

We Worship God When...We Sing Praises

Lesson Scripture: 2 Chronicles 20:1-28

Bible Truth: I can worship God by singing.

Bible Story: 2 Chronicles 20:1-28

Bible Verse: "Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs." (Psalm 100:2, NIV)

FOCUS

Learning Activity: "What Song Is This?"

Preparation

Locate an instrumental recording of several praise songs, or ask someone who knows how to play the piano to make a recording for this activity.

Draw and cut out some musical notes from cardboard.

Materials
instrumental recording of
several praise songs
cardboard
marker
scissors

Presentation

Say: **We sing many songs in church. Let's play a game to see how many of them you can recognize.** Allow the children to carefully listen to each song. The first person recognizing it should raise a hand. After recognizing it, he should say its title. If the answer is right, he gets a musical note. If the answer was wrong, the song continues to be played until someone gives the right answer. The child that has the most musical notes wins.

After the game, say: **What was similar about these songs? Yes, they are all used to worship God. Remember that when we worship God with our words, we are praising Him. We find men and women in the Bible who praised God by singing to Him. In today's Bible story we'll see that something wonderful happened when God's people sang praises to Him.**

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Psalm 100:2

Preparation

Write Psalm 100 on a poster board.

Explanation

Say: **King David loved to write and sing songs of praise to God. One of my favorites is Psalm 100. Let's read it together.** Read Psalm 100 with the children. **Which verse tells us that we should worship God by singing?** Allow children to answer. **Yes, verse 2 tells us to sing joyful songs to God.** Circle the phrase "come before him with joyful songs". **Let's see what the rest of the verses in this song say about worship.**

- **Verse 1 gives us a command. What is it?** (Shout joyfully to the Lord.) Choose a child to draw a circle around the command.
- **Verse 3 tells us who God is and who we are.** (He made us. We are His people and sheep.) Choose a child to place a checkmark next to the words that expresses who God is. Choose another child to draw a square around the words that tell us who we are.
- **Verse 4 tells us what we need to do when we worship God.** (Enter with thanksgiving; give thanks; praise His name.) Choose a child to circle the words that relate to worship.
- **Verse 5 gives us the reasons why we worship God.** (He is good; His love endures; He is faithful.) Ask a child to place a checkmark next to the three words that describe God.

Review the Psalm again. Say: **Tell me one way we worship God. Those words are circled.** Allow children to answer. **Tell me all the words that describe God. Those words have a checkmark.** Allow children to answer. **Tell me who we are. Those words are inside a square.** Allow children to answer. **God wants us to worship Him, and we can do this when we sing!**

Memorization Activity

Have the children stand in a circle and toss a ball to each other. Each time a child catches the ball, he should say the next word in the Bible verse. Practice until everyone can say Psalm 100:2 from memory.



INSTRUCT

Bible Story: "God Brings Victory Through Praise," 2 Chronicles 20:1-28

Preparation

Read and study 2 Chronicles 20:1-28.

Presentation

Say: **We are going to pretend that one of you is the king of a small country. Your officials have informed you of a great army that is marching toward your country to attack it. What would you do to defend your country and its inhabitants?** Write down children's suggestions on a piece of poster board.

Materials
Bible
poster board
marker

Say: **That's what happened in today's Bible story. A very good king named Jehoshaphat received news about a great army had that formed to fight against him. What are some things Jehoshaphat might have done to defend his country?** Review the list made by the children by asking, "Do you think he should...?"

Say: **Let me tell you what happened. After hearing the terrible news, Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, was very afraid. As a matter of fact, he asked himself what he needed to do, and then he made a very wise decision. He chose to trust God for help. Jehoshaphat summoned all the people of Judah to come to Jerusalem to pray and fast. When everyone was at the temple door, including the children, Jehoshaphat prayed to God asking Him to protect the country of Judah and its people.**

God listened to Jehoshaphat's prayer. He was pleased that this king and the people asked for His help. He told them through one of his ministers, "Don't fear! This battle is not yours. It is my battle. Tomorrow, go to your enemy, but don't worry. You won't have to fight. Wait and see what I will do for you."

When King Jehoshaphat and the people heard the words that God had spoken through His minister, they fell down on their knees to praise the Lord. The priests in the temple sang hymns of praise that were heard throughout the city.

The next day, early in the morning, the army of Judah gathered. All the soldiers were armed and ready for battle. But King Jehoshaphat decided that the soldiers wouldn't be the first ones going to the battle. "I want the praising choir to go first on the march. They should face the enemy by singing this song, 'Praise the Lord, because His mercies are forever.'"

The choir led the march while singing to the Lord. At the very time they started to sing, the Lord made the enemy soldiers confused, and they began to fight each other. When Judah's army arrived on the battle field, the enemy had destroyed themselves. There was no one for them to fight. God fought their battle as they were singing praises to His name.

Say: **Before we started with our Bible story, we made a list of things that a king could do if an enemy army was trying to invade his country. Now, let's make a list of the things that King Jehoshaphat did.** Write the list on the back of your previous list. Say: **King Jehoshaphat asked God for help, and he trusted God. He and the people of Judah chose to worship God by singing. God wants us to worship Him too! He will take care of us as we worship Him.**

APPLICATION

Learning Activity: Creative Writing, "Praise Song"

Preparation

Make enough copies of the "My Praise Song" worksheet for each child to have one.

Materials
pencils
"My Praise Song"
worksheet

Presentation

Say: **There are many praise songs in the Bible. One of the those songs is a litany. It includes words of praise and then a repeated phrase. Let's read an example.** Read Psalm 136:1-8 to the children. **What phrase do you hear repeated?** Allow children to answer. **Yes, after each phrase telling about who God is or what He has done, the writer says, "His love endures forever." We are going to write our own praise songs to God.**

Pass out the "My Praise Song" activity sheet. Guide children as they complete the sheet and write their own praise song.

*If children need additional help, create a list of characteristics and actions of God before they begin.

*If you teach younger children, you might do this activity together.

MINISTRY TIME

Preparation

None

Presentation

As instrumental praise music is played, invite children to read the praise songs they wrote. End by singing a praise song that is familiar to all of the children. Remind them that just like God took care of Judah and King Jehoshaphat, He will also take care of us as we worship Him.

Materials
completed "My Praise
Song" worksheets
instrumental praise
music

My Praise Song

Directions: Fill in the blanks to create your own song of praise.

Example:

God is powerful.

His love endures forever.

God is loving.

His love endures forever.

I give thanks to God because he healed my mom.

His love endures forever.

I give thanks to God because he helped me with my spelling test.

His love endures forever.

Praise God who made the world.

His love endures forever.

God is _____.

(Characteristic of God)

His love endures forever.

God is _____.

(Another characteristic of God)

His love endures forever.

I give thanks to God because _____.

(Something God has done for you.)

His love endures forever.

I give thanks to God because _____.

(Something God has done for you.)

His love endures forever.

Praise God _____.

(Something God has done for everyone.)

His love endures forever.