**Recalibrate Week 1 - Recalibrate**

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

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

**Prop**: A compass is an “Improved” option.

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**Introduction: GPS**

When it comes to directions and navigation, I think the world can basically be divided into two types of people:

* There are those who completely trust GPS. It can be Google Maps, Waze, or whatever; you punch it in and you follow the directions.
* Then there are those who think they know more than the GPS. You use it, but half the time you think you know a short cut that Google doesn’t know.

Let’s see a show of hands…

* How many of you implicitly trust your GPS more than you do your own sense of navigation?
* How many of you think your GPS is not to be fully trusted?

Michael Scott and Dwight Shrute illustrate these two world views perfectly and here is what happened to them…

**Video: Driving into a Lake**

“Improved” option is a 0:37 clip of Michael Scott and Dwight Shrute driving into a lake.

**Compass**

Now, long before we ever had GPS, we had these things *(compass) (holds up a compass)*. How many of you have played with a compass before? These are tremendously fascinating little pieces of equipment. Some consider the invention of the compass to be the single greatest invention of all time.

* The invention of the compass is what allowed all exploration to begin.
* The invention of the compass is what made it possible to travel in all kinds of weather conditions.

In 206 B.C., the Chinese people figured out that the earth is a giant magnet and that the magnetic field it creates is strong enough to point the compass true north. Until this thing was invented, every mariner was terrified about going off-course while at sea; accidently ending up in bad waters or ending up shipwrecked.

I think being lost at sea is a sort of primal fear – because that narrative and story line keeps coming up over and over again…

* How many of you saw the movie *(picture)* ***Castaway***?
* Or how about *(add)* ***The* *Perfect Storm***?
* And of course, the most terrifying of all… *(add)* ***Giligans Island***!

In the middle of a storm, what we need is something to keep us from getting lost! *(compass)* And that’s why this compass was such a remarkable tool. It could keep a mariner on course no matter what – good weather or bad weather, storm or calm, day or night.

**Series Intro**

And here is why this is so important… Every life is going to have storms. Jesus himself said, *“In this world you will have trouble.”* My life, your life will go through seasons when our worlds feel turned upside down. Some of us are in the middle of a storm right now! And with all the crazy twists and turns, it can be easy for us to drift off course. We can lose perspective; we can forget the truths we know; we can wander from God and end up in places we never intended to be!

What we need is a compass…something that will point us to true north. We need a tool to recalibrate us and help us find our way.

So, today we’re starting a brand new series called *(Series Graphic)* **“Recalibrate.”** For the next few weeks, we’re going to look at some of the means God has given us to keep us from getting lost. We are going to learn how to recalibrate our hearts and minds back towards God.

**Worship Recalibrates**

And one of the primary ways to recalibrate our lives is worship. Worship realigns us in the right direction - true north. Worship recalibrates our hearts and our minds to God.

So if worship is one of the instruments that recalibrates us; what exactly and specifically is worship? What does it mean to worship God?

* Some people think that worship is a type of music, like what we did a little while ago.
* Some people believe that worship is something reserved for super spiritual people.
* Others believe worship is something that only happens at certain times and at certain places - like within these walls on a Sunday morning.

Back in Jesus’ day people had some of the same notions about worship. In fact, Jesus encountered a woman who held a common misconception about what worship really is.

**Word: John 4**

Now, before we dive into the Bible story in John 4, let me give you a little background. Jesus is a Jewish man, and the woman he encounters is a Samaritan. The Jewish people and the Samaritan people were at odds with one another. In fact, they downright despised one another.

One thing they fought over was the proper place to worship. The ancient Samaritans believed Mount Gerizim, located about 50 miles north of Jerusalem, was the proper place to worship and built a temple there. The Jewish people disagreed and in 128 BC, they destroyed this Samaritan temple. They believed the proper place to worship was the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

This dispute about the proper place to worship had raged for decades and sets the context for the question this Samaritan woman asks Jesus as they meet outside a small village near a well:

**“’Sir,’ the woman said, ‘I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.’” -John 4:19-20**

The Samaritan woman is asking what to her seems the key worship question of their time: Where should I worship? Where should I point my compass? Yet, Jesus’ answer completely recalibrates the conversation.

**“’Woman,’ Jesus replied, ‘believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. 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. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.’” -John 4:21-24**

Remember this woman knows generations of people who have argued about worship, and Jesus tells her that “where” a person worships is no longer of primary concern. Rather “how” a person worships is what matters. The way in which one worship is what is really important.

**3C’s and Worship**

Here at COMMUNITY we challenge people to be 3C Christ-followers. And by 3C Christ-followers we mean people who… *(3C Graphic)*

* ***Celebrate*** *–* Who join together here as we celebrate what God has done and will do in our lives. People who…
* ***Connect*** *–* Who join a small group and live in community, supporting and encouraging one another. And, people who…
* ***Contribute*** *–* Who join us on this Jesus mission as we give of our time, talents and treasures to further God’s Kingdom.

Now, which of these is worship? *Celebrate, connect or contribute?* (pause) Yes! All of them are our worship! Yet, maybe you’re thinking, *“Hold it, I thought that moment in the Sunday service when we sing together was worship?!?”* It is! For many of us it is kind of like the moutain top of worship. It has a great way of recalibrating our lives. But celebrating together is not all there is to worship. Connecting is also worship. Contributing is worship. All 3C’s are a form of worship. See, just like the Samaritan woman who thought worship only happened on a certain “mountain,” we misunderstand what worship really is and think it only happens at a certain place or a certain time while we’re doing a certain thing.

Let me define worship for you:

***Worship:* Giving your whole self to God.** *(repeat)*

What is worship? *(Have audience say it aloud)*

This was the definition that Jesus was trying to give to the Samaritan woman. He’s pointing her to true north. *(John 4:23 with ‘in the Spirit and in truth’ highlighted)* He tells her that true worshippers will worship God in **Spirit** and **truth**! Spirit and truth, ok, great...but what does that mean?

**True Worship - An Inner Reality**

First, Jesus is reminding us that true worship is an inner reality. It is not about a certain time on Sunday morning; it’s not about a certain place called a church building. It’s not about great music or musicians. While worship may happen at that time and in that place; true worship is an inner reality that can happen all the time in any place. And Jesus intentionally uses these two words: in the **Spirit** and in **truth.**

When he says *(highlight just this phrase)* **“in the Spirit”** he is saying that when we worship, when we give our whole self to God, our spirit recalibrates to his Spirit. It can be easy for us to drift from God, from what God desires, from what God commands… worship brings our **hearts** back to him. Worship turns our conviction and will toward God.

While worship is not limited to this room, it often happens in this room. And when I’m in the midst of worship I can feel my heart, my will, my loyalties being pulled back on course toward God. Do you know what I mean? Have you experienced that?

But while I can often feel it, it’s not only a feeling. Worship is a decision of the heart and will. Songwriter Graham Kendrick, who is known for songs such as “Shine, Jesus, Shine,” explains it this way:

**“Worship has been misunderstood as something that arises from a feeling which ‘comes upon you,’ but it is vital that we understand that it is rooted in a conscious act of the will, to serve and obey the Lord Jesus Christ.” –Graham Kendrick**

True worship recalibrates our spirit with the Spirit of God. It engages our hearts and turns our will, convictions, and loyalties toward God.

*(John 4:23 with ‘in truth’ highlighted)* Jesus also says that true worshippers will worship **“in truth.”** Worship not only engages our **hearts,** but also engages our **heads.** True worship not only changes the convictions of our hearts, but it also change the knowledge and understanding in our heads. It recalibrates our minds to the truth of God.

When we worship “in truth,” we ground ourselves in the teachings of Jesus. True worship has a way of causing us to reflect on our lives and recalibrate our thinking to following Jesus!

So, please understand this – true worship is not just something that happens when we have a great band and get an adrenalin rush from singing together on a Sunday. Worship is giving our whole selves – our hearts and our minds – to God.

**Matt Redman Story**

About 20 years ago a church in England called Soul Survivor was gaining recognition for having great worship music led by a fantastic musican and worship pastor, Matt Redman. Matt has written songs we’ve sung around here over the years like “Blessed Be Your Name” and “10,000 Reasons.”

If you talked with those who were a part of the church during that time, they would tell you that they went through a season where they were so preoccupied with making sure the production and music quality were so high that they almost lost sight of why they were doing what they were doing. They described it as “worshipping the worship experience.” So the pastor, guy named Mike, brought the band together and they decided to get rid of the sound system, to ignore the production, to strip everything away, and have all the people gather with just their voices. He wanted to get back to the heart of worship. He admitted, the first Sunday they tried this, there was a lot of awkward silence. But very soon, they got comfortable singing a cappella songs and offering simple, heartfelt prayers as they encountered God in a fresh new way.

As a result of that season, Matt Redman wrote a song called, “The Heart of Worship.” Do any of you know it? The lyrics are…

*When the music fades, all is stripped away, and I simply come*

*Longing just to bring something that’s of worth that will bless your heart…*

*I’m coming back to the heart of worship, and it’s all about You, Jesus*

That song became an anthem for that church and for many other churches, including ours, over the next few years.

There are lots of things that can get in the way of true worship.

* Our desires can get in the way.
* Our worries can get in the way.
* Our agenda can get in the way.

Anything that becomes more important than acknowledging Jesus as Lord and Leader of our life can get in the way. Even worship music itself can get in the way! Worship is coming before God and offering our whole selves to him. And when we do that – with music or without music; it recalibrates our hearts and our heads back toward God.

**True Worship - An Outer Reality**

So, true worship is an inner reality that we experience “in the Spirit and in truth,” but I also have to remind us that true worship is also an outer reality!

When I get a text from someone in my Small Group telling me that they have a job interview coming up or they have a parent that is sick, and I stop and pray for them and text them letting them know that I am praying for them – that is true worship.

When we do Summer Serve and I take part of a Saturday or Sunday and use my time and talents to help make God’s world more like he meant for it to be – that is true worship.

When I sacrifice financially as a part of Celebration Generosity so kids in other parts of the world have the same opportunities our kids have OR so we can plant churches where people will find their way back to God – that is true worship.

The Apostle Paul reminds us what true worship is when he says:

**“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.” -Romans 12:1**

The point – true worship is not just something that happens in here *(point to head and heart)*, but it also happens out there *(to the doors or outside the building)*. It is both an inner reality and an outer reality and when we worship with our whole selves – it recalibrates our lives toward God.

**Challenge: A Warning About Drifting**

We have covered a lot of ground today. We have come to realize that yes, worship happens on Sunday mornings, but it is NOT ONLY singing on Sundays. Worship happens through *celebrating, connecting* and *contributing.* Worship is giving our whole selves to God. With that understanding, I want to come back to our big idea and what makes worship so important for you and for me. Through worship we recalibrate our hearts, our minds, our whole lives to God and the life he wants for us.

See, often in life, we will drift. We will get lost. We will find ourselves in places we never intended to be. Consider this. If you're going somewhere and you drift by just one degree, after one foot, you'll miss your target by 0.2 inches. No big deal, right? But what about as you get farther out?

* After 100 yards, you'll be off by 5 feet. Not huge, but noticeable.
* After a mile, you'll be off by 92 feet. One degree is starting to make a difference.
* But if you were trying to travel from San Francisco to Washington, D.C., that 1 degree would cause you to end up north of Baltimore!
* And if you’re in a rocket going to the moon, being 1 degree off will cause you to be 4,169 miles off course! Not even close!

We have to beware of drifting! And let’s be honest – some of us are drifting away from God right now. Maybe you’re not as close to him as you once were. If you think about where you are now, you are in a different place spiritually than you were a month ago…a year ago…totally off course compared to where you were 5 years ago. And the truth is - you never intended to be where you are! You are drifting!

What we need is worship. We need moments when we intentionally give our whole self to God. Worship is a spiritual GPS that re-routes us. Worship is God’s compass that point us back to him. Worship recalibrates us to God.

And just in case the definition of giving our whole selves to God feels overwhelming, let me end by reminding you that worship also happens just 1 degree at a time. A spiritual contemplative referred to as Brother Lawrence put it this way:

**“God does not ask much of us, merely a thought of Him from time to time, a little act of adoration, sometimes to ask for His grace, sometimes to offer Him your sufferings, at other times to thank Him for the graces, past and present, He has bestowed on you, in the midst of your troubles to take solace in Him as often as you can. Lift up your heart to Him during your meals and in company; the least little remembrance will always be the most pleasing to Him. One need not cry out very loudly; He is nearer to us than we think.” –Brother Lawrence**

So, let’s all course correct right now. Just by 1 degree.

When I move 1 degree closer to God…

* My life works better.
* My relationships work better.
* My life’s has purpose.
* I experience the abundant life that God meant for me!

When we we all move 1 degree closer to God…

* Our lives work better.
* Our community works better.
* This church fulfills it’s mission.
* We begin to make this world more like God always meant it to be!

So let’s all move 1 degree closer to God right now as I pray.

**Communion Idea**

In Apostle Paul challenges us to worship. He challenges us to give our whole selves to God when he says…

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

Paul is saying…

* “You are going to satisfy your hunger at least 3x a day – do that for the glory of God.”
* “You are going to satisfy your thirst multiple times a day – do that for the glory of God.”
* “You are going to work and recreate and hangout with friends, so he adds, “…whatever you do” – do it all for the glory of God!

I want to challenge us with those words. As you take the bread it is a reminder of Jesus who gave us his body. As you take this cup, it is reminder of Jesus who gave us shed his blood for us. So, let this communion moment not be just a Sunday morning church ritutal. But let this be a moment where we commit our whole selves to God.