

How We Worship

Lesson 3A We Worship by Singing

Lesson 3B We Worship by Giving

Lesson 3C We Worship by Praying and Reading God's Word

Lesson 3D We Worship by Giving Thanks

OVERVIEW

As teachers we need to help each student make worship a vital and ongoing part of his/her life. Worship is an encounter with God. As His servants we want to praise and glorify Him. This is a voluntary action on our part. That is what sets us apart from all the rest of God's creation; we have our own will and can decide whether or not we will worship God.

We need to stress that we do not need to be within a church building to worship God. Although it is good to be in church when we are able, we can worship the

Lord wherever we are — at home in family worship, or in jail like Paul and Silas. It is our desire to help the students learn what worship really is, and to begin to experience it in this unit. We have chosen four ways that we can learn to worship God; singing praises, giving of our offerings and ourselves, praying and reading God's Word, and giving thanks and praise. These are actions that we can use to show God how much we love Him and want to worship Him. We know that it is possible to do all of these things without experiencing worship. Worship is an attitude that we have toward God as we do these things.

GAMES FOR REVIEW

Missionary Worship:

Seat children in a circle. Choose one child to be It, and let him/her start the play by saying, "I am going to (name a country) and I will (name a type of worship: sing for Jesus, give, tell, etc.). The child may name any country but the thing they are going to do must begin with the same letter of the country they named. For example, "I am going to Japan and I will sing 'Jesus loves me,'" or "I am going to Holland and I will Hand out Bibles." The same country may be used more than once but not the same worship deed. Repeat as long as desired but be sure each child has a turn.

CONTEST IDEAS

Happy Worship Buttons:

Cut out a large quantity of Happy Worship Buttons from construction paper (mimeograph sheets of them if possible). Each button will have a smiling face on one side. Write each student's name on a separate envelope. Provide a place on your bulletin board where the envelopes can be tacked up. A student will receive a Happy Worship Button for all kinds of worship. Give a specified number for bringing a friend, learning a new song, learning the memory verse, saying "Thank you," helpful deeds, listening, etc. All these are deeds of wor-

ship because we are letting Jesus know we love Him. You will need to be alert to your students' behavior! At the end of the month, the children may use their accumulated Happy Worship buttons to exchange for small gifts or prizes. (Designate a value for each gift with the number of Happy Worship Buttons needed to redeem it.)

BULLETIN BOARDS

On your board, place a picture of a child looking up at a picture of Jesus. In between, arrange six footsteps with one letter on each spelling PRAISE. Using these initial letters for the first letter of each word, write words describing ways we can worship God (see Patterns).

Make a red heart from cloth or shiny paper and center it on the board. In a banner above and below, cut out or use a felt tip pen to make the letters of "In My Heart There Rings a Melody." Arranged around the sides, draw children's faces singing and a speech balloon from each one with the name of a song in it.

UNIT SONGS

"This is The Day"

"Clap Your Hands"

"Let's Just Praise the Lord"

Cut a 30" circle from the cardboard, poster board and paper. Insert the paper circle between the cardboard back and the poster board cover. Punch a hole in the exact center of the three circles. Insert the paper fastener. Cut a 6" wedge-shaped "peep hole" near the edge of the cover. Draw a picture to visualize the title of one familiar song on the paper insert that is exposed through the peep hole. Turn the cover circle clockwise until the first visualized song is cleared. Proceed to visualize the next song of your choice. Do this until the insert is filled with song titles. Use song titles related to the worship theme with an appropriate picture.

We Worship by Singing

TEXT Psalm 95:1-3

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Psalms 30:4; 66:1-4; 67:4,5

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to tell when and why we worship God by singing praise and thanks unto Him.

MEMORY VERSE O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. — Psalm 95:1

MEMORY VERSE SONG



MEMORY VERSE IN ACTION

O COME — beckoning motion, using both arms
LET US SING — touch fingers to mouth with both hands, move away from face wiggling fingers
UNTO THE LORD — point up
LET US MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE — clap on MAKE, JOY and NOISE
TO THE ROCK — put right fist on top of left fist firmly, palms down
OF OUR SALVATION — draw a cross in front of you with a cupped hand

MEMORY VERSE VISUALIZED

Use singing boys (see Patterns). Glue to a flannel backing. Cut out pieces and place them together, as shown, on a flannel board as the students say each part of the verse.

BIBLE LESSON OUTLINE

Introduction: Use a tape recording of a Gospel song or a picture of children singing. Ask: Why do you think these children are singing?

Progression of events:

1. Singing is one of the ways we can worship God.
2. God gave us our voices, so we should use them for His glory.
3. Paul and Silas sang in prison.
4. David sang in the fields.

Climax: We can sing praises in many places other than church.

Conclusion: It is good and pleasing to God when we praise Him with our voices.

Response: Your students will be able to tell why and when we worship God by singing praise and thanks to Him.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Worship: "Honor, reverence, or homage paid to superior beings or powers." The English word means "worthship," and denotes the worthiness of the individual receiving the special honor.

Music for worship was used during King David's reign, and to him has been ascribed not only the creation and singing of the Psalms, but also the invention of some musical instruments. II Chronicles 7:6 mentions "instru-

ments of musick of the LORD, which David the king had made to praise the LORD." David himself mentioned "four thousand praised the LORD with the instruments which I made . . . to praise therewith" (I Chronicles 23:5).

In King Solomon's time, for the Temple worship, the choir formed a distinct body, numbering 2,000 singers. Singing played a prominent part in their worship but also it was not uncommon for the individual to compose a song celebrating some special victory or religious experience. An example of this is Moses' song after God's deliverance from Pharaoh, and the song of Deborah and Barak after the defeat of Jabin, king of Canaan.

SPECIAL UNIT INSTRUCTIONS

Through November, when each child is present for Sunday school, give each one a note or staff of music to fill in with his favorite song. These can then be put on the class bulletin board around a heart, a picture of Jesus, or on top of a big fluffy cloud as their songs of praise are being sent to Heaven.

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES

Make a picture collage to illustrate a Bible verse found in the lesson; for example, Psalm 66:4, "All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing to thy name." Cut out pictures of children of different nationalities singing, birds, animals, etc. Also use pictures of different buildings, houses, cars, churches, etc. For a special effect, put pictures of your students in the collage. As your students help put this together, discuss how the children, birds, and animals are God's creation and made for the purpose of praising Him. The pictures of the buildings, houses, cars, are to show the children we can be anywhere and still praise God.

Make a class bulletin board or mural. Draw a large music staff on paper. Give each child a large music note cut from colored construction paper (see Patterns). Have them write their names up the stem, and then in the center of the note write their favorite song of praise to God. Glue them on the mural, and above the staff write the words, "Let's Sing a Happy Song, Let's Sing About Jesus."

Bring a series of pictures showing different places or situations where we can sing. The point should be made that church is not the only place where we express our love to God by song.

Research the history of a song with which your children would be familiar. Tell the story during your class time, and then conclude by listening to the song on a tape.

Give each child a piece of paper and ask him to draw an illustration for one of his favorite songs of praise.

Bring a recording of a Scripture set to music. Have your students look up the Scripture in their Bibles and then sing the song together using their Bibles to learn the words.

QUESTIONS

What does worship mean?

Where must we be to worship God?

Name someone in the Bible that sang songs of praise to God.

Name your favorite Sunday school song. Why do you like it?

We don't have to be at church to praise Jesus. Name other places we can be when we praise Him.

Give personal testimonies of people you know who praised and thanked Jesus for helping them in a hard time. (Talk about church testimony meetings, etc.)

Name several ways we can praise Jesus.

PRE-SCHOOL SUGGESTIONS

Make each child a little "songbook" with a cover of construction paper and one page for each day of the coming week inside. Write the day at the top of the page, and have them tell you what song they would like to sing on that day for Jesus. Write it down. On the cover, put "Let's Sing About Jesus" and a sticker of Jesus or children singing. Let them take their songbooks home so Mommy and Daddy can help them sing!

Cut out a number of construction-paper fish of different sizes, shapes, and colors (see Patterns). Write the name of a familiar song on each. Put a paper clip on the fish's nose. Put the fish in a bucket or barrel. Make a fishing pole with a magnet attached to the end of the line. Let your students come up and "fish" for the next song to sing.

Draw a simple face of a child, but without a mouth (see Patterns). Let your pre-schoolers draw in the open mouth and tell them this child is singing praises to Jesus. Above the face write the words, "We Love to Sing About Jesus!" Let your children color the picture.

REVIEW IDEAS

Bring a cassette tape containing a variety of noises. (Some possibilities: water running, kids shouting, vacuum cleaner running, banging on pans, etc.) As you play each sound, ask the children to describe it. Then ask them: "Does that sound like praises to the Lord?" Conclude by playing the sound of children singing something like, "Let's Just Praise the Lord" or "This Is the Day." This one does sound like praises to God! It sounds good, and that's why God loves to hear us worship Him by singing.

Arrange to have a pianist or guitarist who can improvise to assist you in composing a song of praise with your

Arrange to have several short demonstrations of musical instruments. If you have students in your departments who play, this might be a good opportunity to include them in your review. Bring out that each of these instruments can be played in worship to God. But they cannot play themselves — each one needs a person playing it to make a sound. We all do not have the ability to play an instrument, but we all can make a joyful noise to the Lord with our mouths.

Do you know of any personal testimonies where a song drew someone to the Lord, or brought a real uplift or encouragement in time of need? This could provide the basis for an excellent dramatization.

NOTES

“Praise Him All Ye Little Children”
 “Oh, How I Love Jesus”
 “Thank You Lord, for Saving My Soul”

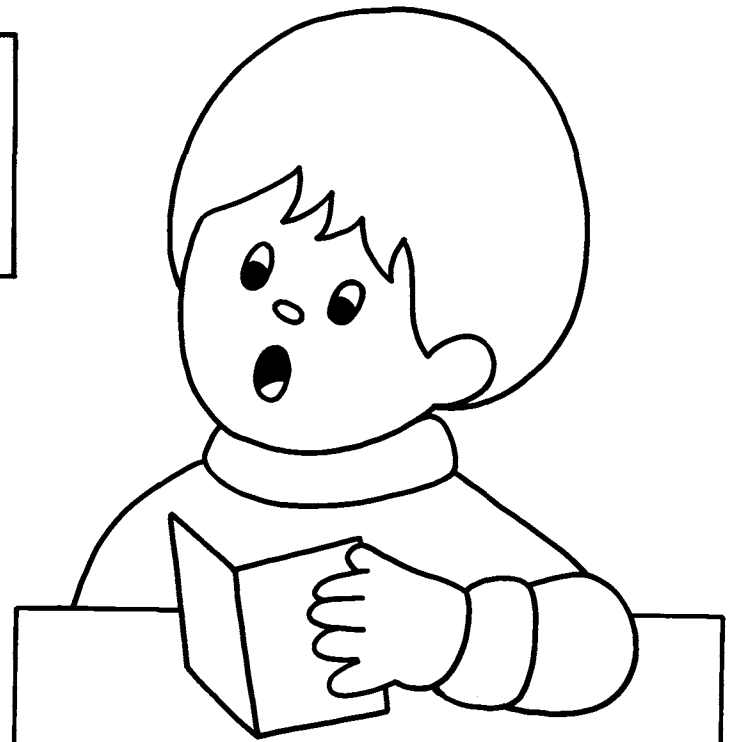
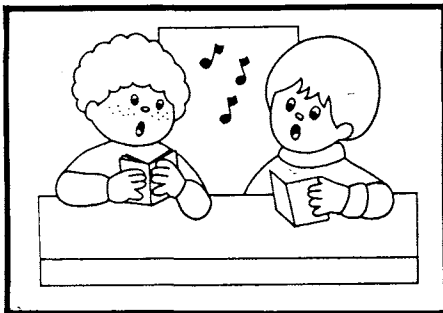
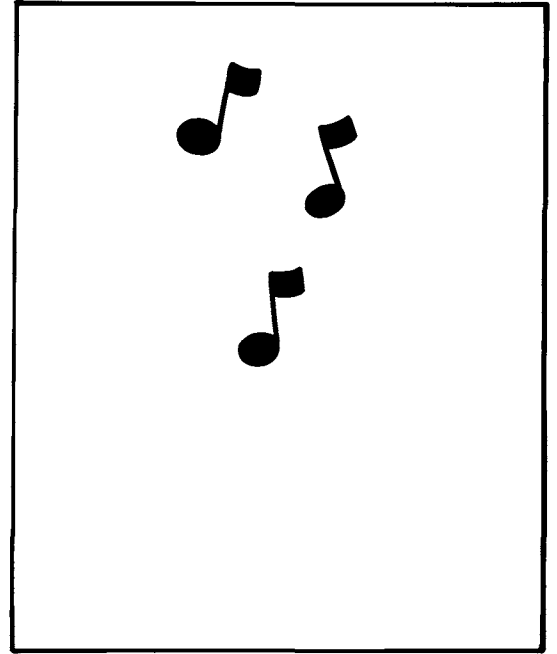
Word Records has Evie, "A Little Song of Joy for My Little Friends."

My Church — coloring book, 8 each of 6 pictures, Christian Board of Publication
Showing Our Love — Record and songs, 6 songs with resource sheet for each song. Full-color flannelgraph sheets to add interest. Gospel Publishing House
Praise the Lord — coloring book. Concordia
Praise Him! Praise Him! — Jennie Davis (book), Published by The Dandelion House, Distributed by Scripture Press Publications, Inc.

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O come, let us sing
unto the LORD:



let us make a joyful noise

to the rock of our salvation Psalm 95:1

We Worship by Giving

TEXT Mark 12:41-44

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Matthew 6:1-4; Romans 12:1; Luke 21:1-4

OBJECTIVE The students will understand that one way we worship is by willingly giving to God. They will be able to list the various things we can give to God as a means of worship.

MEMORY VERSE Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over.
— Luke 6:38

MEMORY VERSE SONG



MEMORY VERSE IN ACTION

GIVE — thumbs touching finger tips, palms toward self touching chest, move hands away from body opening hands out flat

AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN UNTO YOU — do above motion in reverse

GOOD MEASURE — open circle with left hand, right palm over top like a lid

PRESSED DOWN — palms together (left palm up, right palm down) then twist

AND SHAKEN TOGETHER — shake both fists

AND RUNNING OVER — palms toward body, make circles away from body with a bubbling motion

MEMORY VERSE VISUALIZED

Use ice cream cone (see Patterns). Glue to a flannel backing. Cut the pieces apart and put them together on a flannel board one at a time, as the students say each part of the verse.

BIBLE LESSON OUTLINE

Introduction: Use the idea of the gift box (see In-Class Activities).

Progression of events:

1. When we get saved we give ourselves to God.
2. We can give God our time.
3. We can give our money.
4. We can give a smile — a cheerful outlook.
5. We can give a testimony.
6. We can give an invitation.

Climax: We are blessed by God when we give willingly. Refer to memory verse.

Conclusion: Just as we show our love to others by giving things to them, one of the ways we worship God is by willingly giving to Him.

Response: Students will be able to list the various things we can give to God as a means of worship.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The right attitude for giving — and this can be applied

to time, money, possessions, oneself — is early set forth in the Bible by God Himself, “Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering” (Exodus 25:2).

Something given to man or God grudgingly or under duress, or given from some motive of self gain, is not thankworthy. God made plain to Moses that any offering to Him not given willingly and from the heart was not acceptable. God is not alone in loving a cheerful giver; we all do.

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES

Make greeting card in shape of child. Write on front, “I have decided to follow Jesus.” Inside put stickers or draw: heart, hands and feet, child's name. Put in envelope addressed to Mom and/or Dad. (Teacher, have stamps ready and mail them for your class!)

Cut two large circles from construction paper, one colored and one white, and make a protruding tab on the white circle (see Patterns). Cut out peek hole in the colored circle, and fasten the two circles together with a metal fastener, with the white circle underneath. (You may wish to assemble the project ahead of class time.) Paste pictures, stick stickers or have children draw pictures on white circle (or use pictures shown on Patterns) of things we should give to God. Turn with tab and see pictures through peek hole.

Set up your class as if for a party, complete with hats, streamers, etc. Explain to your students that you wanted to do something really special for God to show Him how much you loved Him, so you planned this party. Show a big gift-wrapped box, and tell your students that you spent a lot of time thinking about something special you could give God. Let them help you open the box. In it have several objects symbolic of what we can give God: a clock, representing our time; a dollar bill, representing money; a smiling face, representing a cheerful disposition; an invitation to church or Sunday school, representing a witness for Christ; etc.

Give your older primary students the opportunity to “follow” their offering, so they know exactly what happens to the money they give to Jesus. Explain how it is collected, goes to the church office and then to the bank. Then discuss or show pictures of the various ways this money may be used — pictures of outreach efforts of the church, etc.

QUESTIONS

What is a talent?

What is something I could give to the Lord?

When you put tithes and offerings into the box you should

a. wait until all your friends are looking

b. tell everyone how much you gave

c. give quietly and secretly

How old do you have to be before Jesus can use you?

Name some things you can do for Jesus.

Explain how the poor widow gave more than the rich people.

It's more important “how” we give than “what” we give to God. Explain.

PRE-SCHOOL SUGGESTIONS

Bring objects of giving such as money, a clock to illustrate time, a mirror. Let the children put the money into the tithes box. Pass the mirror around and let each one look at it. Tell them they can give themselves to God.

Trace each child's hand on a piece of paper. On each finger write one thing they can do for Jesus.

Give each child some pennies, and walk with them to the “Jesus Box” (tithes box). Let each child give only the number they wish to give. Be sure to reinforce their action by telling them how happy God is when we give to Him.

REVIEW IDEAS

Needed: A pitcher of water, an empty glass, food coloring. First take the empty glass and put a couple of drops of food coloring into it. Then add the water — fill it to the top. This shows the students that even though we could only give a little, when God sees it, He blesses by pouring in His joy and love until our little becomes great.

Needed: A fancy box with a lid, a toy car, airplane, money and a red heart with a picture of Jesus in the middle of it. Pin the heart on your dress or suit at lesson time. Take the objects out of the box one at a time as you explain that boys and girls don't have what those objects represent. We can't give God something we don't have. But we can give Him our love. Point to the heart. Then we can give Him our service. Talk about the different things they can do for the Lord like telling others about Jesus, visiting a sick friend, praying for someone in need, or inviting their friends to Sunday school.

Give a puppet show portraying two children who say they love their mother. However, one goes about his own affairs, too busy to help whenever mother asks him to. The other willingly does whatever he can. At the end of the show, ask your students which one really loved his mother best. The point should be made that we can prove our love to God by doing whatever we can for Him.

COORDINATING SONGS

"If You Give What You Have," in 401 Choruses, page 278

"Give of Your Best to the Master"

"Two Little Hands to Work for Jesus"

“Head and Shoulders”

"Take Me" — Child Evangelism Fellowship, Inc.

SUPPORT MATERIAL

**My Church — Coloring book, 8 each of 6 pictures,
Christian Board of Publication**

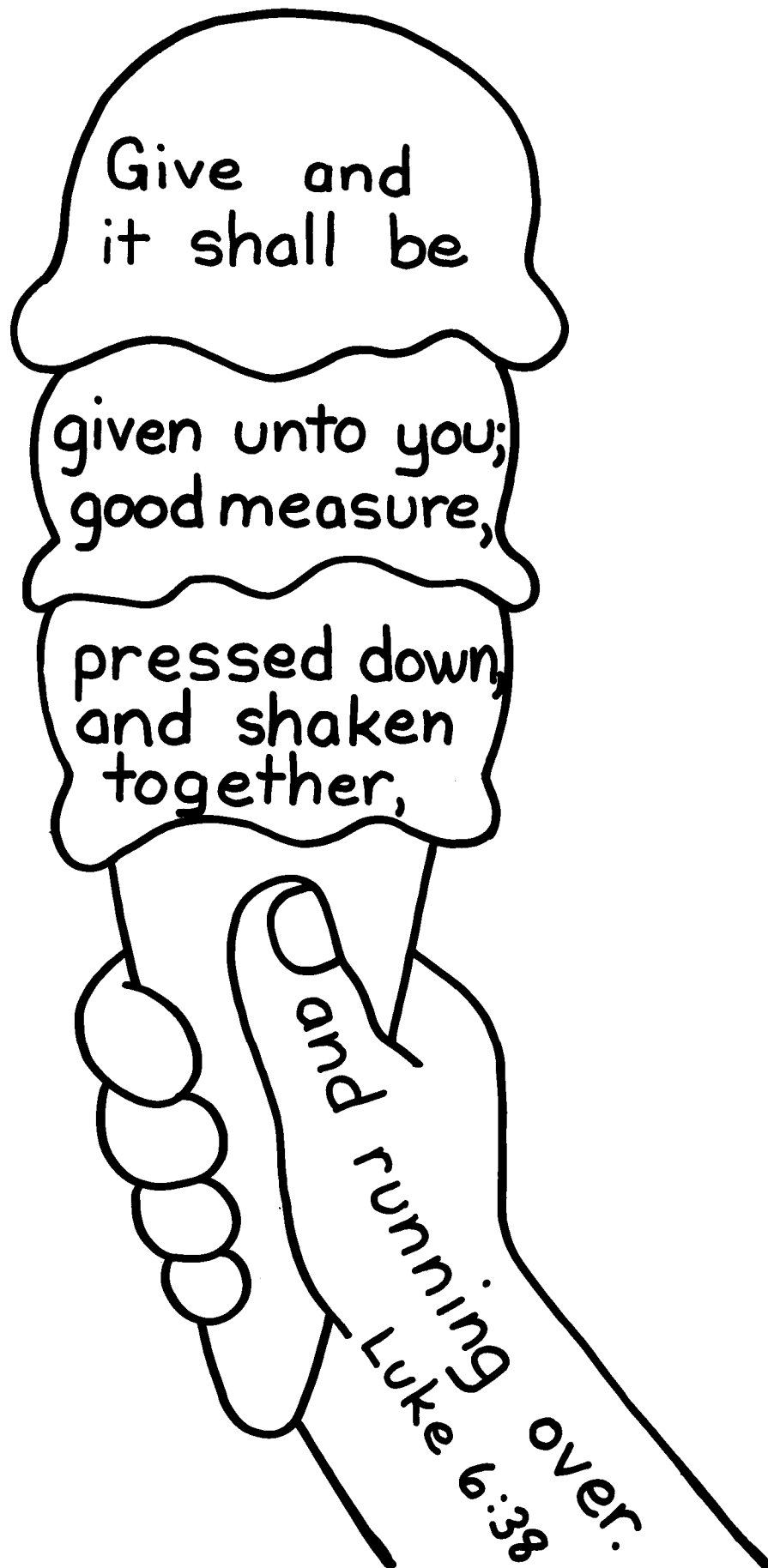
Showing Our Love — Record and songs, 6 songs with resource sheet for each song. Full color flannelgraph sheets to add interest. Gospel Publishing House

A Robber or a Thief — Flannelgraph lesson. Child Evangelism Fellowship, Inc.

Giving — Suede-graph, one of the Gospel-Graph series. Scripture Press Publications, Inc.

NOTES

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We Worship by Praying and Reading God's Word

TEXT Matthew 6:9-13; Psalm 119:11

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Matthew 6:5-13; Psalm 119:9-16

OBJECTIVE The students will understand that we worship God by communicating with Him . . . that is both talking and listening. They will be able to describe why it is important to read their Bible and pray every day.

MEMORY VERSE O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker. — Psalm 95:6

MEMORY VERSE SONG



MEMORY VERSE IN ACTION

O COME — beckoning motion with both hands
LET US WORSHIP — make praying hands
AND BOW DOWN — bow at waist
LET US KNEEL — right index finger and middle finger
“kneeling” in left palm
BEFORE THE LORD OUR MAKER — look up with
palms open toward Heaven

MEMORY VERSE VISUALIZED

Use kneeling boy (see Patterns). Glue to a flannel backing. Cut out pieces and place them together, as

shown, on a flannel board as the students say each part of the verse.

BIBLE LESSON OUTLINE

Introduction: Show picture of two people talking. Ask what they are doing, and what they might be talking about.

Progression of events:

1. Friends need to communicate to get to know each other, share feelings, strengthen ties, etc.
2. We need to communicate with God for the same reasons.
3. When we pray, we talk to Him.

4. We listen when we study His Word, listen to preachers, Sunday school teachers, and godly parents. Climax: God wants us to communicate with Him as He did with Adam.

Conclusion: Worshipping God by praying and reading His Word will please Him.

Response: The students will be able to describe why it is important to read their Bible and pray every day.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Praying and listening to God constitute fellowship and there can be no true worship apart from this. This was an important part of man's relationship to God from the very beginning when Adam and Eve walked and talked with God in the Garden of Eden. The more one fellowships with God the greater the desire for and feeling of worship.

True worship of God emphasizes praise and thanksgiving. Prayer is more than just petitions and the pouring out of troubles and woes. When praise and rejoicing are included it lifts the spirit and lightens the load.

When we pause in our prayers, wait upon the Lord and become quiet before Him, it is then while we listen that He talks to our heart. We are listening to God if we take to heart what He says to us when we read His Word.

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES

Let your class pretend they are going to have a chance to interview King David, the writer of our memory verse. Use a chalkboard to write down their questions. Some of these might be: What were your feelings when you wrote Psalm 119? Did the Psalm come to you all at once, or did you work on it for a long time? Why did you write it? Was the Psalm supposed to convey any certain feeling? Have a visitor come to your class and pretend to be David, and then let your students ask him the questions they have prepared.

Compose a psalm of worship with your class, trying to involve all your students in the process. Write it on a chalkboard. When it is completed, give each of your students some parchment paper and pens to make and illustrate their own copy of the psalm.

To encourage the children to read their Bible or memorize a verse, make a bookmark from construction paper cut into an interesting shape. Write the Scripture reference on it. If they bring it back the following Sunday and show you where the Scripture is found or have it memorized they are given a sticker on the bookmark. Or make a chart using a large music note to show a tune of sorts. Write a reference across the top and the child's name in the note part when he finishes the assignment.

Using a chalkboard, make an informal outline of things a child can say when praying.

- a. Dear Jesus
- b. Thank You
- c. I love You
- d. Help me, my parents, friends, etc.

Give each child an opportunity to read a favorite Bible verse aloud.

Write on pieces of paper the following: hands, ears, eyes, mouth, mind. Pass them out to the students. Have them tell how the word they were given can be used in worshipping God in prayer or reading the Bible. For example: we fold our **hands** when we pray; sometimes we lift them up in praise to God. We use our **ears** to listen to God through the reading of the Bible by our teachers, etc. We use our **eyes** to read the Bible. Our **mouths** help us in praying to God. We use our **minds** in thinking about God and studying His Word.

QUESTIONS

What time of day does God hear our prayers?
What is the prayer that Jesus taught the disciples?
Why should we pray over our food?
How does God talk to us?
Has God ever answered a prayer for you?

PRE-SCHOOL SUGGESTIONS

Look for someone who has a scratch or injury; or ask if there are any sick ones needing prayer, then join hands and bow heads and say a prayer together.

The In-Class Activity using the words "hands," "ears," etc., could be used for pre-school age children by using pictures. Have the children say how each thing can be used in worshipping God.

REVIEW IDEAS

You will need two large flannelgraph snails or small insects, large flannel background with green section for grass on top, blue or gray section for sidewalk, chalkboard, and chalk. Do a flannelgraph dialogue with the snails as your two characters. One snail is on the sidewalk mumbling to himself. Second snail comes along on the grass. "Hi, Sam! What are you doing?" "Hi, Ted! How do you spell 'love'?" "L-O-V-E, but why?" "I'm writing a letter to God and I can't remember how to spell everything."

Using chalkboard have children help you write a letter to Jesus.

"Sam, you don't have to write a letter to God to talk to Him. You can PRAY! That's what a prayer is — a letter to God!"

"You mean I wrote all day on this hot sidewalk and I

could have talked to God like I'm talking to you?"
"Yeah!"

Stage a brief pantomime of a person's trying to reach another person by telephone, but receiving a busy signal, and finally no answer. When we talk to Jesus, we don't need a telephone. We don't see Him but we know He hears us. We love to talk to Jesus because He is our best friend. We can thank Him for the good things He has given us (have the children name some). Then we listen carefully to Jesus. He loves to talk to us, too, about the good things He has for us. He also talks to us through His Word, the Bible.

Use a letter in a sealed envelope to open your object lesson. Discuss how we like to receive mail, how we are curious as to whom our letter is from, how we are eager to read the message. Compare this to God's message to us: the Bible. It is written to us personally just as much as if it read "Dear Bobby" or "Dear Sue," and was signed, "With love, Your Heavenly Father." Bring out that God's letter is important. In it God tells us He loves us and that He sent His Son Jesus to earth because He loves us. He tells us how to be happy, how

to obey Him, and how to get to Heaven. Point out that as long as the letter is sealed, we do not know what is in the letter. Just so, we must open God's letter, the Bible, and read it.

COORDINATING SONGS

“The B-I-B-L-E”

"I Have a Wonderful Treasure"

“Jesus, I’ve Gotta Talk to You”

"The Bible Tells Me So"

“Whisper a Prayer”

SUPPORT MATERIAL

**My Church — coloring book, 8 each of 6 pictures,
Christian Board of Publication**

Showing Our Love — Record and Songs, 6 songs with resource sheet for each song. Full color flannelgraph sheets to add interest. Gospel Publishing House

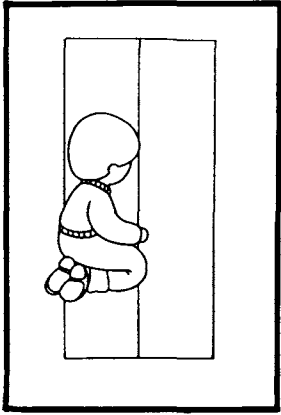
Prayer is . . . — Furn L. Kelling (book), Broadman Press

I Can Pray to God — A Happy Day Book, Standard Publishing

Praying God's Way — Flannelgraph lesson, Child Evangelism Fellowship, Inc.

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O come, let
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and bow
down:

before
the
LORD
our
maker.

Psalms 95:6

We Worship by Giving Thanks

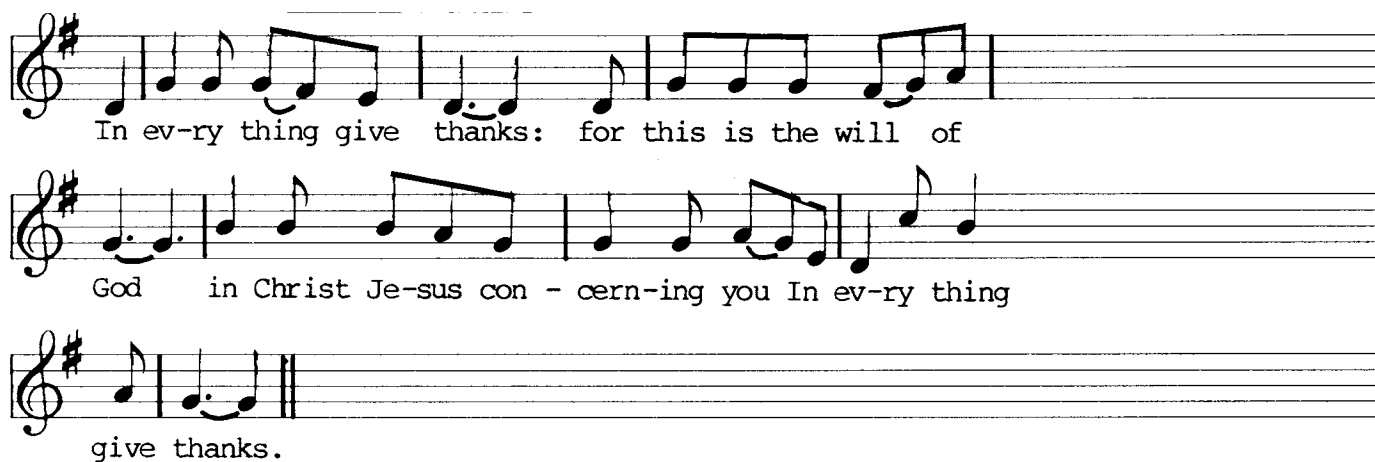
TEXT Psalm 150:1-6

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Psalm 148:1-14

OBJECTIVE The students will understand that we worship God by giving thanks and praise to Him. They will be able to name some things for which they are thankful.

MEMORY VERSE In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. — 1 Thessalonians 5:18

MEMORY VERSE SONG



MEMORY VERSE IN ACTION

IN EVERY THING — with right hand flat (palm down) make large circle horizontal and clockwise

GIVE THANKS — praying hands

FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD — point up three times

IN CHRIST JESUS — with right middle finger touch left palm, with left middle finger touch right palm

CONCERNING YOU — point to others

MEMORY VERSE VISUALIZED

Use horizon picture with boy (see Pattern). Glue to a flannel backing. Cut out pieces and place them together, as shown, on a flannel board as the students say each part of the verse.

BIBLE LESSON OUTLINE

Introduction: Show a picture or symbol of Thanksgiving.

Progression of events:

1. Thanksgiving is the day set aside by the United States government as a day of thankfulness. Review history of holiday.

2. We should be thankful every day. Man was created to praise God.

3. God has given us many material blessings.

4. We want to be be thankful in every circumstance. Climax: An attitude of thanksgiving is a blessing to ourselves and those with whom we come into contact.

Conclusion: One way we worship God is by offering Him our thanks for His blessings.

Response: Your students will name some things for which we should be thankful, and be able to tell why a thankful spirit is important.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Webster's dictionary defines *thanksgiving* as "an act of rendering gratitude to God, a prayer expressing one's

thanks; or it may be a public acknowledgment, or celebration, of divine goodness and mercies.”

Our Thanksgiving Day, when first celebrated, was a celebration of thankfulness to God for His benefits — something more than just an occasion to get together for a special dinner. Governor William Bradford designated a day, July 30, 1623, for the Plymouth colonists, as a Thanksgiving Day for the purpose of prayer, and worship of God, as well as a time of celebration.

On November 26, 1789, President George Washington issued a general proclamation for a day of thanks but it wasn’t made a national holiday until President Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November to be “a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father.”

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES

Cut out a wheel and rectangle with V-type opening (see Patterns). Student may either draw pictures or put stickers of things he’s thankful for on each of the sections of the wheel. Student writes his name on the blank. Wheel is placed behind front piece, matching X’s. A brad is put through X’s.

Who Should Worship God?

Fold a piece of construction paper (12” x 7”) into four equal sections. Make a cardboard pattern of child (see Patterns). Let children trace this onto their construction paper. Cut out, making sure that the figures touch the folded edge of the paper. When opened, the cutout will be connected like paper dolls. Have children draw in faces, clothes, etc., and then color. Explain that everyone should praise God. We praise God together at church.

Help your students make a “Thank You” poster. Cut two rectangles in contrasting colors, one smaller than the other. Paste small rectangle onto larger one. Fill small rectangle with magazine clippings of people and things for which we should be thankful. Print “THANK YOU GOD, FOR EVERYTHING!” at bottom of large rectangle. Punch hole in top for hanging.

Bring a beautifully wrapped present to class. Have something inside such as a package of cookies, candy, etc., to share with each student. Ask your students: What are some ways of saying “Thank you?” Examples: Thank You card (bring one to class), prayer, etc.

QUESTIONS

When is the best time to thank and praise God?
Name some things for which we should always be thankful.

When God answers our prayers we should always remember to thank and praise Him. Tell of prayers that God has answered for you or someone you know.

Tell of ways we can praise God.

Is it always easy to be thankful? Name a time when you were unthankful.

PRE-SCHOOL SUGGESTIONS

Give each of your children a hug. Tell them, “Saying Thank You to Jesus is like giving Him a hug!”

Draw a simple table setting on a sheet of paper for each child. Let them draw in their favorite foods on the plate. Then talk about how important it is to tell Jesus “Thank You” for their food. Practice saying a simple “Thank You” prayer together.

Make Thank You cards for Jesus. Bring construction paper, cutouts, pictures, and stickers. Ask your children what they want to say in their card, and print the words for them. Then post the cards on the bulletin board around the words, “Jesus, We Just Want to Thank You.”

Talk about different ways of saying “Thank you.” A puppy says “Thank you” by wagging its tail. A kitty says, “Thank you” by purring. A bird might sing a special song. We say “Thank You” in our prayers, and also by trying to do what Jesus wants us to do.

REVIEW IDEAS

Materials needed: turkey made from construction paper, feathers to be added one at a time. Show turkey without feathers, asking what is missing and pointing out that without feathers it does not look quite right. Add a feather for each thing the children say they are thankful for until all the feathers are added. The Bible says, “In every thing give thanks.” Christians are not complete either if they don’t have a thankful heart.

To show abstract things to be thankful for:

Blow up a balloon — air
Blindfold someone — sight
Show headphones — hearing
Give someone a hug — love

Ask the children to name things we should thank Jesus for. List the items they suggest on the chalkboard in columns by the first letter of the item. Make columns as follows:

T	H	A	N	K
trees	horse	auto	name	keys
Y	O	U		
you	orange	umbrella		
G	O	D	!	
grandpa	ovens	dog	etc.	

Write the items in the appropriate columns, but do not label the columns until the end of the review. Items that cannot be listed under the above letters should be put

Make the focus of your review the words, “every thing.” To visualize why it is important to be thankful in everything, show the children several objects that are com-

My Church — coloring book, 8 each of 6 pictures,
Christian Board of Publication
Showing Our Love — Record and songs, 6 songs with
resource sheet for each song. Full color flannelgraph
sheets to add interest, Gospel Publishing House
We Give Thanks — Coloring book, Concordia
But I'm Thankful – I Really Am! — Jane Belk Moncure
(book), Standard Publishing

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

