



## Worship

### Objective

The children will learn that true worship is to honor God with extravagant love and extreme submission.

### Introduction

Over the next few weeks, we are going to do a series called "Grow". This series is going to focus on ways we can grow our faith through prayer, worship, baptism, communion and giving. If you haven't already guessed, today is about worship!

### What is worship?

Sometimes we think that worship is just singing songs to God. Sometimes we think it's honoring God with our tithes or serving at our church. But it's not **just** those things. Worship is much more than that. I like a definition from the 1828 Webster's Dictionary, "**Worship is to honor with extravagant love and extreme submission**". Who knows what extravagant means? Extravagant is the greatest, it's something beyond what's normal or appropriate. It's like if you asked for an M&M and I gave you a bucket of M&Ms. Extravagant love is almost overflowing for love for someone. "Extreme submission" is to obey and listen to that person more than anyone else--no matter what they say, you would do it. Is there anyone you love like crazy and would do whatever they asked? Just God. Worship is honoring Him with great love and obedience. It's putting God at the top of our list, our main focus, over everyone and anyone because He is worthy. True worship is a matter of our hearts and living a life of holiness--a life that honors God in all you do.

### Why do we worship?

So why should we live our lives worshipping God? I like what **1 Chronicles 16: 23-27** says:

**23** Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day.

**24** Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!

**25** For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and he is to be feared above all gods.

**26** For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

**27** Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and joy are in his place.

We worship God because He is God. That's it. We love Him, because He first loved us. We could just worship God because of all the stuff He's done for us, and that's not a bad reason to worship, but that's not **the reason**. We worship God because He is the one, true God. He's the Creator of the Universe and deserves all the honor and praise.



### **Psalm 86:8-13**

8 There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours.

9 All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.

10 For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.

11 Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.

12 I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.

13 For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

### **How do we worship?**

We worship with our whole lives, how we live and obey. However, there are acts of worship: singing songs of praise, serving at church, tithing, and so on. For today's lesson, we are going to focus on the act of worship by singing songs to God. This is singing songs to God or singing songs about God and all He has done. You might have seen some different ways to worship God through song. We can sing with or without music or band, we can raise our hands to God, we can kneel down, we can jump and dance, we can shout and sing, or we can just listen and reflect. Do you think there is a wrong way to worship God through songs? There is only one wrong way: to worship God and not mean it. Like we talked about, it's about our heart. We can sing all the words and even hold our hands up, but if our hearts aren't really worshipping Him, then it's nothing. Just a pretty song. 1 Corinthians 13: 1 says, "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have no love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal".

Basically, Paul says, I can say all the right things, but if I don't have love, I'm just a noisy nothing. We don't want to be a noisy nothing, do we? No, We, don't!

However you worship, we want to worship with our full heart, giving the love and adoration that God deserves because He is our God.

Let's pray.