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**Worship in Spirit and Truth:  
“What Do You Love?”  
Psalm 115**

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**Thoughts to Shape and Spark Discussion:**

**“Every man becomes the image of the God he adores. He whose worship is directed to a dead thing becomes dead. He who loves corruption rots. He who loves a shadow becomes, himself, a shadow. He who loves things that must perish lives in dread of their perishing.” – Thomas Merton**

**“False gods destroy and devour lives, health and resources; they distort and diminish our humanity; they preside over injustice, greed, perversion, cruelty, lust and violence. It is possibly the most satanic dimension of their deceptive power, that in spite of all this, they still persuade people that they are the beneficent protectors of their worshipers’ identity, dignity and prosperity, and must therefore be defended at all costs. Only the gospel can unmask these claims. Only the gospel exposes the cancer of idolatry. Only the gospel is good for people.” – Christopher Wright**

**“Worship is the strategy by which we interrupt our preoccupation with ourselves and attend to the presence of God.” – Eugene Peterson**

**“To be human is to be animated and oriented by some version of the good life, some picture of what we think counts as “flourishing.” And we want that. We crave it. We desire it. This is why our most fundamental mode of orientation to the world is love . . . Worship is the arena in which God recalibrates our hearts, reforms our desires, and rehabituates our loves. Worship isn’t just something we do; it is where God does something to us. Worship is the heart of discipleship because it is the gymnasium in which God retrains our hearts.” – James K.A. Smith**

**Themes and Questions to Guide Reflection and Response:**

- **After reading through the passage together, ask your group what makes an impression upon them from the passage and why it strikes them. Their observations may be questions or personal applications from the sermon/text.**
- **Ask folks in your group to consider the quotations above. What does it spark in them? What’s helpful and clear, and, perhaps, even convicting?**
- **Do you consider yourself and everyone you know, whether religious or not, to be worshippers? Why, or why not?**
- **How do you respond to the assertion that worship is the most formative act we engage in as humans? What are the implications of this for your personal approach to church?**
- **What hopes, fears, and curiosities do you bring to this series? Who do you think you will become through it?**