp=sharing) might be a resource.

Could possibly end this message with a Communion moment where people come forward and receive Communion from someone who says out loud: “This is the body of Christ, broken for you. This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.”

**Docent Requests**:

* Commentary on 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Luke 22:14-20, and John 14:26 (focusing on “teach you”).
* Insights from spiritual writers on the meaning of the Lord’s Supper. What are we receiving when we participate in it?
* Summary of Henri Nouwen’s material on “Becoming the Beloved” where he uses the Lord’s Supper to help us recognize we are taken, blessed, broken, and given.
* What is the spiritual significance of a posture of “receive” instead of “take”?

**Message 4  | August 19 | Respond**

**Scripture:** James 1:22-25; John 14:27; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Ezekiel 47:1-12

**Message Big Idea**

Through worship we respond to God, each other, and our world.

*22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. -James 1:22-25*

*27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. -John 14:27*

*31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. -1 Corinthians 10:31*

*The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar. 2 He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was trickling from the south side.*

*3 As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and then led me through water that was ankle-deep. 4 He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist. 5 He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in—a river that no one could cross. 6 He asked me, “Son of man, do you see this?”* *Then he led me back to the bank of the river. 7 When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river. 8 He said to me, “This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah,  where it enters the Dead Sea. When it empties into the sea, the salty water there becomes fresh.9 Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. 10 Fishermen will stand along the shore; from En Gedi to En Eglaim there will be places for spreading nets. The fish will be of many kinds—like the fish of the Mediterranean Sea. 11 But the swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt. 12 Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruitfail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.” -Ezekiel 47:1-2*

**Message Description**
Religious, irreligious, or otherwise - worship is not an *aspect* of our life – but the very *essence* of our life. When we speak of worshipping – we are speaking in terms of *when*, not *if*.

Each of us is continually giving ourselves away and pouring ourselves out for a person, cause, experience, achievement, or status. As a result – all of life is ceaseless worship. And while church, singing, and liturgy is a *part* of worship– it is not limited to, defined by, expressed only in.

Worship isn’t merely something we passively receive.Through worship, we have the opportunity to *respond* as well. We respond both “in here” as well as “out there.”

Some of the ways that we respond through worship “in here”:

* By singing together
* By learning together
* By praying together
* By giving together

Some of the ways that we respond through worship “out there”:

* By serving (Summer Serve; mentoring, etc.)
* By pausing (Rest, Sabbath, etc.)
* By prioritizing (Putting God first, then family, then community etc.)
* By giving of our resources. (Living generously)

Author Harold Best puts it best, ironically:

*“We were created continuously outpouring. Note that I did not say we were created to be continuous outpourers. Nor can I dare imply that we were created to worship. This would suggest that God is an incomplete person whose need for something outside himself (worship) completes his sense of himself. It might not even be safe to say that we were created for worship, because the inference can be drawn that worship is a capacity that can be separated out and eventually relegated to one of several categories of being. I believe it is strategically important, therefore, to say that we were created continuously outpouring—we were created in that condition, at that instant, imago Dei.”- Harold Best*

Simply put: We are not created *to* worship or even *for* worship – we are created *worshipping*. Each of us, you and I, are always reflecting something, being formed by something – all of the time. It is how we are made. Each and everyone one of us worships.

The Apostle Paul saw all of life as an outward expression of the inward reality of worship. For him, the key to nurturing our worship of God is ongoing renewal. When speaking of communion, he doesn’t seem to see it merely as something we do to remember Christ or even to appreciate him - as important as those things are. The Apostle Paul calls this shared meal “a participation” in the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 10:16). That means, we receive - in order to participate, to respond with our lives! This is what it means when we read:

*“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” - 1 Corinthians 10:31*

And we don’t have to fear leaving this place, living a life of worship - but God tells us that the Spirit is with us, prompting us, and sending us (John 14:27). When we go “out there” - we pour ourselves out, and then we come back here next week to be recalibrated again. That’s the rhythm God built us for.

Closing imagery:

* Ezekiel 47:1-12
* The goal is not to stockpile good vibes in here in place but to let abundant life flow into the world through all we do.

**Docent Requests**:

* Commentary on key passages.
* Examples of how the early church/early Christians lived out this idea of “worship as a way of life.”
* Quotes that support this idea of seeing all of life as worship.
* Quotes linking the notion of worship to mission.
* Illustrations/images that help depict or explain this idea.
* Insights from spiritual writers concerning some of the hurdles and obstacles to this kind of living.