



Week 1 3's 4's, 4's 5's 9:45

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Wants Us to Worship with Our Whole Lives

SCRIPTURE: [Deuteronomy 6](#)

WORD OF WONDER: [Matthew 22:37](#)

Singing, shouting, raising hands, kneeling ... these were some of my favorite ways to express my love for God when I began leading worship as a teen. But I was often frustrated when students stood apathetically during services that I led. Later, as an adjunct professor for a worship leader class at a Christian university, I observed that college worship leaders felt similarly about the engagement of their peers during chapel worship times.

I shared with my college students what I wish I'd known years ago: We can't force an expression. Instead of focusing only on the physical response, we must become worshipers who respond from our whole selves, being formed by the work and presence of God.

Read [Deuteronomy 6:4-9](#).

We're called to love not just with actions but with our whole selves. Verse 6 speaks of God's ways being in our hearts, and verse 7 goes on to say, "Impress them on your children" (NIV). This means our role isn't just to guide children to action but to lead them to be shaped in a way that their actions flow from a worshipful heart formed by the love of God.

When have you entered into worship and responded to God with your whole self? What has helped you to have God's ways written on your heart?

—**David Ruybalid**

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Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

(Tac comes in, humming a worship song.)

Leader: Hi, Tac! Good to see you! What are you singing?

Tac the Cat: Oh, I'm singing my favorite worship song! I love to worship God.

Leader: Oh, I love to worship God when I sing too.

(Tac puts his head down, looking disappointed.)

Leader: What's wrong, Tac?

Tac the Cat: Oh, I just love to worship God so much. I wish I could worship Him more than once a week when I sing songs to Him at church.

Leader: Tac, you can worship God more often than that!

Tac the Cat: Well, I suppose. But I don't always remember what song to sing.

Leader: But, Tac, worship isn't just about singing songs to God!

Tac the Cat: It's not?

Leader: Not at all! Worship is about way more than songs. Songs are one of the ways we worship God. But we can worship God with our whole lives. We worship God by the way we love Him and love others.

Tac the Cat: Really?! Can I worship God when I am kind to my brother? Or when I choose to tell the truth?

Leader: Yes, all those things are ways we can worship God. God gives us lots of good ways to worship Him. And not just at church, but every day through how we live. We're going to hear more about it in today's story.

Tac the Cat: That's amazing! I can worship God every day in so many different ways. But can I still worship God when I sing too?

Leader: Of course you can, Tac!

Tac the Cat: I can worship God with my whole life! I'm going to go tell my friends!

(Tac goes away humming the worship song.)

Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: What are some of the ways you feel loved? Allow the kids to respond. Do you ever think about how you can show love to others? Allow the kids to respond. Have you ever stopped to think about how God loves us and wants us to worship Him?

Today's Wonder Truth is GOD WANTS US TO WORSHIP WITH OUR WHOLE LIVES. Today we'll discover how to worship God with our whole lives!

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

WORD OF WONDER

Worship the LORD with gladness. Come to him with songs of joy.

—Psalm 100:2

Our Word of Wonder reminds us that God deserves our worship. We can worship Him with joy and with gladness and with our whole lives, like we learned about. Open your Bible to [Deuteronomy 6](#) and point to it. In God's big story today, we learned about loving God with our heart, soul, and strength. We learned that we can worship God when we get up, when we lie down, when we walk along the road, and even when we go into our houses. Let's practice learning the Word of Wonder while we do those things!

Have everyone sit on the floor. Say the Word of Wonder aloud to the kids, and then invite them to repeat it after you while they get up. Now say the verse again and encourage everyone to repeat it while they lie down and pretend to sleep. Now say the Word of Wonder together while "walking along the road" (walk around the room). Say it again together while everyone jumps to touch the top of the door.

Great job learning the Word of Wonder. God loves our joyful worship, and we can worship Him with our whole lives! Now let's learn the motions to remember the Word of Wonder.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **WORSHIP THE LORD**—Put hands over your head in a "praise" motion.
- **WITH GLADNESS**—Smile and point to your mouth.
- **COME TO HIM**—Move one arm toward your body, as if inviting someone to come with you.
- **WITH SONGS OF JOY**—Place open palm in front of your mouth. Move it in circular motions away from your face.
- **PSALM 100:2**—Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What are some things that make you feel joyful? How can we worship God with joy?**
- **What are some ways we can show others our joy when we worship God?** (Share examples of joy—such as smiling, laughing, dancing, singing loudly—using hand motions such as raising hands.)

Craft: Frame It!

SUPPLIES: jumbo craft sticks (4 per kid), markers, plastic jewels, stickers, glue

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Shema Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Before kids arrive, print one [Shema Sheet](#) per kid. Give each child four jumbo craft sticks and set out decorating supplies.

God gave His people good commandments that He wanted them to remember



so they could worship Him with their whole lives. What Moses said became known as the Shema (shuh-MAH). We want to remember to worship and love God too! Let's make a picture frame that will help us remember how much God loves it when we worship Him with our whole lives.

Invite the kids to decorate the four craft sticks any way they like. They can color them with markers and add jewels or stickers to them as well. While they work, invite them to share some of their favorite ways to worship God.

Does anyone remember the three things God asked His people to worship Him with? Invite responses. Yes! God wants us to love Him with all our heart, all our soul, and all our strength. Hand out the [Shema Sheets](#) to the kids. Invite them to glue their decorated craft sticks around the edges of the box on the dotted lines to make a frame.



You can take this picture home and put it in your room to help you remember to love God with your heart, your soul, and your strength. God wants us to worship with our whole lives!

Game: Whole Body Worship

God's instructions for His people were for every part of their lives. And the same is true for us—we can worship God with our whole lives. We can worship Him not just with singing, but also with how we treat each other, how we listen, how we obey, and how we love. We can worship God with our heart, soul, and strength—with everything that we are!

Help the kids think through worshiping God with their whole selves by encouraging them to do some active exercises with you. Ask everyone to do 5 squats. After you all do the squats together, say: **I can worship God with my whole life** and encourage the kids to repeat it after you. Then invite everyone to do 10 jumping jacks. After the exercise, have kids say with you: **I can worship God with my whole life!** They might want to shout it out too. Continue with 3 push-ups, 5 sit-ups, 5 lunges, 10 high fives, etc.

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for His good commands and the invitation to worship Him with our whole lives.

Father, thank You for all we learned today about You and Your good commands. Help us to worship You with our whole lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May the Lord bless and keep you this week as you worship and love Him with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.

