

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.

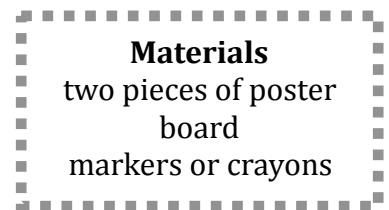
Allow each group to share the answers to their questions with the class.

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

Children Can Worship

Lesson Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11, 14-16

Bible Truth: Children can worship.

Bible Story: Matthew 21:1-11, 14-16

Bible Verse: “From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise.” (Matthew 21:16b, NIV)

FOCUS

Learning Activity: “Who Can Praise the Lord?”

Preparation

Write Psalm 150 on the poster board. Leave room around the edges for children to attach their pictures.

Presentation

Ask children to draw a picture of themselves on a small piece of paper. Attach each piece of paper to the poster board with Psalm

150 written on it. Say: **Some people think that children are too small to worship the Lord, but that is not true! God wants everyone to worship Him. Psalm 150 in the Bible is a psalm of worship and praise. Let’s read it and praise the Lord together.** Read Psalm 150 with the children. **In today’s lesson, you will learn how certain children praised Jesus and how that made Him very happy.**

Materials

small piece of paper for each child
markers or crayons
poster board

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Matthew 21:16b

Preparation

Write Matthew 21:16b on a piece of poster board.

Explanation

Read Matthew 21:16b with the students. Say: **In today’s Bible**

story, you will hear about a time when Jesus quoted this Bible verse to a group of people who wanted children to be quiet and not worship God. This made Jesus sad. He wants children to worship Him!

Materials

poster board
markers

What usually comes out of our mouths? Allow children to answer. **Right, words come out of our mouths. What does this Bible verse say God is calling to come out of your mouth?** Allow children to answer. **Yes, He wants words of praise to come out of your mouth!**

Memorization Activity

Say: **Let's try to call forth some praise from your lips! I will say the phrase, "From the lips of children and infants." You will respond with the phrase, "You, Lord, have called forth your praise."** Practice saying the verse in this way until the children have learned their part. Then, switch phrases until they can say the entire verse.

INSTRUCT

Bible Story: "Children Praising Jesus," Matthew 21:1-11, 14-16

Preparation

Read and study Matthew 21:1-11, 14-16.

Prepare small pieces of paper for today's lesson. Write one of the following words on each paper: donkey, disciple, people, children.

Provide children with pieces of cloth they can throw on the floor, and branches to wave around.

Materials
small pieces of paper
pencil, pen, or marker
pieces of cloth
tree branches
Bible

Presentation

Divide the children into four teams. Give each team a prepared piece of paper. Instruct them to listen to the way the person or animal praises the Lord. Also ask the children to find a group of people that refused to praise the Lord. Allow children to act out their parts as you tell the story.

Say: **Everybody in Jerusalem was excited. Many people came to Jerusalem for a great feast. They heard about a man named Jesus who healed the sick, opened the eyes of the blind and even resurrected a man who had been dead. They wanted to see Jesus.**

While Jesus and His disciples were walking towards Jerusalem, he told two of them, "Go to the village ahead of you. There you will find a donkey nobody has ever used. Bring it to me. If anyone asks why you are taking the donkey, say that the Lord needs it."

The disciples found the donkey just as Jesus had said. They put their coats on its back. Jesus rode through the streets in Jerusalem. He was riding the donkey. When He approached the city, the crowd of people laid their coats on the streets so Jesus would walk on them. Other people waved palm branches. They all sang praises, "Blessed be the King, Glory to God!"

When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, He went to the temple. They brought Him many blind, crippled and sick people, and He healed them all. When the children saw the wonderful things Jesus was doing, they gathered around Him. Then they began to say in a loud voice, "Hosanna, Hosanna!"

The religious leaders were listening. The praises of the children were making them mad. "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked Jesus.

"Yes," Jesus said. "They are obeying the Word of God. Don't you remember that Scripture says, 'Even children worship me.'?"

Questions:

Ask each child to share his/her response to the following question:

How did this person or animal worship and praise the Lord?

Donkey (He willingly carried Jesus on his back. Worshiped with his actions.)

Disciples (They followed Jesus' instructions cheerfully. Worshiped with actions.)

People in the streets (They shouted praises to Jesus. Worshiped with their words.)

Children (They said praises to Jesus in the temple. Worshiped with their words.)

Also discuss the following:

What group of people was not willing to worship the Lord?

Why were the religious leaders not willing to worship the Lord?

What made the children worship the Lord?

Has Jesus done wonderful things for you? Will you respond to Him with worship?

APPLICATION

Learning Activity: Creative Scripture, "If I Had Been There"

Preparation

Prepare a sheet of paper for each student that says the following, "If I had been there in the Temple that day, I would say..."

Materials
paper
markers or crayons

Presentation

Speak to the children about worshipping God through words of praise, honor, and gratitude. Allow the children to elaborate on words they would have said to Jesus at the temple on that day. Then, give each child a prepared paper. Ask them to write praise words for Jesus. Teachers can assist younger children with this activity by writing the words that each child says.

MINISTRY TIME

Preparation

None

Presentation

Form a circle and ask each child to read what they wrote on their paper during the application activity. At the end of each child's turn, have all of the children say, "Children can worship Jesus!" At the end of the lesson, pray a closing prayer asking God to help the children remember to always give Him praise.

Materials
papers from the
application activity

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.

We Worship God When...We Speak Words of Praise

Lesson Scripture: Luke 19:29-40

Bible Truth: I can worship God when I speak words of praise.

Bible Story: Luke 19:29-40

Bible Verse: "All you have made will praise you, O Lord; your saints will extol you. They will tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might." (Psalm 145:10-11, NIV 1984)

FOCUS

Learning Activity: "Wall of Praise"

Preparation

Tape a large piece of paper to the wall.

Presentation

Say: **Often when we want to worship God, we say words of praise. Can you think of any words of praise you have heard?**

Allow children to respond with words such as, "Hallelujah," "Praise the Lord," "Hosanna," etc.

Let's make a wall of praise to God that includes our words of praise!

Give children a marker or crayon. Have them go to the wall and write or illustrate a few praise words on the paper. When they are finished, read the praise words together.

Materials

large piece of paper
markers or crayons

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Psalm 145:10-11

Preparation

Write Psalm 145:10-11 on poster board.

Divide the verse up into the following phrases and write the phrases on separate sheets of paper:

All you have made

will praise you.

O Lord;

Your saints

Materials

poster board
markers
paper
two envelopes

will extol you.
They will tell
of the glory of your kingdom
and speak
of your might

Prepare two sets. Place each set in an envelope.

Explanation

Read Psalm 145:10-11 to the children.

Say: **Let's see if we can discover the meaning of these scriptures together.** Ask the children the following questions. Have them underline the answers on the poster board when appropriate.

Who should praise the Lord? (All you have made)

Did God make you? (yes) **So, should you praise the Lord?** (Yes!)

In this verse, there is a fancy word that means to praise the Lord. Can anyone find that word? (Extol)

Who should extol the Lord? (Saints) **If you love Jesus, then you are a saint. Two times this verse tells us that we should praise the Lord!**

What should we talk about while praising the Lord? (the glory of the kingdom of God and the mighty acts God has done)

What wonderful things has God done for you?

The Bible tells us that we should speak about our wonderful God!

Memorization Activity

Divide children into two teams. Give them an envelope with the prepared pieces of paper inside. Have each team put the phrases in the correct order using the poster board as reference. Repeat the activity, but hide the poster board. Allow the teams to race each other in putting the verse together.

INSTRUCT

Bible Story: "The Disciples Speak Praises," Luke 19:29-40

Preparation

Read and study Luke 19:29-40.

Make copies of the Bible story skit for each child.

Materials

Bible

copies of the Bible story skit

optional props:

donkey on a stick,

pieces of cloth or coats to lay
on the ground

Bible costumes

Presentation

Say: **A few weeks ago, we learned about children who were praising Jesus in the temple. Does anyone remember what happened before the children began praising Jesus?** Allow children to answer. **Let's learn a little bit more about that part of the story today.**

Pass out copies of the story script below. Choose one child to be Jesus, four children to be religious leaders, and the remainder of the children to be the disciples. The teacher will be the narrator. If any children are reluctant to participate, allow them to be the "audience."

Have children read through their parts and guide them as they prepare the skit. When everyone is ready, read it together.

Narrator: **Very soon, Jesus was going to die by hanging on the cross for our sins. But today, everyone was thinking wonderful things about Jesus as he rode the donkey through Jerusalem. People gathered on the side of the road to see Him. They threw their cloaks on the road for the donkey to walk on. While Jesus was riding it, His disciples thought of the many good things He had done. They started to praise Him.**

Disciples: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest."

Narrator: **Many of those in the crowd felt the same way as Jesus' disciples did. They had seen the most amazing miracles they had ever witnessed, so they knew that he was a great Master. But the religious leaders were jealous.**

Religious Leader 1: Listen to the words these people are saying. Jesus is not king.

Religious Leader 2: Does he think he is better than our king?

Religious Leader 3: This is getting out of hand.

Religious Leader 4: I think we should talk to Jesus.

Narrator: **So the religious leaders made their way through the crowd and reached Jesus.**

Religious Leader 1: Jesus, we need to speak with you for a moment.

Religious Leader 2: Did you hear what the disciples are saying? Tell them to be quiet.

Jesus: I can't tell them to be quiet. They are praising me. If my followers don't praise me, the rocks along the road will start to speak words of praise.

Say: **Did you notice what Jesus said? If Jesus' followers don't speak words of praise, then the rocks will start to speak words of praise. We don't want the rocks to do our job! We want to praise Jesus with our words!**

APPLICATION

Learning Activity: Creative Scripture, "Praise Rocks"

Preparation

Cut large rocks out of construction paper. Make enough for each child to have two rocks.

Materials
construction paper
markers or crayons
scissors

Presentation

Say: **Have you ever heard a rock speak? In today's Bible story we heard Jesus say if no one else praised Him the rocks would shout out. What do you think the stones would say if they started praising Jesus?** Allow children to answer.

Explain to the children that they are going to make "praise stones" by writing their own words of praise on the paper rocks. Give them several minutes to write the words. Encourage them to decorate their rocks with pictures to go with their words.

MINISTRY TIME

Preparation

None

Presentation

When the children have finished writing praises on each one of the rocks, ask them to share what they have written. Collect the rocks and place them in such a way that it looks like a stone path of praises. Allow each child to walk the path and read the "praise stones."

Materials
completed "Praise
Rocks" from the
application activity

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"

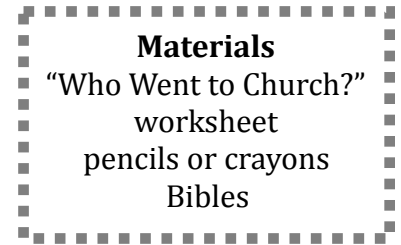
Preparation

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.



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.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| _____ 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 |

We Worship God When...We Pray

Lesson Scripture: Daniel 6

Bible Truth: I can worship God by praying.

Bible Story: Daniel 6

Bible Verse: “In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.” (Psalm 5:3, NIV)

FOCUS

Learning Activity: “Talk to Me About Prayer”

Preparation

If possible, draw an outline and make a pattern of a child bowing his head down to pray. Cut five silhouettes out of that pattern. On each pattern, write one of the following questions:

- WHAT is prayer?
- WHY should we pray?
- WHY do we close our eyes while praying?
- WHERE can we pray?
- WHEN should we pray?

Materials
paper
scissors
markers or crayons

Presentation

Divide the children into five teams. Give each team a silhouette. Ask them to discuss their questions. At the end of two or three minutes, ask each group to share their answers. Possible answers are listed below.

WHAT is prayer?

Answer: Talking and listening to God

WHY should we pray?

Answer: Prayer helps us share with God and allows Him to tell us what we should do.

WHY do we close our eyes while praying?

Answer: It helps us concentrate on God and not look at the things around us. However, we don't have to close our eyes to pray.

WHERE can we pray?

Answer: We can pray anywhere.

WHEN should we pray?

Answer: We can pray at any time.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Psalm 5:3

Preparation

Write Psalm 5:3 on a poster board.

Explanation

Read Psalm 5:3. Say: **This verse was written by King David.**

He prayed to God during a specific time of day. When was this? Allow children to answer. **Do you think that God was**

waiting for David to talk to Him in the morning? Allow children to answer. **God wants to meet with you each day. When you have a specific time to pray, then God knows that He is important to you. When you show God that you know who He is and what He has done, you are worshipping Him. So, you worship God when you pray.**

Memorization Activity

Pass out paper and drawing supplies to each child. Ask them to write the verse in their own words. Where the verse mentions the time of prayer (morning), they can include any time of the day they pray.

Materials
poster board
markers or crayons
paper for each child

INSTRUCT

Bible Story: "Daniel in the Lion's Den," Daniel 6

Preparation

Read and study Daniel 6.

Write the following Bible verses on small pieces of paper:

Daniel 6:1-5

Daniel 6:6-9

Daniel 6:10

Daniel 6:11-17

Daniel 6:18-21

Daniel 6:22-23

Materials
paper
markers or crayons
Bibles

Presentation

Divide the children into six teams. Give each team drawing supplies and a paper that has one of the Scripture references. Instruct the children to read the verses and discuss which event is the most important in the verse. Then, they should illustrate that event. Allow the children eight to ten minutes to complete their illustrations. (You can choose to have one illustration per group or allow each child to make their own illustration.)

When children are finished, ask the groups to share. Team 1 should talk about what was happening in the verses they were given. They should use their illustration as a visual aid. When team 1 has finished, attach their illustration(s) to the wall. Then, team 2 can do their presentation, etc. When all teams have finished, children should know the story of Daniel 6.

APPLICATION

Learning Activity: Art, "A Prayer Reminder"

Preparation

None

Presentation

Say: **Do you ever have trouble thinking of things to say to God when you are praying? We are going to make a prayer reminder to help you.** Ask each child to trace his hand on a sheet of paper. You will need to help younger children.

Ask children to write the phrases listed below on each finger as you discuss.

Write on thumb: *Pray for those close to you.*

Say: **The thumb is the finger closest to us. It reminds us to pray for our family, friends, neighbors, and the church family.**

Write on the index finger: *Pray for those who point you to God.*

Say: **The index finger is used to point at things. This finger reminds us to pray for those people who point us to God: teachers, ministers, and parents.**

Write on the middle finger: *Pray for those in authority (leaders).*

Say: **The middle finger is the tallest; it stands out from the rest. It reminds us to pray for those who are in authority: presidents, judges, police, and others.**

Write on the fourth finger: *Pray for those who are weak.*

Say: **The next finger is weak because it's the one we use least. It reminds us to pray for the poor, sick, homeless, and unhappy people.**

Materials

paper
pencils

We Worship God When...We Read His Word

Lesson Scripture: Nehemiah 8:1-12

Bible Truth: I can worship God by reading His Word.

Bible Story: Nehemiah 8:1-12

Bible Verse: "I rejoice in Your Word as one who finds a great treasure." (Psalm 119:162, NKJV)

FOCUS

Learning Activity: "Let's Go on a Hunt"

Preparation

Make a copy of the following treasure hunt clues for each team of two children. Do not include the words in parenthesis.

Psalm 31:3 (rock)

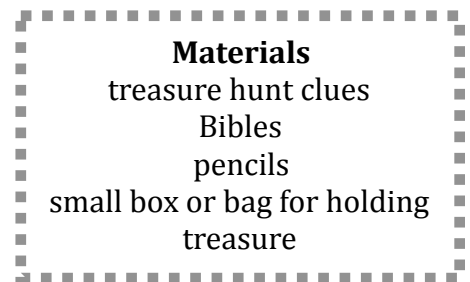
Genesis 8:11 (leaf)

Deuteronomy 11:15 (grass)

Genesis 2:7 (dust)

Job 14:2 (flower)

John 15:5 (branch)



*If children do not have Bibles, write the entire verse out as a clue and have children circle in the verse the name of the treasure they need to find.

Presentation

Say: **Have you ever gone on a treasure hunt? Today, we're going to use the Word of God to help us find wonderful treasures in the world God has created.** Allow each child to choose a partner. Give each team a copy of the treasure clues. The children should look up the Bible verses to discover the treasures they need to find. Encourage them to write the name of the treasure next to the verse. When the children have completed this task, they can start looking for the treasures. Supervise the children while they are on the hunt. After the treasures have been found, give each

team a small prize. If possible, their prize should have a Bible verse written on it. Remind them the Word of God is the greatest treasure.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Psalm 119:162

Preparation

Write Psalm 119:162 on a piece of poster board.

Hide a small treasure (like a candy) somewhere in the classroom for each child.



Write the words of the Bible memorization verse on small pieces of paper. Hide the papers somewhere in the classroom before the children enter.

Explanation

Say: **We have been learning about different ways to worship God. We have learned to worship Him with words and actions. What are two ways we have learned to worship God with our actions?** Allow children to answer. **Yes, we can worship God by going to church and praying. Today, we are going to learn about something else we can do to worship God. We can worship God by reading our Bibles. The Bible contains God's words. When we read the Bible, we are showing God that we know His words are important. Let's read the Bible right now.** Read Psalm 119:162 with the children.

Say: **Today, I have hidden one small treasure for each of you in this room.** Allow children to find the candy. They should go back to their seat after they find one piece. (If needed, tell the children that the papers they see hidden in the room are a different type of treasure, and they will find them later.)

After all the children have found one piece of candy, allow them to eat it while you discuss the following questions:

How did you feel when you found the small treasure?

How do you feel when you read the Bible?

Say: **Psalm 119:162 tells us that we should be happy when we read our Bibles, in the same way we are when we find a treasure.**

Memorization Activity

Tell the children that the words of today's memorization verse are hidden and they need to find them. Let the children know when they should start looking. When they find a word on a piece of paper, they should sit down. When all of the words have been found, allow the child who has the

first word of the verse to stand up and say that word. Then, the child who has the next word should stand and say that word. Continue until all the words in the verse have been said. Have the children exchange words and repeat the activity.

INSTRUCT

Bible Story: "Ezra Reads the Law of God to the People," Nehemiah 8:1-12

Preparation

Read and study Nehemiah 8:1-12.

Materials
Bible

Presentation

Say: **In today's Bible story, the people stood up as the Bible was being read to them. Let's see how long you can stand as I read the Bible.** Ask all of the children to stand up. Begin reading Psalm 119. Let the children know that they can sit down when they get tired. Stop reading when the last child has sat down or at the end of two minutes, whichever comes first.

Say: **For how long do you think I read the Bible? Was it for a long time? I read it for _____ minutes** (mention the amount of time you read). **In today's story we're going to learn about a man who read the Bible to a group of people for an entire morning.**

Choose volunteers to play the parts of Nehemiah and Ezra as you tell the Bible story. The rest of the children will be the people of Israel. Guide all of the children in acting out the story as you tell it to them.

Say: **Nehemiah, the governor in Jerusalem, wanted the people that lived in Jerusalem to be able to understand God's Word. One morning during sunrise he gathered all the people together in the town square. He asked Ezra, a minister of God, to read the Bible to them.**

Ezra stood up on a platform holding the book that contained the Word of God. When Ezra opened the book, everyone stood up. He praised the Lord for His greatness and the marvelous things He had done for His people. The people raised their hands and said in a loud voice, "Amen. Amen!"

Then, Ezra read aloud the Word of God so everyone would be able to understand it. He read from the early hours in the morning until it was afternoon. The Word of God touched the hearts of the people and they started to cry.

When Ezra was done with the reading, Nehemiah told the people "Don't cry. This is a holy day for the Lord!"

So they all went back to their homes and shared a meal with their neighbors. There was a lot of joy and celebration in the city because they were able to understand the Word of God.

APPLICATION

Learning Activity: Bible Study, "The Word of God is my Treasure"

Preparation

Cut enough small squares of paper so that each child has at least three.

Presentation

Say: **The Bible memorization verse compares the Word of God to a treasure. In what sense is the Word of God similar to a treasure? What makes the Word of God special to us? Allow children to answer. Today, we will make a treasure that contains the Word of God. Write three of your favorite Bible verses on the small squares of paper. Fold the squares and put them in the little box. Each time you want to hear the Word of God, open the box and find the treasure from the Bible.**

Materials
small container for each child (disposable cup, basket, or box)
paper
scissors
crayons or markers
items to decorate the small containers

When the children are finished writing the Scripture verses, let them decorate their treasure box. If the children you are teaching are too young to write, prepare some Bible verses ahead of time to put in their treasure box. Encourage young children to ask someone in their family to read the Scripture verses to them.

MINISTRY TIME

Preparation

Gather Bibles for each child. If Bibles are not available, copy Psalm 100 and 150 on a piece of paper for each child.

Presentation

Say: **God wants you to worship Him by reading His Word everyday. We are going to spend some time today reading His Word. First, we are going to pray and ask God to speak to you through His Word.** Pray for the children. Then, give each child a Bible and help them find Psalm 100 and 150. Say: **When you are finished reading, sit quietly and think about what you read. God can speak to you during this quiet time. If there is something special you want to remember from your Bible reading or quiet time, you may come get a piece of paper and crayons to write it down or draw a picture of it.** Play some instrumental music while children read their Bibles. After a few minutes, ask volunteers to share something special they learned, felt, or heard from God during their Bible reading time.

Materials
Bibles
paper
crayons
instrumental praise
music (optional)

*If the children in your class are too young to read, do this activity with them.

Write on the little finger: *Pray for yourself.*

Say: **The little finger reminds us to pray for ourselves.**

MINISTRY TIME

Preparation

None

Presentation

Lead the children in a time of prayer using the prayer reminders they made during the application activity. Pause after each finger to give children time to pray. If children seem unfamiliar with prayer, model how to pray for each of the people listed on their paper hand.

Materials

prayer reminder from
the application activity

We Worship God When...We Obey Him

Lesson Scripture: 1 Samuel 15:1-28

Bible Truth: I can worship God by being obedient.

Bible Story: 1 Samuel 15:1-28

Bible Verse: "Love the Lord your God. Do what he requires. Always obey his rules, laws and commands."(Deuteronomy 11:1,NirV)

FOCUS

Learning Activity: "What Makes God Smile?"

Preparation

Drape a piece of material over a chair to create a throne. Ask an adult to play the role of the king. Choose one thing that will make the king smile, such as singing or giving a compliment. Instruct the adult to only smile if the children do the action you have chosen for the game. DO NOT tell the children what will make the king smile.

Materials
paper crown
chair
piece of material

Presentation

Say: **We are going to play a game called, "Make the King Smile."** Let me introduce you to the **king**. Introduce the king and ask him to sit on his throne. He should have a very serious expression on his face. **Our king is a very serious man, but one thing can make him smile. Unfortunately, he does not want to tell you what makes him smile. You will have to figure it out.** Divide children into teams of two or three. Explain that each team will get one opportunity to make the king smile. Give them a few minutes to plan how they are going to make him smile.

When everyone has had an opportunity to plan, allow each team to come before the king and do or say something that they hope will make the king smile. If no one is able to make the king smile, the teacher gets a turn!

Say: **What things did you do or not do to make the king smile? What was the only action that would make the king smile?** Allow children to respond. **Did you know that God is our true king? Do you ever wonder what makes God smile? Listen carefully to today's Bible lesson in order to discover one action that pleases God and makes Him smile.**

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Deuteronomy 11:1

Preparation

Write Deuteronomy 11:1 on a piece of poster board.

Write each word of the Bible verse on a separate sheet of paper. Place the words in an envelope. Do this three times to create three sets for the memorization game.

Materials
poster board
paper
3 envelopes
pencil or marker

Explanation

Read Deuteronomy 11:1 with the children. Say: **What does the first part of this verse tell us to do?** Ask one child to underline the phrase "Love the Lord your God." **The rest of this verse tells us how we can show this love to God. Can someone underline the word that tells us how we can show love to God?** Allow one child to underline the word obey. **Has your mom ever asked you to do something? What happens if you grumble or complain?** Allow children to answer. **What happens if you do it cheerfully?** Allow children to answer. **Yes, when you obey your mom, it shows that you know she is in charge and you respect her. You also obey your mom because you love her. When we obey God, it shows Him that we know He is in charge of the whole world and it is our job to obey Him. Remember, when we show God that we know who He is and what He has done, we are worshipping Him. Love and worship go together. When we obey God, we show that we love Him as we worship Him through our obedience.**

Memorization Activity

Divide the children into three groups. Give each group a prepared envelope containing the words of the Bible verse. Let them race to see which group can put the verse in order the quickest.

INSTRUCT

Bible Story: "King Saul Disobeys," 1 Samuel 15:1-28

Preparation

Read and study 1 Samuel 15:1-28.

Write the following questions on small pieces of paper:

- Against whom was Saul fighting?
- What did the Lord ask Saul to do?
- What was the name of the prophet God used to speak?
- How did Saul disobey the Word of God?
- Why did Saul keep some things and some sheep?
- What was Saul's punishment for being disobedient?

Materials
Bible
paper
pencil
markers or crayons

Presentation

Divide children into six teams. Give each team one of the questions you have written on the pieces of paper. Ask them to listen for the answer to their question as you tell the story.

Draw pictures of the Bible story as you tell it to the children (or draw the pictures ahead of time).

Say: **One day, Samuel went to visit King Saul. "I have a message for you from the Lord," he said. "God wants you to destroy the Amalekite people. Don't save any of the spoils- the sheep, camels, or bulls. Destroy everything and everyone."**

Saul gathered his army and marched to the city of Amalek. They fought the Amalekites and won. But Saul didn't obey the Word of God that was spoken through Samuel. Saul and his men took the king of the Amalekites as prisoner and kept the best part of everything that belonged to the Amalekites.

While Saul and his men were marching back home, the Lord spoke to Samuel, "I am sorry that I chose Saul to be king over my people. He doesn't obey my commandments." Samuel was very sad. He cried all night long, praying and talking to God.

The following morning, Samuel went to see Saul. When Saul saw Samuel, he said, "I've done what God ordered me to do."

"Then, why do I hear the sound of sheep and bulls," asked Samuel.

Saul replied by saying, "I've brought these animals to be offered as sacrifices to the Lord."

Samuel said, "Saul, it's better to obey God than to offer Him sacrifices. Because you did not obey the word of the Lord, He has rejected you as king of Israel."

Give each team a few minutes to discuss the answer to their questions. Then the teams can share their questions and answers with the whole group. Say: **Sacrifice was an important part of Old Testament worship, but in this story God had not asked for sacrifice. He had asked for obedience. Remember to always do what God asks you to do.**

APPLICATION

Learning Activity: Creative Scripture, "More Than Sacrifice"

Preparation

Write 1 Samuel 15:22 on a poster board.

Cut several small pieces of paper that can cover the word "sacrifice" written on the poster board.

Materials
poster board
markers or crayons
paper
scissors
tape or adhesive to
attach paper to poster

Presentation

Say: **Let's read what Samuel told Saul in today's Bible story.** Read 1 Samuel 15:22 with the children: "But Samuel replied: Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice..."

What did Saul offer to God instead of obeying? Allow children to answer. **Yes, he said he was going to offer the bulls and sheep as sacrifices, but God wanted his obedience more than a sacrifice.**

What do we offer God instead of obeying Him? Sometimes we offer our time. We are willing to spend time reading the Bible but we are not willing to obey God by controlling our tempers. Write the word "time" on a piece of paper and put it over the word "sacrifice." **It is possible that we want to give money to help out someone who is sick, hungry, or homeless. But perhaps we are not willing to obey God and forgive someone who has mistreated us.** Write the word "money" on a piece of paper and put it over the word "sacrifice."

Give each child a piece of paper. Ask them to write one thing that children sometimes want to do instead of obeying. When they are finished, place each of their words over the word "sacrifice" and discuss. Say: **Many of the things we wrote are good things. We should read our Bibles and give money to help others. However, if we do all of those things, but do not obey God, then we are not doing what He has asked.**

MINISTRY TIME

Preparation

None

Presentation

Say: **Let's look at the words we wrote. If they are good things like reading our Bibles, let's say, "I will read my Bible AND obey." If they are things we shouldn't do, let's throw them in the trash.** Go

through the words with the children and say the appropriate phrase or toss the paper into the trash. Then say a prayer asking God to help the children always be obedient to God.

Materials

the words children wrote during the application activity
trash can

Praise in the Prison

Lesson Scripture: Acts 16:19-32

Bible Truth: I will worship God in difficult times.

Bible Story: Acts 16:19-32

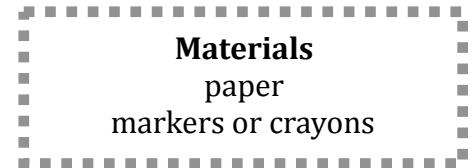
Bible Verse: "I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips."
(Psalm 34:1, NIV)

FOCUS

Learning Activity: "What Time Is It?"

Preparation

Write several different times on slips of paper.



Presentation

Show children the various times you have written. Ask them what they do during those times. For example, show children the time 8:00 a.m. and say: "**What do you do at 8:00 a.m.?**" Choose a child to share what he/she does at that time. Continue to have a discussion about what children do during the day and night as you show the various times.

Read Psalm 34:1. Say: **Our Bible verse today reminds us that we should worship God at all times. Any time of the day is the right time to praise the Lord.**

Give each child a sheet of paper. Have them write their favorite time of day at the top of the paper and draw what they like to do at that time. Encourage the children to write Psalm 34:1 on their paper as well.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Psalm 34:1

Preparation

Write Psalm 34:1 on a piece of poster board.

On a large sheet of paper, make a poster similar to the one below. Attach it to the wall.

Materials
poster board
paper
markers or crayons
tape
small, soft ball

<u>Good Times</u>	vs.	<u>Bad Times</u>
playing with friends		sickness
listening to music		taking a test
going to church		making a mistake
time with family		family problems

Explanation

Read the *Good Times vs. Bad Times* poster on the wall. Discuss how children feel during the good times and the bad times.

Give a soft ball to a child. Ask him to throw it at one of the signs. If the ball hits the *Good Times* side, ask him to say, "I will praise God during the good times." If the ball hits the *Bad Times* side, ask him to say, "I will praise God during the bad times."

Say: **What is easier, to praise the God during good times or bad times? Why?** Read Psalm 34:1 with the children. Say: **Do you remember the fancy word we learned that means to praise God?** Allow children to answer. **Yes, it is extol. When does God want us to extol, or praise Him?** Allow children to answer. **Does God want us to praise Him only when good things happen to us?** Allow children to answer. **When should we praise Him?** Allow children to answer.

Memorization Activity

Allow each child to throw the ball at the poster. When hitting the poster, have each child say the Bible memorization verse twice.

INSTRUCT

Bible Story: "Paul and Silas Praise in the Prison," Acts 16:19-32

Preparation

Read and study Acts 16:19-32.

Ask a teen or adult to prepare to tell the Bible story from the perspective of the jailer. Provide him with a Bible costume to wear.

Materials
Bible
Bible costume

Presentation

Say: Today we are going to hear from a man who saw people worshipping God in a prison! How could you praise God in a prison? Let's listen as he tells us the story.

The person dressed as a jailer enters. He says: **Hello boys and girls.** I am in charge of a jail in a city called Philippi. One day, two men, who had been severely beaten by Roman guards, were brought to my jail. "Lock these men in prison," the guards ordered. "Make sure they don't escape. If they escape, you will pay with your life." You see, during this time in history, if prisoners escaped from jail, the man in charge of the jail would be killed. Since I didn't want to lose my life if these men escaped, I put them in the deepest, most secure cell in prison. I had chains put on their hands and feet. However, I noticed that these two prisoners were different from any other prisoners I had. Most prisoners yelled, cried, screamed, or cursed when they were put in chains and thrown in a cell. These two didn't complain or curse. They went to the cell quietly. I learned that they were Jews. Their names were Paul and Silas. They had spent several days in the city teaching about their God. Perhaps that was the reason they didn't complain or curse.

After I made sure all the prisoners were chained and well guarded, I went to sleep in my room next to the prison. Several times throughout the night I thought I heard loud voices and singing, but since I knew the prison doors were closed and guarded, I went back to sleep. But suddenly, exactly at midnight, there was a great earthquake and the prison walls started to move. I ran toward the prison doors. They were open. I was sure all the prisoners had escaped. I knew that when the Roman officials found out about this, they would beat me and then kill me. So, I took out my sword, determined to end my life before the officials could torture me.

At that time, someone yelled out of the darkness in the prison, "Don't hurt yourself! All the prisoners are here!" I asked one of the servants to bring me a candle, and I went inside the prison. All the prisoners were still there. And standing among them were Paul and Silas. I fell down at their feet. I knew that if they had kept everyone from escaping, it was because of their God. I wanted to know their God too!

"What should I do to be saved?" I asked. "Believe in Jesus and you will be saved," answered Paul.

I immediately believed in Jesus, who had freed Paul and Silas from prison. He was the Son of God. I took Paul and Silas home. I woke up everyone there. Then Paul and Silas spoke to my family about Jesus. They also believed in Him. Before sunrise, we were all baptized and were praising the Lord along with Paul and Silas. God used their worship to help lead my family to salvation. Jailer exits.

Say: Paul and Silas could have been angry and sad while in prison. Instead, they chose to worship God in the middle of their troubles. They didn't know that God was going to rescue them. When you are facing a bad time, sometimes God will rescue you from the problem. Other times He may choose to comfort you while you are going through the situation. Always remember that God loves you, and keep praising Him no matter what happens! He can use your worship to be an example to others, just as He did with Paul and Silas and the jailer.

APPLICATION

Learning Activity: Skits, "I Will Praise at All Times"

Preparation

Write each of the following scenarios on different sheets of paper.

1. Mary is planning to go to the park with her friends this weekend. When she wakes up Saturday morning, she has a fever and is feeling sick to her stomach.
2. John really struggles in math class. His teacher just announced that they are having a surprise test.
3. Katie's best friend just yelled at her and said she doesn't want to be friends anymore.
4. Joe really wanted to be on his school soccer team. This morning he learned that the coach did not choose him to be on the team.

Materials
paper
pencil or marker

Presentation

Divide children into four groups and give each group a paper with a different scenario written on it. Ask them to prepare a skit to show how the child can still praise God during this bad time. When groups are ready, have them present their skits to the class.

MINISTRY TIME

Preparation

None

Presentation

Say: **We all go through difficult times. Let's practice praising God**

during difficult times. As a group, lead the children in saying the following phrase for each of the bad times listed on the poster: Even if _____, I will praise the Lord. For example, "Even if I am sick, I will praise the Lord!" Say a prayer asking God to remind the children that He is with them during the bad times.

Materials
poster from the Scripture
memorization activity

BONUS ACTIVITY

Game: Jailed

Preparation

Choose an area in the room or outside that will be designated as a jail. Prepare a sign that says "Jail" and put it in the designated area.

Presentation

Choose one child to be the "jailer" for each five or ten children. The "jailers" try to capture the children by tagging them. When a child is captured, the jailer will put him/her in jail. When the teacher screams "Earthquake!" the children that were in jail are freed and the game starts over again.

Materials
paper
marker or crayon

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