

date: 1/28/17

Bible Passage: Psalm 27:6; 30:11; 95:2; 98:4; 108:1; 149:3
(Psalms)

God Is Worthy of Worship, Part 1

REMEMBER VERSE

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.”

Isaiah 30:21

Inspire

Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives

When we wonder if God can even hear us, how easy is it to say, “Praise God”? This reminds me of a season in my own life. My son-in-law and daughter moved halfway across the United States for a new job to slow down the pace of life and focus on raising a family. I didn’t share their enthusiasm; they were taking my precious little granddaughter!

Shortly after they left, I followed to help them get settled in their new home. We explored their new city and had an amazing time. However, every so often my heart hurt as I was reminded this was their new home and soon I would be leaving.

The night before I left, my daughter invited me to attend their new church. From the moment we walked in, I felt peaceful. My heart was moved to worship God. As the songs and lyrics washed over me, I was newly awakened to how amazing God’s love is.

Was I praising God for the miles of separation from my family? No, I was singing and praising God because of who He is. He is always worthy of my worship, even when it’s difficult for me to see through the midst of my circumstances. We were created to worship God, not based on the events of our lives or on how we feel. God loves us, and for that reason alone we can say, “Praise God, for He is good!”

Debbie Guinn
Tru Team

Equip

Offers perspective and context to the lesson’s Bible passage

Our worship of God shows that we value Him. Worship literally means “giving worth to something.” Worship starts by simply thinking about God—taking time to appreciate who He is, what He has done, and what He is doing. Worship is responding to all that God is with all that we are. When we worship, we’re able to give a voice to our deepest thoughts and feelings. Romans 12:1 says, “Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.” Worship is a sacrifice of our time, treasure, and talents. It’s taking our everyday lives and placing them before God as an offering.

The life of David is an amazing example of someone who worshipped God in spite of his circumstances. No other part of the biblical story immerses us in this range of human experience, showing a person who is fully aware of God and how he responds to Him. The Psalms are filled with different postures of worship: dancing (Psalm 30:11), singing (Psalm 149:1), shouting with joy (Psalm 27:6), thanksgiving (Psalm 95:2), instrumental music (Psalm 98:5–6), bowing down (Psalm 95:6).

David’s response was often worship! David understood his special relationship with God—who he was as a child of God. He was a man who always ran to God. He was a man who, even in failure and adversity, found his identity in God. David was “a man after God’s own heart.” He desired to glorify God with all that he was. He recognized that worshipping God was the path to healing and restoration.

Support

Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God’s Word

We were made to worship God. And as David learned, worshipping God in spite of our circumstances will bring healing and restoration to our souls. Grasping this concept and passing it down to our children is one of the most important tools that God will use to help them develop into spiritually healthy adults.

This week, set apart some quiet time and listen to Chris Tomlin’s song, “How Can I Keep from Singing.” Then take a few minutes and read Psalm 103:1–14. This is a psalm of blessing! Read the psalm again, this time physically kneeling before God—maybe whispering a prayer, or maybe even shouting. The literal meaning of the Hebrew word translated *bless* in English is “to kneel.” When we *bless* God, our souls kneel to Him—in worship or gratitude.

Consider your daily activities: sleeping, eating, going to work, etc. Choose one activity. What would it look like to place that activity before God as an offering of worship? What would you do differently? How would you think differently about this part of your life? Would the frequency, method, or other details of this activity change? Offer the activity to God as an act of worship as you offer yourself as a living sacrifice to Him.

EXPLORE:: 10 min.

Small Group Leaders

Children engage in fun, creative activities designed to pique their curiosity about the day’s portion of The Big God Story.

Dance Station

In The Big God Story today, we’ll hear that another way to worship God is through dance. This activity will give children the opportunity to experience the joy of dance.

SUPPLIES (per small group)

- Masking tape
- Worship music (suggestion: “Everybody, Everywhere,” TruWorship *Sincerely Yours*)

SET UP

Use the tape to create a large square on the floor to be used as the dance area.

RELATE

Welcome children, and turn on the worship music. Encourage children to dance and jump in the designated dance space. Consider dancing with them to model this posture of worship. Show them how to dance alone or with partners. While you’re taking a break, ask: **Where are places you’ve danced before—weddings, birthday parties, or at home with your family? Do you dance when you’re happy? Do you dance when you’re sad? Would you dance differently to different types of music? How would you dance to fast music? How would you dance to slow music?**

Large Group

SECTION

DISCOVER::: 25 min.

Host/Worship Leader/Storyteller

Children participate in discovering God’s Word through Bible verse memorization, interactive storytelling techniques, and worship as response.

Ponder Point

God Is Worthy of Worship

Chloe’s Rules

Host/Worship Leader

SUPPLIES

- [Chloe’s Rules videos](#)
- Worship music (suggestions: “I May Be Small,” TruWorship *Sincerely Yours* and “God, You’re Big,” TruWorship *Your Love*)

RELATE

Welcome children as they’re entering the large group meeting area. *Tech: Cue Chloe’s Rules video.* The theme song will play as the Worship Leader/Host enters and makes his way up front, welcoming and greeting children along the way. This should be a high-energy entrance. *Tech: Cue preschool program theme song.* Choose and play two upbeat worship songs of your choice from a worship album that complements the theme and focus of the lesson.

Mail Time

Host/Worship Leader

SUPPLIES

- [Mail Time intro clip and image \(see Resources\)](#)
- [Remember Verse image \(see Resources\)](#)

- Remember Verse cards (see Resources)
- Mail Time envelope
- Bibles (your personal and large children's)
- Mailbox

PREPARE AHEAD

Print or copy the Mail Time envelope art and attach to a large envelope. Print or copy one Remember Verse card and put it inside the envelope.

RELATE

Tech: Cue the Mail Time intro clip and image. Choose one volunteer to hide the mail and another to find the mail. Have the "Seeker" close her eyes while the "Hider" finds a good place to hide the Remember Verse. Once the mail has been hidden, the Seeker will begin to look for the mail while the children give clues to its whereabouts by calling out "hot" and "cold."

Once the Seeker finds the mail, the Host invites her to pull out the enclosed Remember Verse. Next, the Host should find the Remember Verse in his Bible and read the words aloud. Talk about the meaning of the verse while interacting with the children.

Lead the children in reciting the Remember Verse several times together using a variety of engaging methods. Hand motions, different voices, various speeds, and character integration are all great ways to help commit the Scripture to memory. For longer verses, approach the verse one section at a time, increasing what the children repeat back each week.

REMEMBER VERSE

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

Isaiah 30:21

REMEMBER VERSE MOTIONS

Whether you turn to the right: Hold an imaginary steering wheel. Turn it to the right.

or to the left: Then turn it to the left.

your ears will hear: Point index fingers to ears.

a voice behind you, saying: With right hand, form index and middle fingers in shape of a V. Start V at throat and move up to chin.

This is the way: Point index finger out to right, away from body.

walk in it: With right hand, index and middle fingers "walk" back and forth as hand moves forward.

Wardrobe of Wonder

Storyteller/Host/Worship Leader

SUPPLIES

- Wardrobe of Wonder intro clip and image (see Resources)
- What'sIt: Musical Instruments (see optional image in Resources)
- Wardrobe of Wonder

What's It: Musical Instruments

The Bible tells us that playing music is one way we can worship God. Today we're going to learn about worshipping God in many different ways!

RELATE

Tech: Cue the *Wardrobe of Wonder* intro clip and image. Invite a child volunteer to "spy" on the What's It by peeking into the wardrobe. Each time the wardrobe door opens, cue the *Wardrobe of Wonder* sound effect. Have him whisper the identity of the What's It in your ear to ensure he knows what it is.

Invite your assistant to sit on the stools with you. Then lead the group in asking the assistant yes-or-no questions about the What's It. Once the children have guessed correctly, ask your assistant to retrieve the What's It from the wardrobe and bring it to you. Thank your volunteer and encourage him to sit with his small group.

ASK

(Helper's name), **what's inside the wardrobe? Let's take a look.** Ask children questions about the items. **What do you do with these? Would you play these more when you're happy or sad? Why do you think these are in the Wardrobe of Wonder? I wonder what part of The Big God Story this is from. Well then ... let's find out! It's time for The Big God Story!**

The Big God Story

Psalm 27:6; 30:11; 95:2; 98:4; 108:1; 149:3

God Is Worthy of Worship

Storytelling Technique: Call and Response, Painting the Narrative, and Large Motor Activity

SUPPLIES

- [The Big God Story intro clip and image \(see Resources\)](#)
- Bible
- Volunteer artist
- Artist supplies: paint and paintbrush or pastels, canvas, easel, cup of water, towel
- Worship songs (suggestions: "What Do You Know?" TruWorship *Songs from The Playhouse* and "I Can Sing," TruWorship *Sincerely Yours*)
- Optional: upbeat music (suggestion: "Everybody, Everywhere," TruWorship *Sincerely Yours*)

PREPARE AHEAD

Find someone in your church, or even a guest from outside your church, who will be willing to work as an artist throughout The Big God Story. You'll also want to have both the Storyteller and Worship leader participate in storytelling today.

SET UP

Place the artist's easel and painting supplies up front and off to the side, with the canvas turned away from children. During storytelling, have the artist draw, sketch, or paint pictures of the ways she sees children worshipping God today. Don't acknowledge this person yet; you'll interact with her later on.

RELATE

There are so many things we get to share together each time we meet. Before we learn from The Big God Story in the Bible, there's something we need to do first. There's someone we need to invite into our time and ask to teach us. Who would that be? Children answer. **God! That's right. Let's pray and talk to God together.** Lead

children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.

Last week we heard about Samuel and the Ebenezer stone of help. When Samuel was alive, he got to help David become king of Israel. David was a shepherd when he was a boy; he killed Goliath, and later he became a king. David worshipped God from the time he was a boy! David knew God is worthy, and he wanted to worship Him with all of his life.

Worship begins when we start to think about God. When we take time to appreciate who God is, what He has done, what He is doing, and what He is going to do, we're worshipping God. So, if I'm thinking about all the things God has made, and I tell Him how great they are, am I worshipping God? Children respond. Yes! When we know God and think about all the things He does for us, we can stop and tell Him we love Him. Is that worshipping Him? Children respond. Yes, it is! When I think about who God is and all He has done, it makes me want to give every part of my life to Him. When I give all of me to Him, is that worshipping God? Children respond. Yes, it is!

The Bible tells us we can cheer and shout praises to God, so we're going to use our voices to shout out praises to God right now. Here's what we're going to do: I'll say something, and then you'll repeat after me ... I love Jesus. I love Jesus. Yes, I do. Yes, I do. I love Jesus. I love Jesus. How about you? How about you?

Great job! Here's another shout-out to God. Repeat after me: 1, 2, 3, God loves me. 1, 2, 3, God loves me. Let's try one more: Give me a "G" (G) ... give me an "O" (O) ... give me a "D" (D) ... Yay, God! Great job! We were made to shout out our worship to God!

Worship Leader: Hey, (insert name of Storyteller). I have an idea! Let's sing another worship song. In this song, I'll shout out my worship and you'll shout back!

Tech: Cue song #1 (song suggestion: a call-and-response song, such as "What Do You Know?" from TruWorship Songs from The Playhouse).

Worship Leader: Another way David worshipped God was by dancing. Who loves to dance? I don't know about you, but when I hear how much God loves us, it makes me want to jump and dance! In fact, why don't we play a game of freeze dance right now? Here's how it works: You'll dance to the music, but when the music stops, you freeze and shout out something to God. Maybe you want to tell Him you love Him, or say, "God is great!" Being thankful is another way we can worship God, so you can yell out things you're thankful for too.

Tech: Cue upbeat worship song (suggestion: "Everybody, Everywhere" from TruWorship Sincerely Yours). Stop the music every few seconds. No one gets out in this game; children just have fun dancing and shouting praises to God.

Storyteller bumps into Painter, acknowledging her for the first time at the end of the freeze dance.

Storyteller: **Oh, excuse me. I didn't see you there! What are you doing?**

Painter: **I'm worshipping God!**

Storyteller: **Worshipping God? How?**

Painter: **I'm painting a picture.**

Storyteller: **Painting a picture? How is that worship?**

Painter: I'm watching all of you worship God, and that makes me want to worship Him too. So, I'm painting my worship to Him. Sometimes I look at the beautiful sky, the trees, and the flowers, and I paint my praises to God for what He has created.

Storyteller: Wow! I never thought about that. Worship can be art! Can we see what you're painting?

Painter: Well, I'm not quite finished. But I'd love to show you as soon as I'm done!

Storyteller: That sounds great. I can't wait to see how you paint your worship to God. Turn back to the children. **Let's see ... we've sung our worship, we've shouted our worship, we've danced our worship ... what other ways were we made to worship God?** Invite children to answer; interact with responses.

The Bible says in Psalm 95 that we should bow down before God. You see, when someone would come to see a king, they would kneel before him. When we kneel before God, it can remind us that God is our King! Let's kneel and worship Him together. Lead children in the posture of kneeling. **I'm going to read from God's Word to help us think about Him. You can repeat after me. Psalm 95:6-7: "Come, let us bow down in worship (children repeat), let us kneel before the LORD our Maker (children repeat); for he is our God (children repeat) and we are the people of his pasture (children repeat), the flock under his care" (children repeat).**

King David worshipped God both with other people and when he was alone. We can worship God anytime and anywhere. Any time of our day we can remember who God is and thank Him for all He does. After all, He is worthy of worship! Can you say that with me? Wait and encourage children to say it with you. **That's right! God is worthy of worship!**

Storyteller (turning to Painter): We're so excited to see what you've been painting. Is it finished? Can we see your worship?

Painter (turns the canvas around): Why yes, you may! I was painting all the different ways you were worshipping God. Here's where you were worshipping God by singing, and here's where you were dancing to God. Here's where you shouted your praises, and here's where you were thankful. This part right here is where you bowed down and used God's Word to worship Him.

Storyteller: And this entire painting is your worship to God!

Painter: That's right! We worship God in many different ways. We worship God because He loves us, and He is our King! There's no one else like Him. He is holy. Only God is worthy of worship. We were created to worship Him!

Storyteller: That's right. God is so great, and that makes me feel like bursting into song! Let's sing another worship song together.

Tech: Play Song #2 (suggestion: "I Can Sing," TruWorship Sincerely Yours).

Worship Leader: Now you're going to have some time to draw a praise picture to God. It's your turn to worship God with your artwork, just like our artist was doing. I'll close in prayer and then you'll go to your small groups.

RESPOND:: 20 min.

Small Group Leaders

Children reflect on what the Holy Spirit is teaching them and respond through creative activities and games.

Wonder Questions

Small Group Enhancements, coloring pages, and discussion questions help your group go deeper into today's portion of The Big God Story.

SUPPLIES (per small group)

- [Wonder Questions coloring pages \(see Resources\)](#)
- [TruWonder Small Group Enhancements timeline and images \(see Resources\)](#)
- Crayons

RELATE

Today we learned from The Big God Story about many ways we can express our worship to God. We can sing, dance, shout, bow, and many other things, because only God is worthy of worship. We were created to worship Him.

I wonder ... How do I worship God?

I wonder ... What is a new way I can worship God?

I wonder ... What does my worship sound like to God?

BLESS:: 5 min.

Small Group Leaders

Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing may be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

SUPPLIES (per small group)

- [Remember Verse cards \(see Resources\)](#)
- Bible

RELATE

This week as a part of the children's time of blessing, take the opportunity to integrate your use of the Bible into the worship experience. Read the following blessing based on Psalm 23 over the children. Make it personal to them. If you know of struggles in your community or in the lives of your children, mention those situations in a general way. Tell them David wrote this blessing. He puts us in the place of a sheep and he calls God our "shepherd."

The Lord is your shepherd; you have all that you need.

He lets you rest in green meadows; He leads you beside peaceful streams.

God renews your strength.

He guides you along right paths, bringing honor to His name.

**Even when you walk in dark and scary places,
you don't need to be afraid, for He is close beside you.
God protects you.
God comforts you.
God provides for you.
God's goodness and unfailing love will be with you all the days of your life,
and you will live with the Lord forever.**

May you know Jesus more and more and worship Him always.