



**Educate
+ Engage**



SPIRITUAL
DISCIPLINES:



Authentic
worship

OVERVIEW

Authentic worship isn't merely defined by lifting our hands or singing our favorite song in church; worship is a lifestyle of submission and praise to the One who sits on the throne.

Discussion Question: What Bible characters come to mind when you think about the word "worship?" What about their stories made them worshipers?

Scripture Passage

Psalm 19:14 (ESV)

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

One version of Psalm 19:14 breaks down our words as our spoken words and our meditations as our unspoken words. Of course, those words also mean what we type and text as well.

Discussion Question: When you hear the word "worship," what immediately comes to mind?



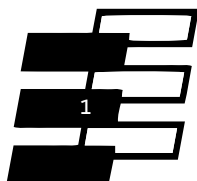
Worship is about what we say, what we think, and how we live. The results of our worship depend entirely on who reigns on the throne in our lives—our worship depends on who is our Lord.

(Have a student read Romans 12:1.)

Romans 12:1 (ESV)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Discussion Question: What does it mean to be a living sacrifice?



EDUCATE

1. Our worship should bring glory to God.

Psalm 100:2–3 (NKJV)

Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Johann Sebastian Bach, the famous composer, said, "All music should have no other end and aim than the glory of God and the soul's refreshment; where this is not remembered there is no real music but only a devilish hubbub." He headed his compositions with "J J," the initials for "Jesu, Juva" which means, "Jesus, help." For all his talents, Bach knew he lived to worship Jesus.

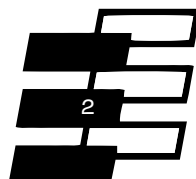
Students, you were created to worship. I was created to worship. Every living soul worships someone or something. Maybe you know someone who worships at the altar of sports. Maybe you worship something you own like your car or your phone. Everyone bows at some kind of altar.

Discussion Question: What are some altars where people worship in today's culture?

Atheists worship. Skeptics worship. Republicans and Democrats worship. Independents worship. Everyone everywhere worships someone or something. It's the fundamental drive of life and one of the amazing privileges of creation: we are all worshipers.

The Old Testament Book of Daniel records the story of Belshazzar, one of the kings of Babylon. One night he called together all his lords, officials, and concubines for a feast. He decided to take the vessels the Jews had used to worship God in the Temple, fill them with wine, and drink from them while they "praised their idols made of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone" (Daniel 5:4, NLT).

A hand suddenly appeared and wrote a message on the palace wall. Daniel interpreted the message for the king: "God has numbered the days of your reign and has brought it to an end. . . . You have been weighed on the balances and have not measured up. . . . Your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians" (Daniel 5:26–28, NLT).



Lesson 4

Daniel boldly pointed out that Belshazzar's primary sin was failing to glorify God, which led to idolatry and immorality. Let this be a lesson to us all—if we remove God from the center of our lives, someone or something will always take His place. When we fail to glorify God, when we fail to give thanks, we will turn to other things. And it's only a matter of time until our lives will degenerate into immorality.

2. Worship is an eternal concept.

God created us to worship. Scripture clearly says in Psalm 150:6: "Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!" However, our praise will not stop when our breath is gone. Even when the tongue that forms the words lies silent, even when our vocal cords have stopped singing, we will still sing a song. Beyond the life of our bodies, our eternal souls will resound His praise because we were created to worship God.

(Have a student read Revelation 5:9–14.)

Discussion Question: What are you looking forward to most about being in Heaven?

In Heaven there will be no need to pray. There will be no need to intercede or bring our petitions to God. Pastors will not preach in Heaven. In fact, our ministry leaders will basically be unemployed in Heaven. We will have perfect knowledge with no need to be taught, hence we won't have to go to school. You know what our jobs will be in Heaven? Our primary occupation will be eternally worshipping our Savior and King, Jesus Christ. We will spend our nightless days bringing glory and honor to His name forever and ever.

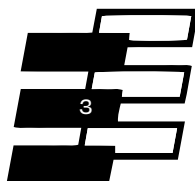
3. It's always been about worship.

From the time Jesus' ministry began immediately after His baptism and He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, the enemy knew if he could capture Jesus' worship, he would be able to cancel Jesus' mission. *(Have a couple students read Matthew 4:1–11 for context.)*

Verses 3–4: The enemy went after Jesus' flesh.

Verses 5–6: The enemy went after Jesus' identity.

Verses 8–9: The enemy went after Jesus' worship.



Lesson 4

Why did the enemy try to capture Jesus' worship? The devil understood if he captured Jesus' worship, he would automatically be the one Jesus served. We serve whom or what we worship. Jesus declared: "You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve" (Matthew 4:10, NKJV).

What does this mean to us today? The enemy knows that worshiping and serving are directly connected. An old saying asserts, "Show me your bank account, and I will show you who you serve."

Closing

When we worship God, we serve Him, and when we serve Him, we become like Him. What a day that will be when our Jesus we shall see!

I John 3:2 (NKJV)

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Remember our friend Johann Sebastian Bach? Remember how he started his compositions with the initials "J J," for, "*Jesu, Juva*"—which means "*Jesus, help*"? He also ended his compositions with "SDG," the initials for Soli Deo Gloria—meaning "To God alone be glory."

To God alone be glory. What an incredible motto to live our lives by! Bach understood that everything he did, played, and penned was to and for the glory of God Almighty.

ENGAGE:



A song that captures the concept of worship is "Clear the Stage" by Jimmy Needham. Listen to these lyrics. (*Play this song or read the lyrics, and give the students time to pray while they listen. Encourage them to give every part of their lives to God in wholehearted worship.*)

