

Worship Is?



Small Group Lesson

Power Point:

True worship is giving God my all.

Scripture Memory Verse:

He is wonderful! Praise him and bring an offering into his temple. Worship the LORD, majestic and holy.
—1 Chronicles 16:29

Bible Lesson Scripture:

Elijah proves that his God is the One true God.
—1 Kings 18:15 - 39

Overview:

God's people had turned to worshipping false gods. God's faithful prophet, Elijah, challenged the 450 false prophets of Baal to prove who was truly God. God showed in a powerful way that He alone was worthy of worship.

This truth is as valid today as in biblical times—worship is giving our whole heart, soul, mind and strength to the living God. And the Holy Spirit will help us to worship God as He deserves to be worshiped.

Discussion Questions

1. In today's Bible lesson, what did King Ahab's wife want him to do? (*Worship the false god, Baal.*)
2. Who did King Ahab blame for all the trouble he was having? (*The prophet, Elijah.*)
3. When the people worshiped Baal at their altar, what happened? (*Nothing. Then Elijah teased them about their god being asleep.*)
4. Even after Elijah had water thrown on God's altar, what happened? (*The fire of the Lord came down and burned up the whole offering.*)
5. Does God want us to worship anything or anybody besides Him? (*No.*)
6. How does God want us to worship Him? (*With our hearts, thoughts, and bodies.*)

God Encounter

Materials: "First Place" ribbon.

Everyone wants to be first. (*Hold up first place ribbon.*) First in line, first to win a race, first to play with a new toy, first to pick the dessert he wants. Being first makes us feel important and also, we get the best of whatever is being given. God wants to be first in our lives. (*Hold up first place ribbon.*) He loves us and has given us so much. All he wants from us is to be honored for who He is, our Heavenly Father.

Every day we make a choice to put God first by honoring and worshipping Him or to put other people or things first. How you spend your time and who you spend your time with shows what is most important to you.

Is God first in your life? (*Hold up first place ribbon.*) Do you talk to Him about what's happening in your day? Do you ask Him what He thinks you should do or say when things happen? Do you honor Him by choosing to spend time with Him? If you do, you'll show that He takes first place in your life. (*Hold up first place ribbon.*) Let's spend some time now with God in prayer.



The Jesus Factor

Then God gave Christ the highest place and honored his name above all others. —Philippians 2:9

Materials: Stepladder, paper, marker, tape, yardstick or broom handle, etc.

Preparation: Write “Jesus” on a piece of paper and tape it vertically to a yardstick or similar. Place this sign facedown next to your stepladder. Note: the higher you can make the “Jesus” sign, the stronger the visual point will be made.

I’m going to talk about some of the people in my life who I honor. What does it mean to honor someone? *(Allow responses. To shown respect and belief in a person.)*

(For each person you mention, write his or her name on paper and tape it on the stepladder, in ascending order of least to most honored [friends, coworkers, pastors, parents, children, husband/wife].) These are all people I honor. But there is one more that deserves my highest honor. (Read Philippians 2:9, pick up the “Jesus” sign and climb up the ladder as high as you safely can and hold the stick as high as possible.) I can’t raise the name of Jesus high enough to show you how much higher Jesus deserved to be honored. The Bible tells us that He holds the highest place. His name is the most important name. Yes, the name above all names is Jesus. He is worthy of honor and worship and He holds the highest place of importance.

Small Group Activity

All of Me

Materials: Large sheet of butcher paper or poster board, markers or crayons.

Preparation: Place butcher paper or poster board on a flat surface. Put markers or crayons where children can use them.

God made you so that you would be friends with Him and worship Him. He doesn’t want just part of you to worship Him. He wants all of you to worship Him. He wants you to give Him all that you are. That means you love Him more than anyone or anything else.

Today we will work together to draw a person. Let’s draw a heart, mind and body. *(Children draw a simple person shape showing a heart, mind and body.)* When you **worship God by giving Him all of you**, that means you love Him. *(Point to heart.)* You think about God first and choose to listen to Him and do what is right. *(Point to head.)* You use your body to obey Him. *(Point to body.)*

(As you talk about the different parts used to worship God, invite children to color them.)

Let’s all worship God by clapping our hands to show Him how much we love Him.

Take Home Challenge

Materials: Lesson 1 Ages 6-7 Take-Home Challenge from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM.

Hand out this week’s Take-Home Challenge and encourage kids to complete the activities with their families. Remind kids that you’ll ask for their responses during next week’s K.I.D.S. Church service.

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God's faithful prophet,
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ship is giving our whole
heart, soul, mind and
strength to the living God.
And the Holy Spirit will help
us to worship God as He
deserves to be worshiped.

Discussion Questions

1. In today's Bible lesson, what did King Ahab's wife Jezebel convince him to do? (*Worship the false god, Baal.*)
2. What did the prophet Elijah say was the cause of all the trouble King Ahab was having? (*He told King Ahab that the troubles were because he did not follow God's commands but was following the Baals instead.*)
3. What was the challenge that Elijah gave to Ahab and the 450 prophets of Baal? (*That if the Lord was the true God, then follow Him. But if Baal was the true God, follow him.*)
4. When the people worshiped Baal, what happened? (*Nothing. Their god hadn't started a fire under the meat. Then Elijah teased them about their god being asleep.*)
5. Even after Elijah had God's altar totally soaked with water, what happened? (*The fire of the Lord came down and burned up the whole offering, showing that God was the one true God.*)
6. What was the people's response after they saw what God did at the altar? (*They turned to Him and cried out, "The Lord is God!"*)
7. Have you ever been asked why you bother to go to church? (*Allow responses.*) What did you say?

God Encounter

Materials: Flag of your country, worship banner. (Optional: Poster board, marker.)

Preparation: If you do not have a worship banner, make one using poster board and a marker. Write, "Honor God" on the poster board.

Our Power Point says, ***True worship is giving God my all.***

(*Invite volunteer to carry the flag of your country.*) The word, "honor" means to guard or treat with respect. When we display our country's flag it is an expression of honor or respect for our country and what our country represents. We honor our country by displaying the flag. (*Invite volunteer to carry the banner of worship. Volunteer with the country flag exits.*) We can use this banner to worship God. We express honor to God as we lift the banner up. We declare that the Lord is the true God and the only One to be worshiped. (*Lead the children in praising God aloud.*) We lift up the

name of the Lord with our banner, and we lift up His name with our voices. We want to bring honor to God.

(Lead the children in bowing down to God.) Will you bow down to God? Will you bow down to Him in your own times of worship? When you do, you'll honor God as He is worthy to be honored!



The Jesus Factor

Then God gave Christ the highest place and honored his name above all others.
—Philippians 2:9

Materials: Dry erase board, dry erase markers, easel.

Preparation: Set up the dry erase board on an easel.

I'm going to need your help today. I am going to ask you to tell me the names of people that you consider to be celebrities or stars. Then I'm going to write them on this board.

Some of you can name every actor or actress that is in a particular TV show or movie. Some of you can quote every statistic about a particular sports player or team. Probably all of you are into music and can name musicians and bands. Let's get started. *(Invite children to call out names. Put names randomly on the board, but save space at the top, above the rest.)* Wow! That is a lot of names. But you know what? As famous and as popular as these people are, the Bible says there is one name above all that we are to exalt and honor. *(Write "Jesus" at top of board.)* The name above all names is Jesus. He is worthy of honor and worship.

Small Group Activity

Materials: Masking tape, 15-20 soft plastic balls, 2 boxes or plastic containers large enough to hold balls, small brown lunch sacks, marker.

Preparation: Label one container "God" and one container "Me." Place the balls in the "Me" container. Make 2, 3-foot masking tape lines approximately 15-20 feet from each other.

Who can say our Power Point? Right! **True worship is giving God my all.** This means that we share everything with Him. As Deuteronomy 6: 5 says, our heart, soul and strength. *(Pour all but a few balls from the "Me" container into the "God" container.)* I have poured "Me" into "God." *(Hold container so children can see some balls are still left in "Me" container.)* But I guess I held some of "Me" back. Sometimes we hide some things from God, or we don't give Him our best worship, time or effort. *(Pour remaining balls into "God" container.)* Now, I have given God all of "Me." Let's play a game to illustrate this.

Have children form pairs. Pairs stand facing each other on opposite masking tape lines. One child gets the ball and one holds the sack. The child holding the ball tries to throw it into the sack. The pair scores a point each time the ball is thrown into the sack. If the ball misses, it is thrown back and the child tries again. After a designated amount of time, tally the points for each pair. *(Change partners and play additional rounds as time allows.)* Let's remember to take all that we are and put it into worshiping and serving God.

Take Home Challenge

Materials: Lesson 10 Ages 8-10 Take-Home Challenge from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM.

Hand out this week's Take-Home Challenge and encourage kids to complete the activities with their families. Remind kids that you'll ask for their responses during next week's K.I.D.S. Church service.

Worship Is?



Ages
11-12

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This truth is as valid today as in biblical times—worship is giving our whole heart, soul, mind and strength to the living God. And the Holy Spirit will help us to worship God as He deserves to be worshiped.

Discussion Questions

1. In today's Bible lesson, King Ahab's wife, Jezebel, convinced him to worship the false god Baal. Why was this a bad idea? (*The 1st commandment tells us to have no other gods before the Lord God.*)
2. What happened to King Ahab and the people because of this Baal worship? (*They had troubles and they blamed them on Elijah the prophet.*)
3. What question did Elijah ask when he challenged King Ahab and the 450 prophets of Baal? (*How long will you try to serve both Baal and the Lord? If the Lord is the true God, then follow Him. But if Baal is the true God, follow him.*)
4. How did the Lord God prove that He was the one true God? (*The fire of the Lord came down and burned up the whole offering, even though it was totally soaked with water.*)
5. What was the people's response after they saw what God did at the altar? (*They turned to Him and cried out, "The Lord is God!"*)
6. Has your faith ever been challenged? (*Allow responses.*) Have any of your friends told you God doesn't exist? How did you answer them?

God Encounter

Materials: Checkbook, debit card, cell phone bill, timer.

Our Power Point today says, ***True worship is giving God my all.*** Well, "all" includes my time and money. (*Show checkbook.*) My checkbook is a record of where I spend my money. Someone could look at my checkbook and learn where I spend my money. The same is true with my debit or credit card. (*Show cards.*) What we do with our money is an expression of worship. I know that all the money I have comes from God. If I am wise, I will be a good servant with all He's given me, and I will give some of it back to Him. Giving to God is a form of worship.

How about this cell phone? (*Show phone.*) You could look at the call history or in my phone book to see who I spend my time talking with. (*Show timer.*) Time is important to all of us. We also worship God by giving Him our time. Do you spend time worshipping God? If I asked someone who knows you really well, would they say you worship? Would they tell me that you honor, praise and love God? If we want to worship God, we will spend time with Him.



The Jesus Factor

Then God gave Christ the highest place and honored his name above all others. —Philippians 2:9

Materials: 4 to 6-foot stepladder

Preparation: Place stepladder in middle of stage or teaching area.

There is an old saying that people are “climbing the ladder of success.” This ladder is going to represent our ladder of successful people—ones that we think have really made it. I bet all of you can name plenty of famous people. We call them ‘celebrities’. We ‘celebrate’ their lives and wish we could be like them.

Who can tell me the name of his or her favorite celebrity? *(Step up a rung of the ladder for each name. The top step is not a step, and you will end up sitting on it. Stop to discuss each celebrity mentioned. Ask the child to tell you something about that person, what they are known for and why he/she thinks that person should be honored. Try to alternate vocations: sports, music, movies, etc.)*

Webster’s dictionary defines worship as “having an intense love or admiration for” something or someone. Sometimes we do have an intense love for these people and when we do, we have a tendency to put them on a pedestal. *(If you have arrived at the last step or close enough to the top for your comfort, sit down.)* We believe that they deserve our honor and admiration just because they are considered great.

King Ahab had his idols of the god of Baal. Some of us have our own “idols” that we put in place of God. There is even a television show that I know you all have probably seen, in which they are trying to discover the true *American Idol*. But **true worship is giving God my all**. In Philippians, the Bible says that God gave His son, Jesus, a Name above all other names. That Name should always be at the top of our affections and worship **because He alone is holy**. He should always be the one at the top of our ladder. Jesus was ultimately successful in accomplishing all God asked Him to do on Earth, which even included dying for us. He deserves our worship and honor. He alone deserves everything we have to give.

Small Group Activity

What Is in a Name?

Materials: Bright white material, Now and Later candy, bottle of fabric softener, crown, Energizer battery, barbell, heart, book.

Note: The props will relate to these characteristics or descriptions of God in scripture:

holiness – bright white material (*shirt, sheet*)

was, is to come – Now and Later candy

merciful – fabric softener

reigns – crown

everlasting – Energizer battery

strong/mighty – barbell

love – heart

beginning and end - book (*show first page and then show last page*)

(Show objects one at a time and ask the group to think of how each object might relate to a characteristic or name of God as described in the Bible.)

I am going to show an object and I want you to try and think of how that object might relate to a characteristic or description of God. *(Allow for more than one response and interject those characteristics listed above if not answered.)* Challenge the group to worship God using these different characteristics of who God is during their worship time at home.

Take Home Challenge

Materials: Lesson 10 Ages 11-12 Take-Home Challenge from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM.

Hand out this week’s Take-Home Challenge and encourage kids to complete the activities with their families. Remind kids that you’ll ask for their responses during next week’s K.I.D.S. Church service.