*Lesson 3: The Necessities of Worship*

**Definition of worship** – To ascribe worth to God by proclaiming his gospel.

**Purpose of worship** – To proclaim the gospel in impactful, memorable ways.

With these truths in mind, discuss with the people sitting around your “deal breakers” when it comes to worship services. (e.g. “I would want to leave St. John’s and join a different church if…”)

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

1. In what ways does God “reconcile” people to himself?
2. Explain. A Christian church must make use of the Means of Grace in every worship service.

**Read Psalm 122:1**

1. Look over the following list and discuss with the people around you which parts of our worship services bring you the most joy.

Greetings Before Service Prayers Communion

Confession & Absolution Creeds Offering

Scripture Readings Sermon Baptism

Songs Children’s Message Fellowship After Service

1. Agree or Disagree? Since the gospel is proclaimed in every part of our worship services, no one part is more important than any other part.

**Read Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-26, Luke 22:13-23, 1 Corinthians 11:17-32**

1. Look through your assigned verses with the people around you and discuss the following questions.

What do these verses tell us about Communion?

What do these verses not tell us about Communion?

1. Imagine you are part of St. John’s worship team and need to give a recommendation to the pastor about how often to celebrate Communion. Discuss the subject with the people sitting around you and agree on one recommendation. Keep the following realities in mind as you discuss.

* The Bible does not tell us how often we should celebrate Communion.
* Communion is a blessing God wants Christians to make use of often. (Lk 22:19, 1 Co 11:26)
* A Christian’s faith is not weak, immature, or inferior just because he or she does not want to take Communion every week. (1 Co 10:29-30)
* Forgiveness of sins is always proclaimed in St. John’s services through the spoken Word of God, even if Communion isn’t celebrated. (Jn 20:23)
* Communion personalizes forgiveness for each individual, like a spiritual hug from Jesus. (Lk 22:20)
* Faith is strengthened just as effectively by the spoken Word of God as it is by the reception of Communion. (Ro 10:17)
* Communion’s main purpose is to give forgiveness of sins, but it is also intended to unite Christians to God and to one another. (1 Co 10:17)
* Many members at St. John’s want to have Communion every Sunday, but many members do not want to have Communion every Sunday.

1. While early dismissal is an acceptable compromise that is not sinful in any way, what are some disadvantages with it?

**Read Romans 1:16**

1. Explain. The best approach a church can take towards its worship services is to try and stay out of God’s way.
2. When you know God’s gospel is at the heart of every St. John’s worship service, how does it make you feel?