



Date: _____

Series: Jesus Is the King
Winter Year 1, Lesson 43

Worship the King

Primary Scripture: Revelation 4:9-11

Key Verse: Revelation 4:11, "Our Lord and God, you deserve to receive glory, honor, and power because you created everything..."

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

It is easy for kids to miss the whole point of worship, to make it something less than what it truly should be. Kids, like adults, can lose focus during worship and simply go through the motions or passively observe. We want kids to experience worship as God coming to them and showing them how much he loves them so that they can respond likewise. Worship is saying, "I love you" back to God.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: The very heart of worship is experiencing God's love for us in Jesus. Jesus gave up his life for us, the greatest sacrifice in the universe, so that we would be able to, in turn, love God back.

Jesus in us: It is only by God's power that we can worship and love God. Jesus exemplified this in his life and gives us the power to do the same, as he is present with us through the Holy Spirit.

Jesus through us: Worship becomes witness as we worship God in all that we do. Through this, Jesus is made evident in our actions of love.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies: several crowns that can be tossed to the ground—these can be made from paper, or, picked up at a Burger King store.

Did you know that right now all of heaven is having a wonderful party? There are different kinds of creatures, but they are all doing the same thing. They are enjoying God. All heavenly creatures are able to look at God face to face and see how wonderful he is. They feel his love and they sing his praises. It is an exciting and joyful time.

Think of a football stadium filled with people yelling after a team touchdown. Praising God in heaven is a thousand times better than that. This is one of the things they are doing.

Toss the crowns to the floor.

Can you guess what this represents? Right, all the saints, those who believe in Jesus as Savior, place their crowns before the throne of God. Let me read it for you from Revelation 4:9-11. This is a book in the Bible that describes what is happening in heaven now and will happen someday for us.

Read the passage, then say:

Today when we worship, let's think of ourselves doing the same thing. Let's pretend we have crowns on our heads. These crowns may remind us of how we try to rule our own lives. But instead of wearing these crowns, we will lay them before God's throne and we will tell him that he is our King. He rules over us. That is what we are doing when we worship today.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Wear a crown during this presentation.

I am curious. How many of you have ever wanted to be a king? If you were king, everyone would have to do what you told him or her to do. You would be the boss. What would it be like if you were king of your family and you gave all the orders? Or maybe king of your school? Do you think that would be fun? What if you were the king of the whole world?

One of the problems of wanting to be king is that we can start acting bossy like we are in charge of everything. We can say to ourselves, "I don't care about anyone else or what they want. I only care about me. I am the king." When we do that, we may become selfish or hurtful to other people.

Who is the true King of this world? Right, it is Jesus. Jesus came as King of this world not to force everyone to do what he wanted, but to give his life for everyone in the world. That way our sins might be forgiven and we can be part of God's kingdom. Do you trust Jesus as your King? If you do, he helps you turn away from trying to be your own king and thinking of only yourself. He helps you not be selfish or self-centered.

Please close your eyes and think of things you have done this week that are selfish or self-centered. Think of anything that you might have done, like disobeying your parents, because you wanted to do what you wanted. Did you disobey any teachers... any friends... or anyone else in your family?

God wants to help change that. He will take away your sin when you trust him completely. Let's pray.

Dear God, I am sorry for the wrong things that I have done. I am sorry that I want to be king of the world myself and not think about anyone else. For Jesus' sake, forgive my sin and come and live within me. I take my crown off and give it to you. I want you to be King of my life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Place a crown on the altar and let the kids come up and place their offering inside it. Invite all children to come and take their imaginary crowns from their own heads and put them on the altar. This is a way of saying, "Jesus, I want you to be King of my life."



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Hula Hoop Crowns

Supplies: one hula hoop for every five-person team, masking tape line on the ground

Set up:

Four members of each team will stand behind a line with a fifth person who is a target 20 feet away. This person is sitting on the floor and must keep his or her hands in a fist. The target person may not grab a hula hoop with hands or fingers.

The object of the game is for team members to take turns rolling the hula hoop towards their target person so it gets close enough that the target person can use his/her arm to loop or catch the rolling hoop and put it over his/her body. This is much like a ring-toss game, but using a hula hoop. After four members of the team try, record the scores for that round and designate a new person from each team as the target. After five rounds, tally the scores and announce them.

What can we learn from this game? I want you to imagine that the hula hoops that you were rolling were not hula hoops at all. Instead, they were big crowns that fit right over our lives. Do you know whom these crowns belong to? They belong to God. That is because God wants us to remember that he is King over our lives.

Just as we were trying to get the hula hoops over the target person, God wants to see the same thing happen with a crown. He wants us to crown him King. That is why worship is so important, because when we worship God, we are saying, "You are my God and my King. I crown you as Lord over my life."

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Teaching on Worship

Supplies:

- *Hearts cut from construction paper with a message on each side. One side will read, "God, I love you—from all of us." The other side says, "I love you – God."*
- *Materials to make "Jesus loves you" cards for nursing home*

Introduction:

Read Psalm 100:1-3

What does it mean to worship God? We just read in the Bible that we can "shout for joy to the Lord." Have you ever thought about shouting with joy at a sports game when something good happened or applauding loudly for a performance? Let's pretend our favorite team just scored a touchdown.

Have everyone stand and shout or clap and whistle.

When we stop to think about God and how wonderful he is, there is even more to shout about. There is even more for which to be joyful. Let's shout to the Lord now, and tell him how wonderful he is. I will give you a phrase and then let's all shout it together. Okay? "Yeah, God, you are wonderful." "You are holy." "You are loving." "You are our God." "We love you."

Not all the time do we shout to the Lord when we worship him. Sometimes we sing, sometimes we are quiet, sometimes we pray. This Bible verse tells us to be glad when we worship him and to come to him with joyful songs.

Select a song of your own choosing. After the song, continue with the following teaching point.

Point #1: Worship is saying, "I love you, God."

Worship is our response of loving God back.

Hold up a construction paper heart with message. Say:

This heart reminds me of love, maybe even Valentine's Day. Sometimes people put notes on cards as a way to tell others that they love and care for them. In a way, that is exactly what happens in worship.

Look at this card. It describes worship to us. On one side, we read this, "I love you, (signed) God." In worship, we remember what God has done for us. He made us and gave us all that we have. He is with us wherever we are. He cares for us. But above all, he gave us his own Son, Jesus. Jesus gave everything he had. When he died on the cross he took the punishment that our sin deserves so that we would not have to. He rose again and is alive right now. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God is with us now, telling us how much he loves us.

On the other side of the card we see this, "God, I love you – (signed) us." When we worship God, we are telling him, "I love you." This is the most important thing we can do. When we tell God we love him, it reminds us that God is king, not us. There is an important Bible verse in Matthew 22:37. It says this, *"Jesus answered him, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important commandment.'"* That is why worship is so important.

Think about what we do in worship. In what ways do we tell God that we love him? (*Songs, prayers, offerings, service to others.*)

Point #2: God doesn't force us to love him.

Ask a volunteer to come forward and say to him/her:

Pretend that I am God. I want you to recognize that I am God and that I made you; that you should worship me as the greatest in the whole universe. But let's say that you have a stubborn heart and you do not want to worship me. As God, what do you think that I could do to make you love me?

Take suggestions from the audience and then continue.

One thing that I could do is to try to force you to love me. Let me see. If I grabbed your arm and held it behind your back, could I make you hurt and finally force you to say, "I love you?" Let me try it.

Obviously, don't hurt the child, but show how ridiculous it is to force someone to love God.

Is this the way God treats us? No. The reason is that if God forced us to love him, would it really be love? It would not. No one can force another to love him or her. It is something they must do because they want to and they choose to.

This is how God gives us the power to love him.

Hold up a cross.

God came into our world in the form of a person. Who was that? (*Jesus.*) What did Jesus do to show his love for us? (*He died on the cross.*) Why did he have to die on the cross? (*To take away our sin.*)

Stop to think about this. If God punished you for all the wrong things that you have done against him, you would not be able to live with him forever in Heaven after you die. Instead, you would go to a terrible place called Hell.

God loves you so much he wants you to be with him in Heaven, but he must punish sin because he is a perfect and just God. If he did not punish us, then he would not be perfect or just. So God figured out a way to punish sin by letting Jesus take our punishment for us. That is what happened when Jesus died on the cross. It was the punishment of all the sins of the whole world. All the sin of all time was put on him. It was the whole punishment of Hell put on Jesus.

After Jesus took the punishment, the price was paid. It would not have to be paid again. Then Jesus rose again and is alive right now to show everyone how much he loves us and has defeated sin's power. Because he loves us, we can love him.

We love him not because we have to, but because we want to. The Bible says it this way in 1 John 4:9, and 19. *"God has shown us his love by sending his only Son into the world so that we could have life through him...We love because God loved us first."*

Point #3: We can worship God in many ways.

Where do we think of worshiping God? (*In church.*) We worship him in the songs we sing, in the prayers we pray, and we do it with our offering. But do we ever worship God when we are not in church? Of course. Each day it is important that we have a special time of prayer and reading the Bible.

But did you know that we worship God when we serve other people? Listen to God's word in 1 John 4:11-12. *"Dear friends, if this is the way God loved us, we must also love each other. No one has ever seen God. If we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us."* When we serve others, we worship God.

Application:

Let's practice our worship right now. We'll do this in three ways. We will sing, then we will take time in prayer, and then we will do a service action of making cards for others.

Select worship music of your choice, but help kids concentrate and think about the words they are singing. Some songs declare God's goodness; others tell him we love him. Point this out to the children.

Take time in prayer by inviting kids to think of things for which they can praise God. If they need ideas, refer to the Bible in places such as Psalm 111 or read some of the verses of praise in Revelations 4:8, 11 or 5:11-14.

Finally, have children make cards that say a Bible verse or "Jesus loves you." Decorate them and have the children sign them. Deliver or drop them off at a local nursing home. This act of service is worship to God as we serve in Jesus' name. This is very effective if children travel with you during the week to deliver them.



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Let children tell about a time they really felt or understood God's love.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- several crowns—Burger King crowns are good

The Power of the Cross:

- crown

Offering:

- crown

Learning Game:

- one hula hoop for every five people

Bible Presentation:

- hearts from construction paper with message on each side—“God, I love You!” and “I love you. (signed) God”
- materials to make “Jesus loves you” cards

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