**“Worship”**

Going deeper in Jeremiah 7:1-11

**INTRODUCTION –** Jeremiah has been called by God; set apart and gifted to be a Prophet of the Lord for the nations. Now, God sends Jeremiah into Jerusalem, to the very gates of the Temple to bring a message of repentance.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*

This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: **2**“Stand at the gate of the Lord’s house and there proclaim this message:” ‘Hear the word of the Lord, all you people of Judah who come through these gates to worship the Lord. **3**This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Reform your ways and your actions, and I will let you live in this place. **4**Do not trust in deceptive words and say, “This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord!” **5**If you really change your ways and your actions and deal with each other justly, **6**if you do not oppress the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not follow other gods to your own harm, **7**then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your ancestors for ever and ever. **8**But look, you are trusting in deceptive words that are worthless. **9**“‘Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, burn incense to Baal and follow other gods you have not known, **10**and then come and stand before me in this house, which bears my Name, and say, “We are safe”—safe to do all these detestable things? **11**Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you? But I have been watching! declares the Lord.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. Describe the attitudes of the Israelites as they approached worship.

2. What deceptive words were the Israelites trusting?

3. In what ways did the Israelites need to change?

4. What is the connection between worship and how we live our lives? How has worship affected the way you live?

5. How might deceptive words (words of the world) keep you from experiencing God in true worship?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Give thanks for our church and our time of worship together!

\*Ask the Holy Spirit to help you discern what ways and actions you may need to change.

\*Ask also for help in weeding out any deceptive words, ideas, beliefs, false idols, anything that seeks to separate you from true worship and a relationship with our Lord and Savior.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.* As you prepare for worship this week, consider how God may be calling you to change your ways and actions outside the walls of church. Pay attention to “deceptive words” which may be pulling you away from true worship and a true relationship with God.