

## MAIN POINT

*God calls His people to worship Him authentically, with holy and humble hearts.*

## INTRODUCTION

When you were growing up, were you ever summoned to the principal's office? If so, how did you feel about it? If not, how would you have felt if you had been called to the principal's office?

What about now, in adulthood? When you get called into a meeting with your boss or stand before a judge (i.e., disputing a traffic ticket), are you more likely to be confident or nervous? Why?

**Psalm 50 begins with a summons from God. This summons, however, wasn't for just one person; God called all of His people to stand before Him for judgment. The topic He wanted to address was their worship of Him. As believers in Christ, we can stand before God in confidence knowing that our salvation is complete and secure, but we also need to understand that God calls us to genuine worship. He will judge those who go through the motions of worship without heartfelt praise and obedience.**

## DISCUSSION

### > READ PSALM 50:1-23.

What names or titles are used for God in verses 1-6? What descriptions or actions of God stand out to you in these verses?

Based on these verses, with what attitude should God's people approach Him in worship?

What is the danger in failing to recognize God's holiness, authority, and power when we come before Him in worship?

From verses 7-13, what wrong attitude did God point out His people had in worship?

What contrasting attitude did God instruct His people to adopt in verses 14-15?

What are some signs our worship today might indicate the attitude that God needs us rather than the understanding that we need God?

From verses 17-20, why did God judge the people as having no right to recite Scripture and agree to His covenant? What does this tell you about God's expectations of you in worship?

What wrong attitude was behind their sinful actions (v. 21)? How can we avoid the temptation to approach God casually in worship, like we might approach any other person?

What contrasting outcomes of the two types of worship—heartless and heartfelt—did God describe in verses 22-23? How has Jesus enabled us to worship God rightly?

## APPLICATION

What are some steps we can take to worship God as He deserves without pretense? What challenges do you face in doing that?