

Worship Is?

Lesson Overview

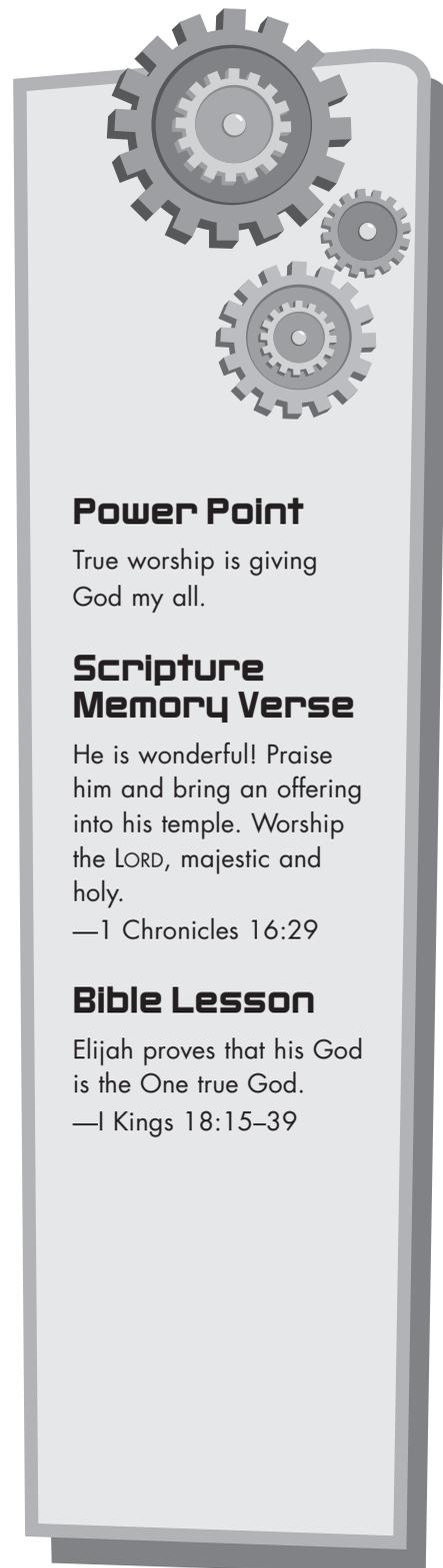
The Ten Commandments begin with: “I am the Lord your God . . . Do not worship any god but me.” Exodus 20:2-3. God knew the importance of worshiping Him as the only true God. Many years after the inscription of these words on Mt. Sinai, God’s people disobeyed this fundamental commandment, which led to their kingdom’s destruction.

Jesus affirmed the importance of this commandment by summarizing it with the command to “love God.” True worship is giving your whole heart, soul, mind and strength to the living God, your Creator. His Holy Spirit will help you to worship Him as He deserves to be worshiped. To worship God is to give Him your full love and attention, thinking about who He is and thanking Him for being God.

Demonstrating our love for God through faithful worship is the focus of the next three lessons. In this lesson, God’s power is seen as he demonstrates His complete superiority over the worthless god named Baal. Use this lesson to help children experience the importance of placing God first in our worship to Him.

Going Deeper

Be open to the Holy Spirit’s leading during the Praise and Worship time. Experiencing true worship in an extended time could be the best “teaching” of this worship 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

Elijah proves that his God is the One true God.

—1 Kings 18:15–39

Everything You Need

Note: For a listing of basic supplies to keep on hand, see p. 13.

Game #1: 6 chairs, stuffed animal or doll, nerf-type ball.

Game #2: Several balloons for each team, 10 paper plates, masking tape.

Praise and Worship: *Bible & Praise* DVD.

Lesson Introduction: Magnifying glass, headphones.

Scripture Memory Verse: Lesson 10 Scripture Memory Verse from *Leader Resources* CD-ROM, scissors, empty pizza box, poster board, marker, tape, stopwatch.

Bible Connection Option: Lesson 10 Bible Connection from *Bible & Praise* DVD.

Bible Lesson: Overhead projector, 2 blank transparencies, erasable marker, paper towel. (Optional: Create a PowerPoint presentation, using slides to create the scene described.)

Object Lesson #1: Balloon.

Object Lesson #2: Posters and magazine covers of sports, music and movie stars.

Today's Life Story: Lesson 10 Today's Life Story from *Leader Resources* CD-ROM.

Welcome

Start your service with high energy as you welcome the kids and open in prayer. See page 18 in this *Leader's Manual* for helpful welcoming tips.

Game # 1

Musical Dolls

Review Questions

(Ask the following questions. Select one boy and one girl who answer the questions correctly to be the participants in Game #1. They will choose two other teammates to create two teams of three each.)

- ▶ What did last week's Power Point say the Bible gives us? (*Strength and courage for life.*)
- ▶ What did God provide for the Israelites in the desert? (*Manna.*)

Props: 6 chairs, stuffed animal or doll, nerf-type ball.

Participants: 2 teams of 3 each.

Playing: The game is played similar to musical chairs. Arrange the chairs in a circle at the center of the stage. Bring the players forward and have them sit, alternating boys and girls. As the music starts, the players remain seated and pass the ball. At the other side of the circle, hand the doll to another player and have them begin passing the doll in the same direction that the ball is traveling. When the music stops, the player holding the ball is out. However, he gets to throw the ball at the doll. The player holding the doll stands with it in front of her, and the player with the ball stands at least 10 feet away and tries to hit the doll with the ball.

After his toss at the doll, he is eliminated from the game. You remove a chair and tighten the circle. Hand the ball to the next player and resume play—with the doll and ball being passed from player to player. The game continues until there are two players remaining. They will play one more round, and whoever is holding the doll when the music stops is the winner—but the second player gets to toss the ball at the doll. (Consider having a small prize to award to the winner.) Play more rounds as time allows.

Variation: For larger groups, add more dolls and balls, so that children are passing two or more balls and two or more dolls at the same time.

Game #2

Balloons to Go

Review Questions

(Ask the following questions. Select one boy and one girl who answer the questions correctly to be the participants in Game #2. They will choose four other teammates to create two teams of five each.)

- ▶ What did last week's Scripture Memory Verse say we needed besides food to live on? (*Every word that God has spoken.*)
- 2. What did the Israelites keep complaining about? (*They were going to die of hunger.*)

Props: Several balloons for each team, 10 paper plates and masking tape.

Preparation: Inflate the balloons and tie them. 2 balloons will be used in the game, and additional balloons are in case players accidentally pop a balloon. Use masking tape to make a start line and finish line about 15 feet apart.

Participants: 5 boys and 5 girls.

Playing: Teams line up behind the start line. Give the first player in each line a paper plate and an inflated balloon. Players put the balloons on their plates and carry the plates as a waiter would carry a tray. The palm of one of the player's hands is placed underneath the paper plate. Players cannot touch the balloons once they begin the relay, and they cannot touch the paper plates with their free hands. If a player drops the balloon, she picks it up and returns to the start line, beginning again.

When you say "go," the first two players race "waiter style" to the finish line and back. They hand their balloons to the next players in line. Continue the relay until an entire team has completed the race. The first team to complete the relay and have all its members sitting down is the winner.

Precautions: Explain to the children that "slow and steady" will win the race. Walk through the relay and demonstrate how they are to carry their plates with the balloon.

Variation: Alternate children walking forward and backward to complete the relay (first child in line

walks to finish line and returns walking forward; second child in line walks to finish line and returns walking backward).

Praise & Worship

Lead the children in a powerful time of entering God's presence using the worship songs from the *Bible & Praise* DVD.

Lesson Introduction

Props: Magnifying glass, headphones.

Presentation: (*Put headphones on.*) How many of you use these? Yeah, I see kids with them on all the time. It's great because you can listen to music without interruption from noise around you. (*Pick up the magnifying glass and begin to look at your hand or other things closely.*) Boy, you can really look at things closely with one of these. You can see little details and focus on things that you couldn't see without the magnifying glass. Have you ever used a magnifying glass before? (*Allow responses.*) The one thing I have noticed though, (*hold up the glass and look straight ahead at the class*) you can only really focus on one thing at a time. If I try to look at all of you at once, the magnifying glass doesn't work.

Today we are talking about worship. True worship is reserved for God alone. He is the only one worthy of our worship. I told you that headphones block out a lot of the noise that goes on around you. We need to block out noise and distractions of other thoughts and things around us when we worship God. We need to be alert to listen to His Holy Spirit.

Remember I said that the magnifying glass brings things into focus? When we really focus on God alone, we can discover things about Him we might have missed before. Like with the magnifying glass, it doesn't work to try and look at several objects at a time. Worship must be centered on God. Our Power Point today is, ***True worship is giving God my all.*** Let's say that again. To give Him all I am includes giving God my total attention.

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

Props: Lesson 10 Scripture Memory Verse, scissors, empty pizza box, poster board, marker, tape, stopwatch.

Preparation: Cut a large circle of poster board to fit in a pizza delivery box. Cut circle into eight slices. With marker, write portions of the Scripture Memory Verse on each pizza slice. On the first slice write, “He is wonderful.” On the second slice write, “Praise him.” On the third slice write, “and bring an offering.” On the fourth slice write, “into his temple.” On the fifth slice write, “Worship the Lord.” On the sixth slice write, “majestic.” On the seventh slice write, “and holy.” On the last slice write, “1 Chronicles 16:29.”

Procedure: Project the Scripture Memory Verse. Kids read the verse aloud several times. Ask volunteers to stand up and recite the verse without looking at the screen. Select a boy and a girl who know the verse well to compete in the game.

Practice it

Explain that each will have a turn to assemble the pizza, trying to “Deliver the Word in 30 Seconds or Less” by arranging the pieces so the Scripture Memory Verse can be read. Show them the “pizza” pieces (out of order) and demonstrate how to assemble the pizza and tape it in the box. (Repeat game with other volunteers as time allows.)

Give the first player the pizza pieces, box and tape. When you say go, the player assembles the pizza, taping the pieces in the box. When the pieces are taped in order, have him lift the box and display it to the audience. Record the first player’s time. Second player repeats the process to determine who can put the pizza together the fastest.

Boys and girls, our Scripture Memory Verse speaks about true worship—giving your whole heart, soul, mind and strength to the living God, your Creator. Are you ready to worship God? Will you give Him your full love and attention? Will you think about who He is and thank Him for what He does?

Let’s say our verse one more time, “He is wonderful! Praise him and bring an offering into his temple. Worship the Lord, majestic and holy.”
1 Chronicles 16:29.

Understand it

Praise the Lord for what? Simply for the glory of His name, for He is Holy! This is a key point. Not for what He has done, even though He has blessed you in awesome ways. Not for answered prayer or what He has given you. True worship is praising God for who He is . . . period. Yes, we are to praise and thank Him for His works, and for His blessings. But, even if He didn’t do great works and bless us,, we would still worship God and His Holy name.

Live it

This week in your prayer time, worship God without thanking Him for things or asking Him for anything. Just focus on who He is, not what He has done. Thank Him simply for being God!

Bible Lesson

Elijah and the Prophets of Baal
—1 Kings 18:15 – 39

Acting God’s Word

Use the Acting God’s Word puppet script on the *Leader Resources* CD-ROM before you begin the Bible Story as a visual way to introduce the point of today’s lesson. You can act the segment with puppets, use a drama team, or use the CD audio script with either approach.

The Doodad Gang kids are invited to check out the gym where Tony has been working out with the help of a personal trainer, Wally the “Wallinator.” He invites the kids to work out and after a break, the kids return sore and tired from their workouts. When Tony mentions the gym is the only place he can work out, the others get into an argument. Wally helps them see that they don’t need a gym to work out. He further explains it’s just like praising God—it can be done anytime or any place. Ask the questions below to discuss the puppet segment.

- ▶ What was Tony doing with his free time? (*Working out at the gym.*)
- ▶ Where did Tony say you had to workout? (*In the gym.*)
- ▶ What happened when Tony said you could only work out in a gym? (*The other kids argued with him.*)
- ▶ What did Wally say about working out and worshipping God? (*You can do both anywhere.*)

Wally helped the Doodad Gang kids see that worshipping God any time or any way is something they can do. This is true worship. In today's story, a single prophet of God challenges the people to worship the true God. He alone is worthy of our worship! Let's find out how this prophet led the people to worship God.

Bible Story

Props: Overhead projector, 2 blank transparencies, erasable marker, paper towel. (Optional: Create a PowerPoint presentation of the scenes described.)

Presentation

Today's Bible lesson is about true worship and a man named Elijah who was a great prophet.

Project transparency onto a screen or blank wall. (*On the first transparency, use the marker to write "God" at the top, and "Elijah" below "God."*)

During this time, the king of Israel was a man named Ahab. His wife, Jezebel, convinced Ahab to worship a false god—Baal. The prophet Elijah warned Ahab that this was wrong.

(*On the second transparency, write "Baal" at the top and "Ahab" below Baal.*) Many troubles came to Israel, and King Ahab blamed them on Elijah. But Elijah answered, "I have not caused trouble in Israel. You and your father's family have caused all this trouble. You have not obeyed the Lord's commands. You have followed the Baals."

Elijah challenged Ahab and his prophets, "How long will you try to serve both Baal and the Lord? If the Lord is the true God, follow him. But if Baal is God, follow him!" The people said nothing.

Elijah said, "I am the only prophet of the Lord here. But there are 450 prophets of Baal."

(*On the second transparency, draw a cement-type slab with several pieces of wood on top.*) Elijah had the people butcher two bulls. He told the followers of Baal to prepare the meat and place it on the wood.

(*Draw an oval shape above the wood. Explain that the oval represents the meat of the bull.*) Then Elijah said, "Pray to your god, but don't light the fire." The people prayed to Baal from morning until noon and nothing happened. Their god did not light the wood on fire.

The prophets of Baal continued to pray into the evening and nothing happened. Now it was Elijah's turn. (*On the first transparency, draw twelve stones.*) Elijah gathered 12 stones to represent the tribes. He used the stones to build an altar to the true God, and he dug a ditch around the altar.

(*Draw wood pieces on top of the stones and an oval shape to represent the bull meat.*) Elijah built the altar and placed the sacrifice on it. Elijah had four helpers fill four large containers with water. They poured the water on the meat and wood three times, soaking the wood and sacrifice. Elijah prayed. In a portion of his prayer, he asked, "Lord, answer my prayer. Show these people that You, Lord, are God."

(*Draw fire coming down from God, covering the sacrifice, wood and stones.*) The fire of the Lord burned the sacrifice, wood, stones and ground.

(*Use the paper towel to erase the sacrifice, wood, and stones.*) The fire was so hot it dried up the water in the ditch around the altar. The Bible tells us, "When all the people saw this, they cried, 'The Lord is God! The Lord is God!'"

Object Lesson #1

Props: Balloon.

Presentation

What is worship? (*Allow responses.*) Let me give you another answer—worship is showing God how much you love Him.

(*Hold up the balloon.*) I have another question for you, but first I must fully inflate this balloon.

(*Partially inflate the balloon and hold it between your thumb and finger.*) Now look at the balloon—it's fully inflated, isn't it? (*Allow responses.*) What do you mean it isn't inflated? All you need to have an inflated balloon is to just blow some air inside—there you have it, an inflated balloon. Right? (*Allow responses.*) What? What do you mean I haven't blown up the balloon all the way? This is good enough! Look, I've done all I need to do.

(*Interact with the kids to determine when a balloon is fully inflated. Continue to inflate the balloon until the kids are satisfied with the result.*)

Finally, we have a fully inflated balloon. (*Hold the inflated balloon but do not tie it.*)

So the amount of air I put in the balloon makes a difference—that makes sense! If we want to worship God, we must make an effort. If we sing, but don't mean what we sing, then we really aren't worshipping God.

(*Allow air to escape the balloon until it's limp.*) If we mumble our way through worship, it's like this limp balloon. The balloon only has a little bit of air in it—and we can't say it's inflated. When we hardly participate in worshipping, then it's like this balloon. (*Lift the balloon up.*) It's like saying, "Here's a little bit of love, God. I've done my part."

(*Re-inflate the balloon quickly.*) Let's fully love God with all our hearts, minds and bodies!

(*Sing a worship song and encourage everyone to fully worship the Lord.*)

Object Lesson #2

Props: Posters and magazine covers of sports, music and movie stars.

Presentation

Kids, do you think all Christians worship? (*Allow responses.*) What about people who are not Christians—do they worship? (*Allow responses.*)

Actually, people who don't know God worship whatever is most important to them. It may be money, a hobby, a famous person, etc. Everyone worships *someone or something*.

God created us to worship. Just as we need to eat, sleep and breathe, He made us with the need to praise Him. When we choose to make God most important to us, then we really worship Him. To worship God is to put Him before anything else and everyone else. It's to make Him number one in your life.

(*Ask volunteers to hold up the posters and magazine covers.*) It's OK for us to like some of the entertainment personalities who are popular. And there is nothing wrong with having sports heroes. However, many people end up worshipping these stars. They make idols out of these personalities. All of us are guilty at times of saying things like, "Wow! I really love (*insert a sports star's name*)!"

Do we really "love" them? It's easy to misuse words, especially the word love. Let me ask you, do you really love God? Do you surround yourself with things to remind you of Him, or, do you surround yourself with the stars of this world?

(*Point to the posters and magazine covers.*) If you fill your bedroom with pictures of sports heroes and movie stars, what are you going to think about? Chances are you won't be thinking about God.

(*Have helpers exit with the posters and magazine covers.*) Keep in mind that I am not telling you that you can't have sports heroes or appreciate entertainment stars. However, if this is where you focus all of your attention, then there won't be much time for the One who really matters, God.

Worshipping God means putting him first and fully giving our love to Him. Let's kneel and silently tell Him we love Him.

(Have all helpers and kids kneel and worship God, focusing on loving Him.)

Today's Life Story

Lip Songs and Heart Songs

Illustration 10-1



► Our story opens with a group of church choir kids practicing for a worship concert. Marcus, their leader, is 15 years old and has always loved music. But tonight, his baton is broken because he sat on it. Now he's trying to fix it by wrapping an elastic bandage around it, but it just keeps flopping apart. There isn't time to fix it before the concert, just a few hours away. Marcus thought one last practice before the concert would be a good idea, but he's mad at himself for breaking the baton.

They are getting ready to rehearse a song they will sing this Friday night for a concert being given at Praise Church. The concert is to celebrate their new church building. Olivia is passing out the music while Jessica tunes her violin. Gabriel and Tyler are standing on the riser trying to be patient, but it's hard to stand still.

Illustration 10-2



► Jessica said, "I really didn't want to bring my violin tonight. I'm tired of playing the violin. I wanted to learn the piano, but nooooooo! My mom made me take the violin and now I have to play it in front of a crowd of people on Friday. I'm sure I won't be able to play the songs we've chosen." She continued to grumble softly to herself. Olivia, always the encourager, said, "Don't worry, Jess, it's easy to get discouraged just before a performance. I'm sure you'll play great tonight. I just know it!"

Jessica continued tuning and then picked up her music and tried to play a few measures of the first song, but it was a confused jumble of sound. Her timing was off and Marcus wasn't much help with his floppy baton. He encouraged Jessica to keep practicing, by reminding her that "Practice makes perfect."

Kids, what Jessica, doesn't realize is that instead of complaining about her violin music, she should be thanking God for the opportunity to worship Him.

Illustration 10-3



► The Kids Choir members stood straight and tall as Marcus raised his floppy baton. His broken baton made it hard for them to tell when he wanted them to start. Olivia and Tyler started singing when it flopped one way, and Gabriel and the other tenors sang when it flopped in the other direction. Jessica didn't know when to start playing, so she started playing after the singing started and was playing a different part of the song than the singers were singing.

But Marcus noticed that Gabriel was just moving his lips, not really singing at all. Marcus had everyone stop. He asked Gabe, "What are you doing? What happened to your voice? You usually sing so beautifully, but now I only see your lips moving. I can't hear your voice at all." Gabe responded, "Kids at school have been making jokes about me being a sissy to sing in a choir!" Marcus said, "Well, God doesn't think you're a sissy—besides, I need your tenor voice. This is one of the most important nights of my choir-directing career!"

Illustration 10-4



► They kept on working, tuning up their notes and listening to each other for what Marcus kept calling "blend." "I know the Bible says, 'shout praises to God,'" thought Marcus to himself, "but I don't think the Lord meant anything this noisy. I wish we could make a beautiful sound!" He was about to have them practice again when everyone started complaining. Jessica said her fingers were sore. Tyler and Gabriel's legs were hurting from standing so long. Everyone was going on and on, "My feet hurt." "My throat hurts." "I'm hungry."

Finally, Marcus gave up. He told them what time to be back for a brief, full-dress rehearsal. He was disappointed that the choir was not ready—or very good.

Illustration 10-5



► Marcus didn't feel much like eating. The concert was an hour away, and he was very worried. Then sounds of the adult choir filled his ears. He tip toed into the adult choir room and sat down in the corner. He closed his eyes and listened to the adults

singing. He was caught up in hearing the beautiful rich tones of the angelic voices. He sighed sadly as he remembered his kid's choir, "We love God so much, but how can He possibly be blessed by the noise that is coming out of our mouths?"

Kids, very often we judge what we think is best or most valuable by what we see or hear. We try to measure up to other people—but God never compares us to others. He looks at our hearts. True worship from our hearts is what God wants from us—not perfect voices.

Illustration 10-6



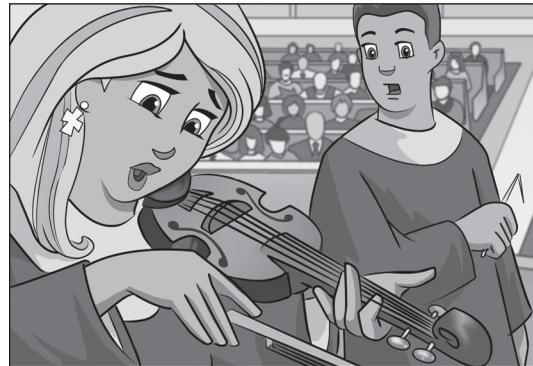
- ▶ Suddenly, Marcus noticed that the singing had stopped. The beautiful choir had caused him to doze off. Looking around, he realized that the Adult Choir was done. "Oh no!" he said, "I'm late!"

Marcus ran back down to get the Kid's Choir—they were scheduled to sing next for the church. But the Ready Room was completely empty! The kids were gone, and so was Jessica's violin.

"This church building is a much bigger place than our old one was," thought Marcus. He had to run back as fast as he could. He ran around the last corner and CRASH! ran right into the wall. "Oh boy," he thought, "I really don't know my way around this place yet." He looked up to find his choir waiting and wondering what had happened to him. He pulled his choir robe from the bag and out dropped the now broken new baton his dad had bought for him—It must have broken when he ran

around the corner and hit the wall. Two broken batons in the same day! He grabbed the longest half and said, "Oh well, too late to fix it now," as they all lined up to file in.

Illustration 10-7



- ▶ As the Kid's Choir entered the sanctuary, the kids were silent. This was a big place. The sanctuary was full of people. Hundreds of eyes were focused on the choir. He nodded and they took their places. Olivia smiled encouragement to her friends. "Just do your best," she whispered, "and sing with all of your hearts."

"My short baton is working out okay," Marcus realized, as the choir began singing. "Praise God!" he rejoiced, "We don't sound as bad as I thought we would." Then, during the last song, things started going wrong. Jessica's fingers got caught in the strings of her violin for a moment and she dropped her bow! This threw the singers off of the melody. The whole song just fell apart. Marcus stood completely still, his baton frozen in mid-air. It was a disaster!

Illustration 10-8



► Somehow they finished the song. The Kid's Choir listened to the applause, took their bow and wondered how quickly they could get off of the stage. They were so embarrassed! Here they had wanted to do their very best, and the very worst had happened. What must the church members think of them? And what must the pastor think! Surely he wouldn't allow a Kid's Choir anymore at the church.

But before they could move, the Pastor stepped forward. His kind eyes fell on the small group of singers and musicians. He smiled at them and said, "Dear ones, that was the most beautiful song in heaven today."

Marcus was amazed. He had to ask, "How can this be, Pastor? We sounded so terrible."

"Oh," replied the Pastor, "that is because you heard the outside of the music. I know God listens to the inside of the music, the music that came from your hearts. That is where the beauty of holiness lies. That is where we find the spirit and truth of worship. We could hear how much you love, how hard you have worked, how much you adore, how honest you are and how pure. It was truly angelic."

Boys and girls, God sees the love coming from our hearts when we give Him honor and thanks. We worship what we love the most. What does God hear from your heart when you worship?

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

You are an awesome God. You are a mighty God. Thank You for this lesson that we learned today. Help us to spend more time worshiping You this week. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Small Group Lesson

Using the *God Encounters Small Group Lessons* (see page 10 in this *Leader's Manual*), divide your children into one of three elementary-age groups: ages 6-7, ages 8-10, ages 11-12. These groups allow deeper exploration of the Power Point and life application.

Instruct small group leaders to hand out this week's Take-Home Challenge. Be sure to ask for testimonials next week from the kids who completed the Take-Home Challenges.