

Discussion Guide

July 20, 2025

Summer Series Week 6

His Name Above It All

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Main Idea

In John 4:23, Jesus disrupts the religious mindset that worship is limited to a place, a ritual, or a system. He redefines it as something deeper—pure, authentic worship that flows from a surrendered heart. True worship isn't about performance or position; it's personal. And if His name is truly above it all, then our worship must rise above our feelings, fears, and comfort. It's a lifestyle that places Him above our ego, agenda, and emotions—every part of us fully surrendered.

Anchor Passage

"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."

(John 4:23, NIV)

God doesn't meet you at the edge of your convenience; He meets you at the point of your surrender.

1. **IF HIS NAME IS ABOVE IT ALL, IT ALSO HAS TO BE ABOVE OUR PLANS.**

True worship is a daily surrender to God in response to His mercy. It's not about preference or control, but a lifestyle that says, "God, have Your way." If His name is above it all, He must be over it all.

Read: Romans 12:1

Discussion: What's one area of your life where you're still holding on to control, and what would it look like to surrender that to God as an act of worship this week? How can you help others to do the same?

2. IF HIS NAME IS ABOVE IT ALL, IT ALSO HAS TO BE ABOVE OUR FEELINGS.

True worship isn't led by our feelings—it's led by faith, the Spirit, and the truth of who God is. If His name is truly above it all, then it must also be above our emotions, our moods, and our momentary reactions.

Read John 4:24 and Isaiah 26:3

Discussion: What's one recent moment when your feelings tried to lead you, and how might surrendering that to God have changed your response? How can you practically anchor your worship in God's truth rather than your emotions this week?

3. IF HIS NAME IS ABOVE IT ALL, IT ALSO HAS TO BE ABOVE OUR PRIDE

True worship puts God at the center and pride in its place. If His name is truly above it all, then it must be above our image, our comfort, and our need to be in control—because He won't share the throne with our ego.

Read James 4:6 and Habakkuk 3:17–18

Discussion: In what ways does pride—whether through performance or self-protection—hold you back from fully surrendering in worship? What would it look like for you to lay down your image or comfort this week and truly let God take the lead in your life?

Worshipping in Spirit and in Truth means trusting HIM even when it doesn't make sense.

SUMMARY

This message reminds us that true worship isn't about a place, a feeling, or a performance—it's about a fully surrendered heart. If His name is truly above it all, then it must be above our plans, our feelings, and our pride. Worship is a daily decision to trust, surrender, and lift His name higher—regardless of how we feel or what we face.

CALL TO ACTION

Surrender Your Schedule and Plans to God Daily. Make space each morning to say, "Not my will, not my plan, but Yours, Lord." Invite God to interrupt your agenda and lead your day—whether through inconvenience, redirection, or divine opportunities.

Anchor Your Worship in God's Truth, Not Your Feelings. This week, identify a moment when your emotions are running high—frustration, discouragement, or stress—and intentionally shift your focus to God's

unchanging character. Turn on worship, pray Scripture like Isaiah 26:3, and let His truth lead you, not your mood.

Lay Down Your Pride and Embrace Authentic Worship. Reflect on any ways you've held back in worship—whether through performance, image management, or self-protection—and take one bold step to surrender that. Whether it's lifting your hands in worship, opening up in prayer, or saying “yes” to correction, let humility invite God's presence into your life.

GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

Jenga Jam

You will need a Jenga game. Cut out small pieces of paper that fit the length of each Jenga block and tape them to each Jenga piece. Then have each group member take a few blocks and write a question on each slip of paper. These questions can vary between light-hearted and deep, but let each person decide what question they want to use. (Examples: How many siblings do you have? If you could see any singer in concert, who would you see? What is your middle name?) Assemble the Jenga game.

Split your small group into two teams and have each person take a turn removing pieces from the Jenga game. Each time a block is moved, the person must answer the question on the slip of paper. Continue playing until one team wins the game.

Tips: This game is fun with more people. This activity should take 15-20 minutes. Prompt your group to listen when each person answers the question on their block; otherwise, the game may get loud as people strategize together. It is fun to see the types of questions people write.