

Week 3 Preschool 8:30/11:00

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Deserves Worship SCRIPTURE: Psalm 145 WORD OF WONDER: Psalm 100:2

When was the last time you stood in awe of something?

I spent a few years living in small towns surrounded by the Pike National Forest, just off the northern face of Pikes Peak. One August, I was invited to lead worship on the summit of Pikes Peak for an event called "Worship Above the Clouds." Along with other worship leaders from the Colorado Springs area, I led worship at 14,115 feet. This is the same mountain that inspired the song "America the Beautiful." As we played, we faced east, toward the plains below the mountain. We could see for miles.

Read Psalm 145:1-18.

Verse 3 says, "Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom" (NIV). There's something powerful about singing of God's greatness, knowing nothing compares to Him, while looking at a view so awe-inspiring. Still, God's greatness is even more amazing. He is the one who created the view that we were in awe of. This truth brought us in that moment into deeper worship.

I just asked, "When was the last time you stood in awe of something?" But now, let me ask: When was the last time you were even more in awe of God? He is truly worthy of worship!

-David Ruybalid

Worship Leader, Recording Artist, and Discipleship Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

Play Stations

Play Station: A Psalm of Praise Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the coloring sheet and set out the coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw something they praise God for.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, large plastic hoops (1-2)

WORD OF WONDER

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

-Psalm 100:2

Place a large plastic hoop on the ground and have kids gather in a circle around it. If you have a big group, you may need to use more than one hoop. Practice saying the Word of Wonder together while doing the motions below.

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.

When we come together in church to praise God, it can be a powerful act of worship. However, worship doesn't just have to happen on Sundays inside a church building. We should worship God every day, outside of Sunday mornings and outside of a church building. Like King David, when we worship God with our whole selves, we understand that Sunday isn't the only day of the week that God is worthy of worship. He's worthy all day, every day! Let's do an activity to help us remember that God is worthy of worship inside and outside the church building!

Leader Tip: Kids are concrete thinkers. Consider having them name different places they could worship that are outside the church building. Outside doesn't only mean out in nature—it could mean at home, at school, or even at the store.

When I say, "inside," everyone should quickly hop into the hoop and say the verse. When I say, "outside," everyone should jump out and say the verse. Call out "inside" and "outside" as time allows, helping kids say the verse each time.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

What does it mean to "worship the Lord with gladness"? Where can you worship God this week?

Circle Time: Drum Beats

SUPPLIES: bowl or bucket

Show kids the upside-down bowl or bucket. We're going to use this bowl as a drum to help us review our story. While I play some music, we're going to pass our drum around the circle. You can bang on it a couple of times and then pass it to the next person. Whoever has the bowl when the music stops gets to answer a question.

Leader Tip: If kids are taking too long before passing the drum on to the next person, consider coming up with a rhythm for each kid to beat on the drum before passing it on.

Pause the music periodically and ask one of the questions below to the person holding the drum when the music stops.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is a psalm? (a song poem)
- Who wrote the song poem that we heard today? (David)
- Why does God deserve worship? (because of who He is and what He does)
- How can we praise God? (some ideas: sing, dance, clap, kneel, draw, play music)
- What can you praise God for? (some ideas: loving us, creating us, giving us what we need)
- When can we praise God? (anytime)
- Where can we praise God? (everywhere)

God deserves our worship and praise anytime, anywhere because of who He is and what He does. He is great and does great things! Let's talk to God now in prayer.

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to praise God.

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for being amazing.

God, we love to worship You. You are awesome and deserve our worship. We praise You for all the great things You have done. 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 you think of our good and powerful God—who knows you the best and loves you the most—as you worship Him this week and always! He is worthy!

Closing Game: Musical Chairs

SUPPLIES: chairs (1 per kid minus 1)

Place a chair for each kid minus one in a circle facing outward. Play a game of Musical Chairs. Encourage kids to sing along and praise and worship God while they play.

One of the ways we can praise and worship God is with music. Let's play a game of Musical Chairs. Let's sing to and worship God while we play. When the music stops, everyone should try to find a seat. If you are left without a seat, you get to share something that you can praise God for. Play as time allows.

Make It Inclusive! If a kid in your group is in a wheelchair, you could mark spots on the ground with either pieces of tape or sheets of paper in a circle and have the entire group travel around the circle and try to get into a spot instead of a chair.