

We Worship God When...We Go To Church

Lesson Scripture: 2 Chronicles 5:1-14

Bible Truth: I can worship God by going to church.

Bible Story: 2 Chronicles 5:1-14

Bible Verse: "Give thanks as you enter the gates of his temple. Give praise as you enter its courtyards. Give thanks to him and praise his name." (Psalm 100:4, NIV)

FOCUS

Learning Activity: "Worship through Action"

Preparation

Make a poster similar to the one made for lesson 1. Write the word "Worship" at the top of the paper and include 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, "Words" and "Actions."

Materials
poster board
markers

Presentation

Show children the poster you made. Say: **Does anyone remember the definition of worship?** Allow children to answer. **Worship is what you do to show God that you know who He is and what He has done. The last few weeks we have talked about how we worship God with our words. Can anyone tell me two specific ways we have learned to worship God with our words?** Help children recall the lessons about singing praises and speaking words of praise. Add these to the "Words" section of the poster. **Do you know that you can also worship God without saying any words? We do this with our actions. Let's make a list of actions that show we know who God is and what He has done for us.** Write the children's answers on the poster board. Their responses should include going to church, reading the Bible, praying, being kind to others, etc.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Psalm 100:4

Preparation

Write Psalm 100:4 on a piece of poster board.

Write each of the three sentences from the verse on a separate sheet of paper.

Materials
poster board
marker
3 sheets of paper

Explanation

Say: **Does anyone know which book of the Bible we have used for all of our memorization scriptures about worship?** Allow children to answer. **They all come from the book of Psalms. Do you know who wrote the book of Psalms?** Allow children to answer. **Yes, it was written by David, the same David who killed the giant Goliath and eventually became the King of Israel. He loved to worship God. One of the ways he worshiped God was by going to church. In Bible times, the church was called a tabernacle and then a temple. Let's read what David said we should do when we go to church.** Read Psalm 100:4.

What phrases in this verse mean "going to church?" Allow one child to underline the phrase, "enter the gates of His temple" and another child to underline the phrase, "enter its courtyards." **In David's time, the church had an outside area called a courtyard.**

What does this verse say we should do when we come into church? Allow two children to circle the words "give thanks" and "give praise." **David said we could worship God with our actions by going to church and with our words by giving thanks and praise in church.**

Memorization Activity

Divide the children into three groups and give them a prepared sheet of paper. (See preparation section.) Each group will practice saying their part of the verse as listed below:

Group 1: This group will pretend to open a door and shout, "Give thanks as you enter the gates of his temple."

Group 2: This group will walk in a circle and shout, "Give praise as you enter its courtyards."

Group 3: This group will put their hands in the air and shout, "Give thanks to Him and praise His name."

Allow each group to practice. Then have them say the verse in the correct order using the motions they practiced. When they have mastered their part, have the groups exchange phrases and repeat the activity.

INSTRUCT

Bible Story: "Solomon and Israel Go to the New Temple," 2 Chronicles 5:1-14

Preparation

Read and study 2 Chronicles 5:1-14.

Draw pictures to illustrate King David, King Solomon, the priests, the Tabernacle tent, the Temple, the leaders of Israel, the Ark of the Covenant, and the gold angel statues. Draw enough pictures for each child to hold one, making duplicates if necessary.

Materials
Bible
paper
markers or crayons

Presentation

Pass out the pictures you prepared to the children and ask them to hold up their picture when you mention it in today's Bible story.

Say: **Have you ever seen or slept in a tent? Tents are nice to have because you can move them from place to place and still have some shelter. Has anyone ever seen a really big building? Allow children to answer. It would not be easy to move a big building. It is permanent. The people of Israel had always used a large tent for their church. They called it the Tabernacle. They went to the Tabernacle to offer sacrifices and to worship God. King David wanted to build a permanent building for their church. It would be called the Temple. He wanted it to be a beautiful building where they would go to worship God. However, God told King David not to build the Temple. Instead, God gave the job to David's son, Solomon. It took many years, but the Temple was finally completed. King Solomon planned a celebration (called a dedication) for the first day they would worship in the new Temple. He asked all of the Israelites to attend the dedication.**

The priests carried the Ark of the Covenant (a special box that represented God) from the tabernacle tent to the Temple that Solomon built. The people then began offering sacrifices to God.

The priests carried the Ark of the Covenant to the most holy place in the Temple. In that room, there were two gold angel statues. The priests placed the Ark of the Covenant under the angels' wings. As the priests were coming out of that room, the choir and the trumpet players gathered to praise and thank the Lord. They were joined by people playing cymbals and other instruments. The choir raised their voices as an act of praise. They said, "He is good, and His love endures forever."

Then, God filled up the Temple with His presence. They all worshipped and thanked God because they knew that God was pleased with the Temple they had built for Him.

Say: **Solomon built the Temple, so people could go there to worship God. Today we worship God in churches. What do we do during worship time at church that Solomon and the people of Israel did when they worshipped? What do we do that is different?** Discuss with children.

APPLICATION:

Learning Activity: Art, "I Worship in Church"

Preparation

Draw the outline of a church on a piece of paper. Be sure the drawing accurately represents a church in your culture or community. Prepare one paper for each child.

Materials
paper
markers or crayons

Presentation

Ask children to draw a picture on the paper of themselves worshipping God. Once they have added themselves to the church, they can add other people worshipping with them. Encourage them to draw their family and specific friends.

When children are finished, allow them to share with the class about their pictures and display them in the ministry room.

MINISTRY TIME

Preparation

None

Presentation

Take children on a "worship walk" by visiting different locations within your church building. If you do not have a building to worship in, let the children walk around the area where the people worship. At each new location, invite the children to worship God. If children are unsure of how to express their worship, have them say a specific phrase, such as, "We love you Lord!" in each location. You may want to use a new praise phrase each time.

Materials
none

BONUS ACTIVITY

Bible Study: "They Worshipped in the House of the Lord"

Preparation

Make copies of the "Who Went to Church?" worksheet for each team.

Presentation

Say: **In the Bible, people always worshipped God when they went to church, to the Temple, or to the Tabernacle. In today's activity we will discover the names of some people in the Bible that went to church to worship God.**

Divide the class in teams. Give each team a Bible and a copy of the "Who Went to Church?" worksheet. (If Bibles are not available, read each verse aloud and let each team decide who went to church in that passage.) The first team to correctly complete the matching activity wins the game. You could also do this activity as a group if the children need help locating the scripture references.

Materials
"Who Went to Church?"
worksheet
pencils or crayons
Bibles

Who Went to Church?

Directions: Match the Bible verse references to the person(s) it mentions who went to church. Remember, in Bible times, the church was often called a tabernacle or temple.

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| _____ 1. Acts 3:1 | A. Hezekiah |
| _____ 2. John 7:14 | B. priests |
| _____ 3. Exodus 33:9 | C. Peter and John |
| _____ 4. 1 Kings 8:6 | D. Jesus |
| _____ 5. Acts 2:42-46 | E. King Josiah and the people of Judah |
| _____ 6. 2 Kings 19:14 | F. Moses |
| _____ 7. 2 Chronicles 34:30 | G. The believers of the early Church |