

What is Worship?

Lesson Scripture: Exodus 14:1-31; 15:1-21

Bible Truth: We worship God.

Bible Story: Exodus 14:1-31; 15:1-21

Bible Verse: "Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness." (Psalm 150:2, NIV)

FOCUS

Learning Activity: "What Is Worship?"

Preparation

Make a large worship chart by writing the word "worship" at the top of the paper and including the following definition: Worship is what you do to show God that you know who He is and what He has done. Under the definition, divide the paper into two columns, "Who is God?" and "What has God done?"

Materials
large sheet of paper or poster board
markers

Presentation

Say: **For the next few weeks, we are going to be talking about worshipping God. Does anyone know what it means to worship God?** Allow children to answer. **Those are all great answers. I want to share with you another one.** Show the chart with the definition of worship, and read it with the children.

Say: **Let's make a list of who God is.** Allow the children to add words such as King of Kings, Savior, Friend, etc. to the correct side of the chart. **Now, let's make a list of some of the things God has done.** Allow children to add phrases such as made the world, died for me, comforts me when I'm sad, etc.

You can show God that you know who He is and what He has done with your words and your actions. When we worship God with our words, we say that we are praising God. Let's praise God right now by singing a song about His greatness. Lead children in a song of praise.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Psalm 150:2

Preparation

Write each word from Psalm 150:2 on a separate piece of paper and attach them to the wall.

Explanation

Read Psalm 150:2 with the children. Say: **Can you find in this verse two reasons why we should worship or praise the Lord?** Choose one child to circle each reason: acts of power and greatness. **Can you name an act of power (something wonderful) the Lord has done?** Allow children to answer. **Can you mention something great, something you really like, about God?** Allow children to answer. **When we worship Him for His greatness we are praising Him for who He is: a loving Father, powerful, faithful, etc. Therefore, we praise God for the things He has done and for who He is.**

Memorization Activity

Use the words in today's memorization verse that are attached to the wall. Ask each child to stand in front of one of the words. Then, each child should say the words in the correct order. After the verse has been repeated several times, say "Change." The children should find another word and stand in front of it. Continue this activity until all the children know the verse.

Materials
paper
markers or crayons
tape or other adhesive to attach papers to the wall
Bible

INSTRUCT

Bible Story: "God Saves His People," Exodus 14:1-31; 15:1-21

Preparation

Read and study Exodus 14:1-31 and 15:1-21.

Write the following phrases and questions on small pieces of paper. (Answers are printed below each question for teacher reference only.)

Materials
Bible
paper
pencil, pen, or marker

God is always present. How did He show the people of Israel that He was with them?

Answer: He led them with a cloud during the day and with a pillar of fire at night.

God is powerful. What kind of mighty act did He perform to show His power?

Answer: He parted the Red Sea.

God is faithful. What words from God to Moses became a reality?

Answer: God told Moses and the people to watch and see how God would save them. "The Egyptians you see today, you will never see again."

God has all authority. Was God surprised or worried when Pharaoh's army decided to chase the Israelites?

Answer: No. God is always in control.

How did the children of Israel react when they heard that Pharaoh and his army were getting closer to them? What did they need to do?

Answer: They began to panic and complain. Instead, they needed to trust God.

How did the children of Israel react after Pharaoh and his army were drowned?

Answer: They worshipped God by singing, dancing, and shouting for joy.

Presentation

Divide the children into three different groups. Give each group two pieces of paper with the prepared phrases/questions and allow them to read them together. Explain that you are going to tell the Bible story, and they should listen for the answers to their questions. Remind them not to say the answers aloud during the story. At the end of the Bible story, the groups will share their answers.

Say: The Israelites had been slaves in the land of Egypt for many years. God had used several events to cause the king of Egypt, Pharaoh, to let the Israelites leave. God used Moses and Aaron to lead the people of Israel out Egypt, but they didn't choose the way they were to go. God was with them, and He showed them the way to go using a cloud and a pillar of fire. During the day, God was in the shape of a big cloud that would move slowly in front of the people. They followed the cloud. At night, that cloud would turn into a pillar of fire. Whether at night or day, people were able to look at the pillar of fire or the cloud and say, "Our God is with us. He's showing us the way."

After the people of Israel left Egypt, God led them to the Red Sea. They camped in this place for one night, hoping to have some rest before marching on. But suddenly, someone alerted the camp by screaming, "Pharaoh's army is following us!" Pharaoh's army was coming after them, and the Red Sea was in front of them. There was no way to escape.

People began to tell Moses, "Why did you bring us out here to die? It would have been better to stay as slaves in Egypt than to die out in the desert." Moses asked God for help. "Speak to these people. Tell them to calm down." God said. "Don't be afraid. Watch how I will save you. The Egyptians you see today, you will never see again."

The cloud moved to the back of Israel's camp. And it stayed between Pharaoh's army and the people. Throughout the night, the people of Israel had light coming from the column of fire, but the Egyptians only saw a dense cloud of darkness. The following morning, God told Moses, "Tell the people to march on. Lift up your staff towards the Red Sea and part it."

Moses simply did what God told him to do. God sent a strong wind. The wind made a way in the middle of the waters and dried the sea ground. On each side of the dried path, the water stood like a wall until all the people had arrived to the other side.

When the cloud rose up, Pharaoh saw the Israelites walking on dry ground. He ordered his soldiers to follow them, but by then, the ground had turned into mud. The chariot wheels started to get stuck in the mud. Then, the walls of water fell on them. Pharaoh's army drowned.

The people of Israel were free. God had saved them from their enemies. Moses wrote a beautiful song to praise God for what He had done. Everybody danced, sang, and shouted for joy and happiness.

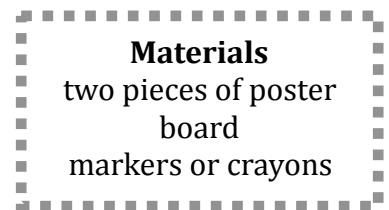
Allow each group to share the answers to their questions with the class.

APPLICATION

Learning Activity: Game, "Write It"

Preparation

Divide the two pieces of poster board into two columns. The first column on each cardboard should say, "What He has done" and the second column "Who He is."



Presentation

Divide the children into two teams. Ask each team to choose a reporter. Give each team a poster board and marker or crayon. The object of the game is to think of as many mighty acts of God and characteristics of God as possible. The reporter will write them in the appropriate column. Give each team at least three minutes to work on their posters. At the end of three minutes, one of the teams will read their list of mighty acts of God listed in the "What He has done" column. If the other team has written down the same acts, both will have to cross off what they have in common. If nobody else has it, circle that answer. Each circled act will count for one point. Once you have finished with the first column, allow the other team to read their list of characteristics of God listed in the "Who He is" column. Follow the same procedure for crossing off and circling characteristics. Add the points to see who has circled the most characteristics and mighty acts. The team with the most circled words wins.

Say: **God is amazing, and He has done amazing things for us. We worship God because of who He is and what He has done for us.**

MINISTRY TIME

Preparation

None

Presentation

Lead the children in a time of worship using sentence prayers. Ask everyone to stand in a circle. Go around the circle and invite children to worship God using one sentence. For example, "I worship you because you created me," or "I worship you because you healed my mom."

A dashed rectangular box containing the text "Materials" and "none".

Materials

none