



**Educate
+ Engage**



TRUE
WORSHIPERS: ~~TH~~

What's the
Difference between
praise and worship?

OVERVIEW:

Praise and worship are so tightly interwoven that we often miss some of the key differences between them. Both are powerful and necessary for followers of Christ.

Scripture Passage

Psalms 138:2 (NKJV)

I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name. For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

EDUCATE

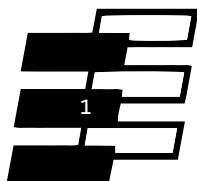
Ice Breaker Option

Buy a jar of peanut butter, grape jelly, and a loaf of bread. Start class by making a few PB&Js. Bring in some ingredients that would not pair well with peanut butter, such as mustard or pickles. While making the sandwiches, ask students, "Do you want mustard on your sandwich? Pickles?" Ultimately you will make the visual illustration that some things are meant to be paired together, like peanut butter and jelly. Praise and worship are the ultimate pairing when it comes to an Apostolic worship service!

The coach was looking for helpers and a certain dad appeared to pull the shortest straw. He volunteered to make lunches for his son's soccer game. This was his big chance to impress his six-year-old son and all his friends by making the world's greatest lunch ever to be served in a brown paper bag.

But what to make? What do kids like for lunch? Suddenly he had an idea: *peanut butter and jelly sandwiches*. After all, what kid doesn't like a good PB&J? He grabbed a cooler, threw in about twenty juice boxes, three loaves of white bread (kids don't like wheat), grape jelly (in a squeeze container), twenty bottles of water, and headed to the big game. He figured he could make the sandwiches there to help keep things fresh. The kids won the game, and it was lunchtime.

There was no turning back now. The dad just knew his son would be so proud. Then it happened. His son opened the cooler, and out of his mouth came words more chilling than the ice, "Where's the peanut butter?" He knew he'd messed up. Somehow in the chaos of getting into the soccer-mom van, Dad forgot to put the peanut butter in the cooler. The game was a win,



Lesson 4

but the jelly sandwiches were a loss. That was the last time Coach ever asked him to provide lunches for the team.

Praise Stands Up; Worship Bows Down

Some things in life pair perfectly. Salt and pepper shakers are sold together. Chocolate chip cookies are often eaten with a tall glass of milk. And almost nobody wants a jelly sandwich without peanut butter. The same can be said of praise and worship. These two are so tightly interwoven, they're almost always mentioned together. Even in this series on worship, praise keeps making an appearance. The two seem practically inseparable, but are they? Can you have one without the other? In some services, we may witness praise but not worship. Praise without worship is like those jelly sandwiches at the soccer game. Just like those kids expected peanut butter, God expects us to offer worship. Praise was meant to be paired with worship.

In our opening text, David mentioned praise and worship separately. He was not necessarily being repetitive; he was referencing two differing types of adoration and action.

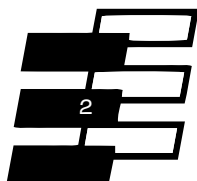
Discussion Question: What differences do you see between praise and worship?

First, let's look at the meaning of the word *praise*. The Hebrew verb *halal* (where we get the word hallelujah), means "to praise, celebrate, glory, sing, or boast." Praise is an action. Praise can show up in all kinds of different forms. Dancing (Psalm 149:3), clapping and shouting to God (Psalm 47:1), lifting our hands (Psalm 134:2), and singing (Psalm 95:1) are all biblical. We can stand up with confidence and praise because we are standing on a firm foundation—the Word of God.

Worship, from the Hebrew word *shachah* (*shaw-khaw*), means to "lay prostrate, bow down, humbly beseech, make to stoop." While praise is typically more exuberant, times of worship often include bowing down in reverence. Moments for both are appropriate in the presence of God. We should follow the guidance of our leaders and the Spirit's prompting. We must offer God both types of adoration to be considered true worshippers.

Consider Romans 14:11 (NKJV): "For it is written: 'As I live, says the LORD, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God.'" The first part of the verse speaks of worship (bowing), and the second part refers to praise (confessing).

Discussion Question: Have you ever felt the love of God so strong that tears formed in your eyes? How did that feel?



Lesson 4

Praise Is Offered through Word or Deed; Worship Emanates from the Heart

Isaiah referred to the garment of praise (Isaiah 61:3). This great prophet knew that praise is something within our control. We can choose to put it on, or we can choose to take it off. It is a work of our hands or words from our mouths. Praise brings us into a place of deeper communion with God, a sacred place called worship. Where praise would dance, worship would weep. Where praise would clap, worship would fall down and cry out from its innermost being. Worship is a place beyond praise. If thanksgiving is the gatekeeper of praise, then praise is the gatekeeper of worship. Worship leads us to an even greater connection with God.

In a previous lesson, we talked about Mary breaking the alabaster box and pouring out her sacrifice of praise onto the feet of Jesus. Praise is often offered from our hands or lips, but worship always emanates from the heart. It is possible to sing praise to God without even thinking about what we're singing, but worship is deeper. We mean every word we say or sing.

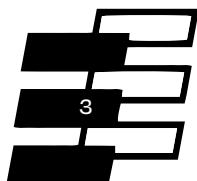
Discussion Question: Have you ever struggled to worship because you didn't feel connected to God? If so, what was your response to that feeling?

Praise Gets Our Attention on God; Worship Turns God's Attention to Us

Praise is a weapon God gives us to help us crucify our flesh (selfish human nature). Praise is a commandment, not a recommendation. That means we will experience times when we have to crucify our flesh by praising God even when we don't feel like it. Praise gets our attention on Jesus. In John 9 Jesus healed a man who had been blind from birth. When the Pharisees heard about it, they questioned the blind man, and he answered: "Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth" (John 9:31, KJV).

Worship opens up the heavens. It is a place past praise where our flesh has been crucified. In that place of worship, we have the ear of God and His attention is turned toward us.

Discussion Question: Have you ever fought distractions that kept you from being able to focus and pay attention during praise and worship? If so, how did you overcome those obstacles and turn your attention back to God?



Closing

Praise paired with worship activates the power of God. May we never be guilty of only bringing one to the table. These two were destined to be together, just like spirit and truth where true worshippers can be found (See John 4:24.)

ENGAGE

Understanding the difference between praise and worship brings a new depth to the way we honor the Lord and approach relationship with Him. Today, as you sing, intentionally move beyond just singing into truly adoring God; move from praise into worship.

