LESSON 11 | Worship

Bible Basis: Daniel 6; Acts 16:16–35

Key Verse: Psalm 95:1: “Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord. Let us give a loud shout to the Rock who saves us.”

Key Question: How do I honor God in the way he deserves?

Key Idea: I worship God for who he is and what he has done for me.

Resource: Believe Storybook Bible, Chapter 11, “Worship” or story script (below)

Master Supplies List

- Believe Storybook Bible (optional)
- PowerPoint slides or printable posters of illustrations
- A few simple “career” costume props (e.g., police hat, necktie, stethoscope, apron)
- Family Page (one per child)

Optional Supplies

You will need the following supplies based on which option(s) you choose in STEP 3 | Explore More:

- **OPTION 1**: Light-colored construction paper (one per child), washable paint, paintbrush, baby wipes, letter stickers to spell “worship” (one set per child)
- **OPTION 2**: Variety of children’s musical instruments, blindfold
- **OPTION 4**: Crayons or markers, Let’s Color! sheet (one per child)
- **OPTION 6**: Two puppets
STEP 1 | Come Together (10 min)

**Supplies:** A few simple “career” costume props (e.g., police hat, necktie, stethoscope, apron)

**Teacher Prep:** Adapt the script as needed to work with your available props.

- **GATHER** the children.
- **SAY,** Dressing up and pretending can be fun. Who will come up and wear this hat? (Choose a volunteer) What will you pretend to be? (Police officer)
- **INSTRUCT** the volunteer to briefly act out the role of a police officer.
- **SAY,** Let’s all try that right in our spots. (Mimic role-playing actions)
- **SAY,** It’s fun pretending to be a police officer, but when people need help in real life, we don’t want a pretend officer. We want a real police officer.
- **REPEAT** this process with several props and roles, such as a necktie for the president, a stethoscope for a doctor, and an apron for a baker. Choose a different volunteer for each prop.
- **SAY,** When we worship God to show him our love, he doesn’t want us to pretend or be fake. God can see right into our hearts! You can’t fool God!

**REVIEW WORSHIP**

- **SAY,** Today we will learn about what it means to really love and worship God. Worship means loving God and letting him know that we are focused on him. God doesn’t care about what we’re wearing or what we look like. He doesn’t care about where we are or if other people see us.
- **ASK,** What does God care about? Our hearts! (Put your hand on your heart. Show children how to do this.)
- **SAY,** God just wants our hearts to be focused on him.

**KEY VERSE**

- **REVIEW** this week’s Key Verse. You may want to repeat the verse slowly a few times until the children are able to say the verse from memory.
- **NOTE:** You may also choose to review last week’s Key Verse together.

Psalm 95:1

Come, (sweep your hands toward yourself, inviting someone to come) let us sing for joy to the Lord. (raise hands to the sky) Let us give a loud shout to the Rock who saves us. (pretend to shout, using your hands as a megaphone)
STEP 2 | Hear the Story (15 min)

**Supplies:** Believe Storybook Bible (optional), PowerPoint slides or printable posters of illustrations

**INTRODUCTION**
- TELL the children that they will be learning about some heroes of the Bible who worshiped God with their whole hearts.
- INSTRUCT, When you hear the word worship today, I want you to put your hand on your heart. (Demonstrate this action)
- ALLOW the children to practice this motion.
- SAY, This will remind you that worship simply means to show God love with all your heart.
- CONTINUE, We already learned that God wants us to worship him. But what if there was a rule that said we are not allowed to worship him? What would we do? How would we feel? (Take responses)
- ASK, What if we got in trouble for worshiping God and we were locked in prison? How would we feel then? Would we continue to worship God? (Take responses)
- CONTINUE, Today we’ll read about Daniel, who broke a rule so that he could worship God. We’ll also learn about Paul and Silas, who kept worshiping God even from prison.
- SAY, We are going to hear a lot about worshiping today.

**READ CHAPTER 11**
- READ aloud the story script below or chapter 11, “Worship,” from the Believe Storybook Bible.
- SHOW the illustrations included with this curriculum on PowerPoint slides or printable posters.

**THE STORY OF DANIEL**
- We worship God to show that we love him. Why do we love God? He has done so much for us! He created us. He has given us every good thing. He even gave us his Son, Jesus. God shows his love for us in many ways.
- God showed his love to Daniel by doing a miracle. Daniel was a servant to King Darius. Daniel loved God, so he loved to pray and worship God. Some of the other servants did not like
Daniel. They tricked King Darius into making a law that would hurt Daniel. The law said that anyone who prayed to God would be thrown to the lions!

- Daniel knew about the law, but he prayed anyway. King Darius had to follow the law. His soldiers threw Daniel into the lions’ den.
- In the morning, King Darius ran to the lions’ den. “Daniel,” he called, “has your God saved you?”
- “Yes!” Daniel answered. “My God sent angels to close the lions’ mouths.”
- It was a miracle. And now everyone in the kingdom knew that Daniel’s God was real. Daniel chose to worship God, even when it was against the law, and God saved him from the lions.

**THE STORY OF PAUL AND SILAS**

- Who is God? He is our wonderful Creator. He is a loving Father to us. He is our Savior who has made a home for us in heaven. This is why we worship God for who he is. We can worship God by praying or singing. God doesn’t care where we are or what we look like. He just wants us to worship him!
- Paul and Silas loved to worship God no matter where they were. They were even arrested for teaching about Jesus! Paul and Silas were put in prison and locked in chains. It must have been dark and cold that night, but they still worshiped God by praying and singing. The jailer and the other prisoners listened to them.
- Suddenly, the earth began to shake! The prison doors opened and Paul and Silas’ chains fell off. The jailer was afraid that the prisoners would escape, but none did. Paul and Silas told the jailer about Jesus. He believed and his whole family was baptized!
- Paul and Silas did not just pretend to worship God. They sang and prayed no matter where they were and no matter who heard them! Jesus wants us to worship God from our hearts, too. When Jesus was on Earth, he saw people just pretending to worship. He reminded his followers that God wants us to love him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

**REVIEW DANIEL**

- Ask, Why was Daniel thrown into the lions’ den? (He broke a rule, or the law, by praying to God instead of worshiping King Darius)
• ASK, How did Daniel survive in the lions’ den? (God sent an angel to close the lions’ mouths)
• ASK, How did King Darius feel when he found out Daniel had been saved? (He was glad; he believed in the one true God)

REVIEW PAUL AND SILAS
• ASK, Why were Paul and Silas in prison? (They were arrested for teaching about Jesus)
• ASK, Were Paul and Silas sad about being chained in a dark cold prison cell? (No!)
• ASK, What were Paul and Silas doing in prison? (Praying and singing songs)
• ASK, Why did Paul and Silas worship God even though they were in such a bad place? (They trusted God and loved him no matter what happened to them)
• PRAY, Thank you, God, for being an awesome God and doing so much for us. Amen.

STEP 3 | Explore More
Choose from these activity options, depending on your available time frame, to help the children explore the lesson further.

Option 1: Raise Your Hands (20 min)

Supplies: Light-colored construction paper (one per child); washable paint; paintbrush; baby wipes; letter stickers to spell “worship” (one set per child)

Teacher Prep: Separate the letter stickers so that each child has the seven letters they need to spell out “worship.”

• SAY, Sometimes people lift their hands like this (Raise your hands high) to show they are worshiping God during times of music and singing in church. Today we are going to make a picture that reminds you and your family that you can worship God in different ways.
• GIVE each child a piece of paper and a set of letter stickers.
• HELP the children write their names on their papers.
• WRITE the word worship where it is easy for all the children to see.
• INSTRUCT the children to use the letter stickers to spell the word worship across the top of their page.
• HELP the children place the letters in order, if necessary. (It would be
helpful to have someone assist you in keeping an eye on the children’s hard work during this part of the lesson.)

- PAINT a very thin layer of washable paint on one child’s palms, and instruct him or her to press them onto the paper to form two hand-prints. Immediately wipe off the paint on the child’s hands with the baby wipes. Continue until you have reached each child while they work with their stickers.
- SAY, Now when you see your picture at home, you will remember that raising your hands is one way to worship God!

Option 2: The Praise Game (15 min)

Supplies: Variety of age-appropriate children’s musical instruments (tambourine, cymbals, maracas, bongo drum, etc.), blindfold

- GATHER the children in a circle, and give each one an instrument.
- CHOOSE one child to be the “jailer.” That child will stand in the middle of the circle wearing a blindfold.
- CHOOSE another child to be “Paul.” (A child who is also part of the circle and plays an instrument)
- INSTRUCT the children to begin walking in a circle and playing the instruments when Paul says, “Praise the Lord.” After the circle is in motion, when the jailer is ready, the jailer will say, “Earthquake.” At this moment, all the children must stop playing their instruments and sit down where they are.
- TELL the jailer to point in any direction and name the instrument he or she heard coming from that position. If the jailer is correct, those two children trade positions.
- PLAY several rounds so that many children have a chance to be the jailer.

Option 3: Paul and Silas (10 min)

- TEACH the children the following song, sung to the tune of “London Bridge”:

  Paul and Silas worshiped God, worshiped God, worshiped God.
  Paul and Silas worshiped God, while in prison.
  An earthquake came and shook them up, shook them up,
    shook them up.
  An earthquake came and shook them up, then God freed them.

- SING several rounds of the song, with two children holding hands overhead while the others circle under the “prison” as they sing. On the
word *prison*, they are to drop their hands and arms to capture the person standing between them. That person stays inside the “prison” until they get to the word *freed* in the song.

**Option 4: Let’s Color! (10 min)**

**Supplies:** Crayons or markers, Let’s Color! sheet (one per child)

**Teacher Prep:** Print and photocopy the Let’s Color! sheet (one per child)

- GIVE each child a coloring page.
- PROVIDE a selection of crayons and/or markers for the children to share.
- DISCUSS this week’s Key Idea as the children color.

**Option 5: Praise and Worship (15 min)**

> “My God Is So Big” by Ruth Harms Calkin  
> © 1959, 2002 by Nuggets of Truth  
> CCLI #2501437

> “Hallelu, Hallelu,” public domain

**Option 6: Act It Out (10 min)**

**We Worship God**

Use two puppets to act out the following short skit. Instruct the children to repeat after you any sentence that begins with “We worship God.” Practice this a couple of times before starting (e.g., “We worship God by giving thanks,” “We worship God through song.”).

**Characters**
- Kara
- Graham

**Props:** Two puppets

**Kara:** Hey, friend. I have a riddle for you!

**Graham:** Ooh, I love riddles.

**Kara:** What’s something we need to live but God wants us to give away?

**Graham:** Hmm … something we need to live but that God wants us to give away? That’s hard! How can we give away something we need to live? I’m stumped!
Kara: It’s our heart! We need our hearts to live, but God wants us to give our hearts to him in worship.

Graham: I get it! But what is worship anyway?

Kara: Well, remember when Daniel kept praying to God every day? Even when King Darius made a law that he shouldn’t? Praying is how he worshiped God!

Graham: Oh, I see. So we worship God through prayer. Can you say that? (Children repeat)

Kara: Yeah, but that’s just one way to worship him. Did you know there is more than one way to worship God?

Graham: So we can worship God in many ways! Can you say that? (Children repeat) How else can we worship God?

Kara: Well, remember that other Bible story about Paul and Silas in jail? They were singing songs and praising God. Singing is how they worshiped God!

Graham: That’s so neat! We can worship God through song. Can you say that? (Children repeat)

Kara: There are so many ways to worship God. Even Jesus worshiped God. Remember when he was sharing the bread and the wine with his disciples? He gave thanks to God for their food. Giving thanks is one way he worshiped God!

Graham: Okay. We can worship God by giving thanks. Can you say that? (Children repeat)

Kara: That’s at least three ways to worship God! Let’s try them now. Why don’t you start?

Graham: Sure, I’ll start by giving thanks! Thank you, God, for all these children who are here today learning more about you!

Kara: Amen to that! I’ll go next. I’ll pray to God. Dear God, you are the Creator of the universe. You are good and holy. We love you. Amen.

Graham: I can’t wait for the last one—singing! That’s one of my favorite ways to worship God!

Kara: (to children) Do any of you children like worshiping God by singing? Will you join us in singing to God?

Graham: Let’s all sing __________. (Choose a simple, familiar Bible song such as “Jesus Loves Me.”)

(Sing the song together)
STEP 4 | Going Home (5 min)

Supplies: Family Page (one per child)

Teacher Prep: Print and photocopy the Family Page (one per child).

• GIVE each child a copy of this week’s Family Page.
• SAY, Give this page to your family when they pick you up. It will remind you to tell your family about how Daniel, Paul, and Silas worshiped God and how we can too.
• HAVE the children practice telling you some ways they can worship God.
• REVIEW this week’s Key Verse as well as today’s story and Key Idea from the Believe Storybook Bible as you wait for the children to get picked up.
• MAKE sure each child remembers to take home any activity sheets or craft projects and the Family Page.
FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 11: Worship

**Bible Basis:** Daniel 6; Acts 16:16–35

**Key Verse:** Psalm 95:1: “Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord. Let us give a loud shout to the Rock who saves us.”

**Key Question:** How do I honor God in the way he deserves?

**Key Idea:** I worship God for who he is and what he has done for me.

**Resource:** Believe Storybook Bible, Chapter 11, “Worship”

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**How to Use This Page**

This week, your family can either read the story from the Believe Storybook Bible or read the Bible Basis passages from your Bible to help your child remember the lesson. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile idea provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

**Table Talk**

1. What are some of your favorite songs of worship to God? How does it make you feel to sing to God?
2. One way we can worship God is by giving thanks. What are some things you are thankful for?
3. We can also worship God by praying. What are some things you say to God when you pray? (Tell your child some of the things you pray for your family or for others)
4. How do you think God wants us to worship him? (With our whole heart)

**Living Faith**

**Option 1**

Get ready to shake things up today! To act out the story of Paul and Silas, you’ll need a flat surface that can take a little shaking, like a card table or a large empty box. Have your child use building blocks to create a prison. Put
Paul, Silas, and the jailer inside (use action figures, dolls, or paper cutouts). Be sure to “chain” up Paul and Silas with some costume jewelry or a paper-clip chain. Sing a favorite worship song with your child, just as Paul and Silas did. During the song, without warning, one of you can give the table a shake. The blocks should tumble down, freeing Paul and Silas. Remember, they don’t run away, but they help the jailer and his family turn to Jesus. Your child will probably want to rebuild the jail and act out the earthquake scene again and again.

Option 2
As another option, play the “earthquake” game. Similar to “Ring Around the Rosie,” clasp hands and move in a circle as you sing or play a worship song. When the person chosen to be the leader falls down at one point during the song, everyone else should fall down too.

Extra Mile
• Create a simple worship band. Gather up some empty containers (oatmeal canister, tissue box, paper plates) and pull out your craft supplies. Your child can help make several different instruments to use in worshipping God through song! Try a tissue-box guitar or harp with a few rubber bands, an oatmeal canister drum, or a paper-plate tambourine. There are lots of suggestions available online, or use your imagination and create a new type of instrument. Then use the new instruments to play along with worship songs or hymns.
• Have a family worship time. In addition to worshiping at church and praying before meals or at bedtime, set aside a special time to have a family worship session. Choose an engaging Bible passage to read aloud. Have your child recite memory verses or tell a Bible story. Sing a few favorite songs, perhaps incorporating some play instruments. Close in prayer, with each person praising God, giving thanks, or asking for a blessing.
• Praise can be one of the toughest aspects of prayer for young children to understand. Practice together by adding a “God, you are _____” statement to daily prayers. See how many ideas you and your child can come up with to praise God for who he is!