

Why We Worship...

By Frieda Nossaman

for use as

STEP 1

**Lesson 14****Lesson Focus**

God is worthy of our worship.

Lesson 14**Bible Basis:**

John 9:1-41

Lesson 14**Memory Verse:**

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness; come
before him with joyful songs.
—Psalm 100:1-2

Students will watch a funny video about people going to church on Easter and discuss why God is worthy of worship.

Materials:

Internet access

It has been a long period of isolation. Your state may be at a different place than other states in the COVID-19 quarantine and you may or may not be able to do more than you previously could under various orders. No matter the circumstance, this has been a very trying time for our country and world. Young people especially are anxious to get back to life as they know it. Grief may be a reality for those who are missing events and summer trips they had been planning for a long time. Be especially sensitive to your students' feelings about all of what they are missing and wish they were doing. A lesson on worship may seem challenging when they look at all their "have nots"—but it is the perfect message for this moment in history.

Going to church has looked quite different over the past few months. People have connected over social media platforms, met in cars in the church parking lot, etc. Here's what one congregation did to "meet together" for worship over Easter.

Share this video clip [:54]:

The Today Show – A Minister in Tennessee on Easter Sunday

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4QsksX5EAZE>

Sundays are considered a day of worship. Even if you are indoors and watching "virtual" worship online—it is still worship if your heart is in it.

➤ **What does the word "worship" mean?** (Answers will vary. Allow middle schoolers to give their definitions. The dictionary defines worship this way: "to honor or show reverence; to regard with great or extravagant respect, honor, or devotion.")

➤ **What are some things/people we typically regard with respect, honor, or devotion?** (Answers will vary but may include Hollywood celebrities, YouTube influencers, sports figures, musicians, etc.)

The dictionary defines *worthy* as “having sufficient worth or importance to be remembered.” *Worth* means “the value of something measured by its qualities; merit or excellence.”

➤ **What makes the things/people we mentioned earlier worthy of respect and honor?** (Answers will vary. Students may mention talent, number of followers, achievements such as awards won, even looks. Accept all reasonable answers without comment.)

Typically, when someone or something falls off the grid—if they stop making movies or TV shows, lose their phenomenal sports ability, stop having number-one hit songs, or embarrass themselves publicly, our respect, honor, and willingness to give goes out the window. Someone who received a standing ovation earlier might be booed off of the court or someone who went viral with approval could receive a record number of dislikes on an unpopular post or tweet.

Not so with God. His measured qualities, merit, and excellence are worth being remembered—always. Why? Because He never changes. He is good all the time. He is truth, righteousness, justice, and honor. God deserves our praise every day for all that He has created and done for us. We don’t have to know what He is doing by allowing this pandemic...but we can know that He is doing some kind of mighty work, whether we understand it or not.

Let’s take a look at someone who found out firsthand that Jesus is worthy of worship.

Additional resources:

Merriam-Webster definitions: worship, worth, worthy
<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/worship>
<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/worth>
<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/worthy>

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher’s guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

middle school



Lesson 14 / May 31, 2020

Why We Worship...

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STEP 4 

Lesson 14
Lesson Focus
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worship.

Lesson 14
Bible Basis:
John 9:1-41

Lesson 14
Memory Verse:
Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness; come
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—Psalm 100:1-2

Materials:

- Internet access
- Paper
- Pens/pencils

Before you start this step, be sure your students have access to writing supplies.

As you think about the man born blind, you may feel thankfulness for your sight and health. Today's lesson Scripture passage, John 9:1-41, notes that Jesus heard about the blind man being harassed by those who were confused by his healing. Jesus sought the healed blind man out to speak with him, this time about spiritual things. That care in itself shows God's great love for us and how God is worthy of our worship. He is a God who seeks you out and knows about your problems. For this man, his lifetime of blindness and the persecution he received after he was healed were the very things that brought him to this life-changing encounter. Jesus cares about what is going on inside of you—all the difficult, troubling questions. That's one of the things that makes Him worthy of worship.

Ask about how this isolation and virus is affecting your students. Allow some introspection here and don't rush. Feelings are deep right now and answers few. Encourage verbal expression of feelings and how it may or may not be easy to feel like praising God right now. You can be a great support to your middle schooler. These times are unprecedented and no one knows how things are going to turn out except for God. We can praise Him because He knows and because as today's Scripture shows, God cares!

God being worthy of worship has nothing to do with how we feel or even what we see. It has to do with who He is. One way to discover who He is: take time to think about His character traits. What are some things we know about God? These things give us insight into His character—the reason He is praiseworthy.

Give your students an opportunity to jot down some things they know about God. Help them think through some of His attributes—He is good, He is love, He is long-suffering, He is truth, He is justice, etc. As they record their ideas, have them think about how those attributes affect

them personally (examples: He is a provider so He is the One who provides food, clothing, shelter, etc. for them. He is peace—that might remind them of a time when they or a family member were troubled about something private, and they prayed and felt His presence calm them).

Challenge your students to spend time adding to their list each day during their quiet time. Ask them to prayerfully reflect on those qualities and discover with God's help how He has shown Himself to be worthy of praise in an area in their lives. Encourage them to keep a list that they can share with others the next time you meet or have them text or post some to each other as they come across them.

Have a short time of prayer together lifting up all of the requests and all of the unknowns that are facing the world today. Make a plan to reach out to your students in some way this week. Physical touch and interaction may not be possible, yet there are many ways to show care. A card can be dropped off at their door. A phone call may be what they crave. Praying with friends and loved ones is always a way to help.

Keep asking your students this week how they are worshiping God. It is a great way to get a feel for how they are doing through all of this difficulty.

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