**Priorities: Worship**

**Sword Drill: John**

* Have the children identify where this is in the Bible.

**Learning Activity:** Take a minute to share about your favorite **food**, **toy**, **place to visit**, **hobby**, **Candy**, Snack food… Then as you go through these, invite the group to share about their favorite things.

*Amazing taste how sweet the sound, tis music to my ears, the taste so strong it lingers on and makes my taste buds cheer. Doritos are an awesome snack, they reign in the snack food isle, their taste is the boldest one Doritos is an awesome snack. Over the rivers and the sea Doritos are the one for me, so I will open up my mouth and let the bold taste set me free, I could sing of Doritos forever, I could sing of Doritos forever. Okay, okay enough songs: But truly Doritos are awesome! There’s not another snack like them in the world. I could eat them for breakfast, for lunch and for dinner, I love to crumble them on my sandwhich, the crunch adds such an amazing texture, they’re also amazing on Salads. I hate to admit it, but the cheesy powder is so good that when I’m done eating a bag the pain of being finished is lessened by getting to lick the nacho cheese flavor from my fingers. When I’ve had a rough day, I need some frito lay, When I am sad, Doritos make me glad. If I were stuck on a deserted island and had to choose but one food to eat for the remainder of my days, I would choose Doritos. I even asked my friends to bury me with a bag of Doritos, but then I changed my mind as grave robbers might disturb my slumber to retrieve my Doritos. My buddy and I have a twisted fantasy of bathing in Dorito dust. Could this be arranged with a visit to Frito Lay? I tell everyone I know that Doritos are amazing. Thanks again for making such an amazing product. BTW your commercials are the funniest ever!*

**Transition:** When you are really excite about a new game, or toy, or new restaurant, you say nice things about them. Your words of praise, dedication of time, energy, and resources make a statement of the worth of those things to you. **Worship is kind of like this, only, God is a person, and unlike these places and things we enjoy and promote, God receives great honor and pleasure when we declare His praise, and dedicate our time, energy, and resources to Him.**

* **How does it make you feel when others speak well of you, invest in you, spend time with you?**

**Transition to Curriculum logo:** The gospel is a “Truth believed that changes everything”. The gospel can be summarized in five simple truths: *(Refer to Five finger gospel lesson)*
1) I am a sinner.
2) God will judge my sin.
3) Jesus was not a sinner.
4) He died for my sins and rose the third day.
5) If I turn from my sin and receive him, God will save me.
**When God saves us, he begins changing our priorities** (the things that are important to us). **They may not feel important immediately, but as we practice these priorities over the years, they grow to become our most important priorities. Today we will look at the priority of worship.**

**F.F. Definition: Worship is declaring God’s worth to God**

* Have the group repeat this phrase with you several times. Note the man with the megaphone is declaring upward (that is toward God). Have the children cup their hands like a megaphone as they say it.

**Worship:** Blessed Be The Name of the Lord, Here I am to Worship…really take time to explain the meaning behind these songs and how they are expressions of worship to God.

Repeat our definition**: Declaring God’s worth to God**

**Why is God worthy of worship?**

* While there are many answers to this question, I want to give you at least three:
1. **Creator of all** Really take time to establish the fact that absolutely everything around us exists because of God
2. **Savior** Salvation and a hope for a future without sin, pain, sorrow, and death is only possible by the extreme sacrifice of Jesus
3. **Every Good Gift** every good and pleasant thing in our world is the direct result of God’s goodness—there is no innocent pleasure we enjoy that is not an expression of the goodness of God, every smell, taste, sight, texture, experience, invention…is a gift that originated in the mind of God. THIS IS WHY HE IS WORTHY OF WORSHIP! (Js. 1:17)

Three ways we can declare God’s worth to God:[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. **With our lips:**
* Ephesians 5:19 “…**speaking** to yourselves in psalms, hymns and spiritual song, **singing** and making melody in your heart **to the Lord**.”
* Psalm 34:1 “I will bless **the Lord** at all times: **his** praise shall continually be in my mouth.”
* Psalm 63:3 Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.
* Psalm 63:5 My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,
* Psalm 71:23 My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to you; my soul also, which you have redeemed.
* Psalm 119:171 My lips will pour forth praise, for you teach me your statutes.
1. **With our ears:**
* There are so many voices in the world that are asking for our attention: our friends, the t.v. internet, the music we listen to, the counsel and advice that others offer—not all of it is bad, but it is an act of worship when we focus our listening intently on the word of God!
* Psalm 119:97 “O how I love **thy** law! It is my meditation all the day.”
	+ Telling God how we feel about his word is worship
* READ/Explain Nehemiah 8:1-6
	+ **Ask the kids to listen for ways the people responded to the reading of God’s word?**

*“And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel. So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the* ***ears******of all the people were attentive*** *to the Book of the Law. And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose. …And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it* ***all the people stood****. 6And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. And they* ***bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.”***

* + Ans. V.3 they were attentive, when he opened the book the people stood v.5, the people responded by saying Amen, and lifted their hands, bowed their faces to the ground and worshipped
* How can you demonstrate a worshipful posture toward God’s word?
	+ **James 1:21**
	+ This is a posture that we must have in mind as we open the word of God or sit in Sunday School. We are **listening with a willingness to do whatever the Lord asks of us**. It is an act of worship when we are willing to discipline our minds and bodies so that we are **ready to focus and listen to God’s word**. It says to God that he is important and I want to learn what he has to say to me.
1. **With our will:**
* Picture of Jesus in Garden Mt. 26:39 “…not as I will but as thou wilt.”
	+ Explain the context and what is going on here.
* **Few things make a stronger statement to God of his worth than when we look upon something difficult and we walk forward in obedience.**
	+ What are some hard things God asks you to do? Ans. obeying my parents, loving my enemies, showing mercy, forgiving, being patient, being gentle with my siblings, serving those in need, being diligent with my chores or homework.
		- Optional Thought: **1 Corinthians 10:31** …whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Worship is a priority that should become a lifestyle. Viewed this way, doing my homework well can be an act of worship, doing my chores can be an act of worship, sharing my toys can be an act of worship.

**Transition: in an average worship service you are asked to do all three of these things: sing praise to God, listen attentively to his word, submit your will to what God wants. But does just showing up for church mean that you have worshipped?**

**Sword Drill: John 4:24**

“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

What does it mean to worship in spirit?

* It is not primarily a posture: Play a quick game of “Simon Says” ask the children to **raise their hands**, **bow your head**, **kneel**,… singing, giving, serving, speaking, obeying this can all be done without the heart/spirit.
	+ The woman at the well limited worship to a particular location, Jesus was teaching her that worship has more to do with the posture of one’s heart.
* (GRAPHIC) To worship in spirit is: to **from the heart direct my activity to God**. If I’m not thinking about God as I do these things then they are not acts of worship.

What does it mean to worship in truth?

* We must know who God is, and understand what God desires in order to worship.

*Imagine that I wrote a love letter to my wife speaking about her beautiful blonde hair, and blue eyes, and soft freckles. (my wife has brown hair, brown eyes, and no freckles). These thoughts would be insulting because they are not true.*

* When we offer praise to God or sing to him, or serve him, we must do so according to truth (as revealed in scripture). For example since God has revealed that he is holy, I cannot worship him with unconfessed sin in my life.

Repeat our definition of Worship**: Declaring God’s worth to God**

**Optional:** Close by singing “I Love You Lord” or another chorus that declares God’s worth to Him.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What is special to you about God? How can you express this to Him?
2. What is your favorite worship song? How does that song express worship to God?
3. What difficult steps of obedience might face you this week that you can treat as an act of worship?
4. How can you demonstrate worship in the way you listen to God’s word?
1. <https://www.gci.org/God/worship>: Friendship…the quality of being a friend, Sportsmanship…the quality of being a good sport, Worth-ship…the quality of being or having worth [↑](#footnote-ref-1)