INTRODUCTION, OUTLINE, & SUGGESTED RESOURCES

Children's Worship Curriculum from

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TEACH ME TO WORSHIP

Introduction

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Psalm 95:6-7 ESV

"Teach me to worship!" Though few parents actually hear their children make that request, the privileges and responsibilities of God's covenant of grace call every parent to the task.

Worship is for all ages and is one of the few things God's people do in this life as well as the life to come. In teaching children to worship, parents are helping them develop skills they will use in the New Heavens and the New Earth. The eternal nature of worship makes learning these skills perhaps the most important thing a person (child or adult) can do.

Teaching a child to worship is the privilege of parents, and there is great blessing when family members of all generations worship together. Yet, many parents feel inadequate in knowing what and how to teach their children. The covenant community of the local church serves parents well when church leaders assist the parents in teaching covenant children how to worship. This desire to help parents is the basis for this curriculum. By presenting and explaining common elements of worship that the universal Church has used throughout the ages, we hope to provide ministry leaders and parents a great tool to equip another generation to bow down in worship.

As you work through the lessons in this curriculum, may God bless you with a deeper understanding of His great worth. The nature and work of our Covenant God are the reasons we worship. He is worthy to be praised!

Grace to you and peace,

-J. Estak

Stephen T. Estock Coordinator PCA Discipleship Ministries

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Introduction ADDITIONAL INFO

The goal in writing this children's worship curriculum was to teach covenant children about worshiping the one true God in spirit and truth. It has been written in response to requests from local churches who specifically want to use children's church time to train children to better understand and participate in corporate worship. If your church does not have children's church, this curriculum could be used for Sunday School, mid-week programs, family devotions, or any Bible-teaching occasion where one would want to emphasize how God's story teaches us to worship.

Each month-long, four-lesson unit will focus on a single element of worship. For learning the "whole of worship" every element of worship will be included in each week's lesson. The Reading of the Word is printed out for the teacher, but we suggest reading from the Bible during the actual teaching time.

Each unit (Call to Worship, Prayer, Praise, etc.) has four lessons that should be done together as a group. The monthly units were created to be done in a specific order. There are three "Plug-In Units" (Christmas, Easter, and Missions) that should be done according to the appropriate time in your church's calendar. There is also a unit teaching the sacraments—this unit can be done whenever you'd like. See the complete outline found on pages 4-7 of this document.

Each lesson has been written to take approximately one hour. Make any necessary adjustments to make it work within the time available at your church. For instance, if children stay in the main worship service until just before the sermon starts, begin the lesson with the Call to Worship and Prayer but then move to the Hearing of the Word. If you have a service that goes for 75 minutes and you have children the whole time add in more time for Praise.

If you have additional time at the end of your lesson, here are three suggestions of how to fill that extra time: (1) Review the elements of worship, (2) Allow the kids to work on the Kid's Activity Sheets (Coloring Sheet—for non-readers and Word Search for readers), (3) Practice the memory verse.



The song(s) listed under the Praise section is a suggestion that fits with the theme of the unit for the month. Some of the lyrics/music can be found in the Trinity Hymnal, while others are more contemporary praise songs and can be found online. If possible, find or play the music for the songs and lead the children in singing them. You can also choose songs that go with the worship style of your church, but keep the unit theme in mind.

To help reiterate the flow of a worship service there are printable icons representing each element of worship. These can be used in several ways:

- Hold up the appropriate worship icon sign as you begin each section of the lesson.
 This will help reinforce the symmetry of the service from week to week.
- At the end of the lesson (if you have additional time) review all the elements of worship using the worship icon signs and remind the kids that they will be learning more about each one.
- Hand out these icon signs as they enter and let each child bring their sign to the front of the classroom when you begin that part of the "service."
- Make sticker pages of these symbols to give to parents so that children can place them in the worship bulletin while they are in the main service.

SUGGESTED TEACHING MODEL • • • • • • • • • • • •

Because the weekly lessons build upon each other to comprise a unit study, consider recruiting teachers for the month/unit rather than have them rotate weekly. This will bring more unity to the study and will help teachers understand more clearly what the goal is for each unit or element of worship. For example, rather than having your teachers teach children's church once every six weeks, have them teach two months out of the year. This also makes it easier to build relationships with the students and aids in discipline and accountability.

Each element of worship is developed in four week units. This was done intentionally so that kids could spend 5th Sundays in the worship service with their families, practicing what they've been learning. You might take this opportunity to have the children participate in the main worship service by arranging to have them sing the Call to Worship or recite one of their memory verses.

Outline

The monthly units were created to be done in a specific order (see list below). There are three "Plug-In Units" that should be done according to the appropriate time in your church's calendar. Please use this outline in planning your use of the curriculum for your upcoming year.





CALL TO WORSHIP

Month's Memory Verse	Psalm 95:6-7
Month's Featured Song	O Worship the King
Week 1 Lesson Topic	Creation Calls Us to Worship
Week 2 Lesson Topic	God Calls Abraham and We Are His Children
Week 3 Lesson Topic	God Commands Us to Worship
Week 4 Lesson Topic	King Jesus Will Be Worshiped Forever



PRAYER

Month's Memory Verse	Matthew 6:9-13 (The Lords Payer)
Month's Featured Song	What a Friend We Have in Jesus
Week 1 Lesson Topic	Jesus Teaches Us to Pray
Week 2 Lesson Topic	Hannah Prays
Week 3 Lesson Topic	Daniel Prays
Week 4 Lesson Topic	Jesus Tells About Two Men Who Pray



PRAISE

Month's Memory Verse	Psalm 146:1-2
Month's Featured Song	Holy, Holy, Holy
Week 1 Lesson Topic	Creation Praises God
Week 2 Lesson Topic	Miriam and the Israelites Praise God
Week 3 Lesson Topic	Children Praise Jesus
Week 4 Lesson Topic	Paul and Silas Praise God from Jail



TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Month's Memory Verse	II Corinthians 9:6-7
Month's Featured Song	This Is My Father's World
Week 1 Lesson Topic	The Right Reason
Week 2 Lesson Topic	The Right Offering
Week 3 Lesson Topic	The Right Focus
Week 4 Lesson Topic	The Right Amount



READING OF THE WORD

Month's Memory Verse	II Timothy 3:16-17
Month's Featured Song	Thy Word Is a Lamp to My Feet
Week 1 Lesson Topic	The Word Guides Us
Week 2 Lesson Topic	The Word Calls Us Back to God
Week 3 Lesson Topic	The Word Is Jesus
Week 4 Lesson Topic	The Word Leads All Men to Jesus



CONFESSION OF FAITH

Month's Memory Verse	The Apostles' Creed
Month's Featured Song	I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord Forever
Week 1 Lesson Topic	His Story: The Apostles' Creed
Week 2 Lesson Topic	In Our Youth: Heidelberg Catechism
Week 3 Lesson Topic	God or Man?: Nicene Creed
Week 4 Lesson Topic	Back to the Beginning: Westminster Confession of Faith

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HEARING OF THE WORD

Month's Memory Verse	Romans 10:4
Month's Featured Song	Wonderful Words of Life
Week 1 Lesson Topic	The Word Is the Promise
Week 2 Lesson Topic	The Word Is the Method
Week 3 Lesson Topic	The Word Is Truth
Week 4 Lesson Topic	The Word Is Power



SACRAMENTS

Month's Memory Verse	John 1:29
Month's Featured Song	Amazing Grace
Week 1 Lesson Topic	Remember the Door Post
Week 2 Lesson Topic	Remember the Cross
Week 3 Lesson Topic	Jesus's Example in Baptism
Week 4 Lesson Topic	The Sign of the Promise



BENEDICTION

Month's Memory Verse	Numbers 6:24-26
Month's Featured Song	The Lord Bless You and Keep You
Week 1 Lesson Topic	What Is a Benediction?
Week 2 Lesson Topic	Benediction: Our Hope
Week 3 Lesson Topic	Benediction: Our Charge
Week 4 Lesson Topic	Benediction: Our Forever

PLUG-IN Units

Plug in the following three units when they fall in your church calendar. (i.e., Christmas—in December; Easter—March/April; Missions—the month your church does Missions Conference)



CHRISTMAS

Month's Memory Verse	Matthew 1:21
Month's Featured Song	Joy to the World
Week 1 Lesson Topic	Promises Fulfilled
Week 2 Lesson Topic	Promises Revealed
Week 3 Lesson Topic	Promises Proclaimed
Week 4 Lesson Topic	Promises Praised



EASTER

Month's Memory Verse	I Corinthians 15:55-57
Month's Featured Song	When I Survey the Wond'rous Cross
Week 1 Lesson Topic	Our King's Promises Fulfilled
Week 2 Lesson Topic	Our King's Example and Command
Week 3 Lesson Topic	Our King's Sacrifce and Victory
Week 4 Lesson Topic	Our King's Eternal Kingdom



MISSIONS

Month's Memory Verse	Matthew 28:19
Month's Featured Song	Take My Life and Let It Be
Week 1 Lesson Topic	Taking God's Love to All People
Week 2 Lesson Topic	Having Eyes to See
Week 3 Lesson Topic	Serving and Sharing
Week 4 Lesson Topic	Through Sacrifice

Suggested Resources

The following are recommended resources you may find helpful in lesson preparation and classroom participation. All resources can be found at the PCA Bookstore (1.800.283.1357 or www.pcabookstore.com) unless noted otherwise.

Resources for helping children to understand the scriptures. Teachers may want to read the passage a second time from one of these:

- *My First Message* by Eugene H. Peterson (Item #12699)
- The Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd-Jones (Item #8745)
- The Big Picture Story Bible by David Helm (Item #8024)
- The Child's Story Bible by Catherine F. Vos (Item #2442)

Resources for teaching the music:

- Trinity Hymnal by Great Commission Publications (Item #2300)
- **Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs For Kids**—Worship CD (Item #5490), Songbook (Item #5488), & Arrangements (Item #5489)
- Hymns for a Kid's Heart—www.hymnsforkids.com—On this website you can download recorded music and sheet music for many of the hymns included in Teach Me to Worship curriculum.

Resource for Missions month:

• *Heroes for Young Readers—www.ywampublishing.com*—On this website you can purchase books about the missionaries covered in the lessons, along with many other fun resources (Items #82396, 82329, 8237X, & 82361).

Other helpful resources:

- **Any Large Classroom Bible**—This would be helpful to show the children where the Bible story can be found.
- *First Catechism* by Great Commission Publications (Item #6666)