



Construction Crew/ Kid Builders!

Where worship and fun collide!

525 Garden Drive, Marysville, Ohio 43040

“Praise and Worship--What's It All About”

-- or --

“Doin' the Jesus Boogie”

Memory Verse: I will praise you forever for what you have done.... Psalm 52:9

Lesson Objective: In this lesson, students will learn the importance of praising and worshiping God. Children need to understand why we sing songs, dance, and sometimes do certain actions (like lifting hands). It is also to help children understand the difference between praise and worship. By the end of the lesson, the children should have a better understanding and a greater appreciation for praise and worship.

Requirements for the lesson: Someone who can play an instrument to assist with some simple praise and worship songs, or some recorded praise and worship music (perhaps songs recorded from your church praise and worship team, or other recorded praise and worship)

Object Lessons and Lead-in to the Lesson:

“Praise and worship time!” PART I: Begin with some songs that are upbeat—even some action songs with motions. Don’t be concerned at this point with being spiritually deep. Make your prime focus getting the children to participate.

PART II: Now that you have taught the lesson, begin to do some worship songs to which the children can really practice what they have just learned. Use songs they are familiar with, and those that are also simple (not a lot of words). They should even be a bit repetitive. You can even just stick to the choruses of some songs. Only pick two or three songs.

Do not be hesitant to instruct the children in what to do. They will not automatically raise their hands, so remind them of the lesson and tell them pleasantly as a group to raise their hands. You may need to tell them to close their eyes, or anything else you feel should be done. This is practice time. It will be mechanical, but it will become automatic with time.

Lesson:

DO THE OBJECT LESSON: ***“Praise and worship time!”*** PART I

1. Praise and Worship

Have you ever noticed how everyone comes to church on Sunday morning and the first thing we do is start singing songs. Sometimes we sing the same ones week after week.

QUESTION: Why do you think we sing all of those songs?
(To praise God)

QUESTION: We call our music time “Praise and Worship”. Do you know the difference? What is praise, and what is worship? *(Let the children respond. This question may even stump them)*

This morning we are going to look into it. Praise and worship is very important to God, so we need to understand why that is so.

a. Praise

(1) Praising God

QUESTION: Did you ever do something that was special to you, and when you shared it with someone, they acted like it wasn’t any big deal? *(Perhaps someone in the class would like to share an experience)*

That’s not much fun, is it?

QUESTION: When was a time when you did something that was special and someone else was very happy for you? Maybe they even did something nice for you.

That’s what we call praise. That’s when somebody does something for you or says nice things to you because they are happy for you. They like what you did, so they “celebrate” with you. Celebrating can be like someone having a party for you because of a special thing you did.

That’s what we are doing when we give praise to God. When we sing praise songs in church, we are telling God, “We really love you and we appreciate what you have done for us.” But singing is just singing if we don’t sing our songs to God from our hearts.

(2) Not Praising God

Sometimes it's easy to just come and stand in church while others sing. We don't sing or do anything during this part of the church service.

QUESTION: If you were God and saw someone in church that was just standing there—not caring—how would you feel? *(There will be a variety of feelings—none of them good feelings)*

QUESTION: If you were God, you would have the power to do anything or nothing at all. If you saw someone who was not praising you, would you answer their prayers when they needed something? *(Probably not)*

That's exactly what some people expect God to do. They want Him to answer all of their prayers and look out for them, but they don't want to praise Him. They don't appreciate what He has done for them. God loves you, and He wants to here the same from you.

(3) Praise Looks Like...

QUESTION: What do you think praise looks like? What does it sound like? *(Allow the children to respond)*

QUESTION: Have you ever been to a football or baseball game before? What did you do when you team scored? *(Cheered, screamed, yelled, etc. Let them respond. Ask them if they celebrated in other ways like waving something, or throwing something)*

Did you know that God wants us to praise Him in church this same way? It's true. God's goodness that He gives us is like our favorite team scoring a touchdown. God has a funny-sounding Hebrew word for this in the Bible. It is yadah (yaw-daw').

Now yadah is a very powerful word. Yadah means that we really have to celebrate to praise God. Did you ever see cowboys in an old western movie yell, scream, and shoot their guns into the air because they were happy? They were yadah-ing. Can you imagine doing that in church because we were so happy that we wanted to yadah for God? That might be just a bit too much with the guns and all, but God does want us to praise Him with everything we got!

b. Worship

Yadah to God could look like waiving banners, yelling out praises to Him, dancing for Him, and anything else that we could do to thank Him.

Praise is just half of what we do with our singing on Sunday mornings.

QUESTION: What is the other half of our singing time about? (*Worship*)

QUESTION: What do you think worship is? What does it look like? (*Allow the children to respond*)

(1) Worshipping God

Let's see how we did. Worship is showing our love to God, respecting Him, honoring Him, and exalting Him. Some of these words are pretty big words. Let's figure them out.

(a) Love/Respect

By now, we've learned a lot about what love is and is not. But along with love goes respect.

QUESTION: What is respect? (*To obey, to treat someone the way they deserve to be treated*)

We really respect God when we tell Him how wonderful He is, and by keeping His commandments.

(b) Honor

Honor is a very special word.

QUESTION: What do you think it means to honor God? (*To say to God that He is the best God there ever could be, and really, really, REALLY mean it.*)

In the military, soldiers are honored for doing heroic deeds by having a medal pinned on their chest in front of everyone. This tells anyone who sees the soldier's medal that the United States government and the whole nation is proud of what he or she did. When we honor God, we pin a medal on His chest in front of everyone that tells them all that you love Him and are proud of what He does for you.

(c) Exalt

To exalt God sometimes takes work. We can't exalt God when we have something that we care more about than God. This is easy to do. We are always supposed to pray and read the Bible, but sometimes we let things get in the way.

QUESTION: What are some things that we do instead of praying and reading the Bible? (*Games, toys, TV, go places, do things*)

QUESTION: Which do you think is more important: Coming to church and exalting God, or making a little league game? (*Don't be surprised if you get the wrong answer*)

Many times we make the wrong choices. That does not exalt God when we do that. That tells God that what we want to do is more important to us than He is.

(2) Entering God's Presence

To worship God we must also do what we call "enter His presence." Have you ever been in the same room with someone and either forgot they were there or didn't know they were there? Many times we treat God this same way. He is in our hearts, but we forget just how close by He really is. Entering God's presence is simple and easy. You simply stop, think about Him, and say, "God, I want to spend time with you right now." God is so good to us. He will be there in a flash. You can feel Him, and know that He is there. He may even say to you that He is with you.

The most wonderful thing of all is the good changes that God will make in your heart just because you want to worship Him. He can take cares and worries away that some people might think are impossible to erase. Remember that God can do anything.

2. Other Forms of Worship

We have talked a lot about worshipping God with singing, but there are other things we do to worship God.

QUESTION: What are some other ways that we can worship God? (*Dance, Prayer, and Giving*)

a. Dancing

Dancing is a wonderful way to show God you worship Him

QUESTION: How do you think that dancing in church can show God that you love Him? (*Let the children respond*)

The Bible says that King David was so happy with God once that he danced with all of his might before Him. King David knew how much God loved him, and sometimes he would get so happy and excited that he just started dancing for God.

Today, we can do that too. We can get so happy that we just want to do something to show God how much we love Him. We can do this by dancing. When you see someone dancing in church, then they are very happy with God. They want to dance for Him to show their appreciation. They are giving thanks to God this way.

b. Praying

Did you know that prayer is also worshiping God? It is the most important part of worship. It is even more important than dancing or singing.

QUESTION: Why do you think prayer is the most important kind of worship? *(Let the children respond)*

Let's see if your answers are correct. First, you shouldn't sing praises or dance to God unless you have prayed first. Remember what we said earlier? You have to ask God to come and be with you. That takes prayer. We also should ask God to forgive our sins so we can be squeaky clean when we get close to Him. Prayer is great because you can just tell God how much He means to you! What better way could there ever be to worship Him? We can simply tell Him, "I love you God."

c. Giving

Giving back to God is another way we worship Him. Our giving back to God tells Him that we appreciate what He has done for us. He also blesses us back for the money and offerings that we give.

3. Worship Tools

Did you know that you have built-in tools to worship God with? It's true! God gave you hands, feet, and a mouth to worship Him with. He also gave you a heart to worship Him with too. It's the most important thing you can use in your worship. With all of these parts of your body, worshiping God is the most important thing you can do with them.

We know that we can dance with our feet, pray and sing with our mouths, and love with our hearts.

QUESTION: What is it that we can do with our hands? *(Lift them up to God)*

QUESTION: Why is it that we do that? *(Let the children respond)*

Raising our hands up to God is kind of like how a baby lifts his or her hands up to their dad or mom. The baby wants them. The baby wants to be loved and cuddled by them. God is our heavenly “daddy”. He wants us to reach out to him. It’s kind of also like showing God that you know that He is boss.

QUESTION: What do the bad guys do to show they are surrendering to the police? (*They come out with their hands up!*)

When we lift up our hands to God in worship, then we are saying we surrender to Him and what He wants to do with our lives. The Bible even tells us we should raise our hands up to the Lord.

READ: **Psalm 63:4** *“I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.”*

Psalm 134:2 *“Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the LORD.”*

4. Worship & Our Enemy

Worship is for God, and only God. It is so powerful, that when we worship God, it also beats down our enemy.

QUESTION: Do you remember who our enemy is? (*The devil*)

That’s why the devil tries to mess you up before you get to church. He doesn’t want you to worship God. When you worship God, then the devil loses and God wins—we win too. The devil gets so jealous because he wants you to worship him, or anything else but God. The devil says, “If I can’t have it, then I’ll see to it that God doesn’t get it either.” So remember that if you do not praise God, then you actually give the devil the glory.

5. Close

Everything we have been commanded to do on the earth will stop when Jesus finally comes to take all of the people who love Him home to heaven. Everything but one thing.

QUESTION: Do you know what that one thing is? (*Praising Him*)

We will praise God forever when we get to heaven. It's the most important thing you can do to show your love for God besides loving others.

Ask the children to raise their hand if they would like God to help them learn how to worship Him better. Pray for these children, and then go on with the object lesson.

DO THE OBJECT LESSON: ***"Praise and worship time!"*** PART II

Memory Verse: I will praise you forever for what you have done.... **Psalm 52:9**

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