

Lesson 12 / August 23, 2009

Leaping Levites!

for use as

STEP 1 **Lesson 12**
Focus:

Let's worship God together.

Lesson 12
Bible Basis:2 Chronicles 5:12-13;
Ezra 3:10-11; 1
Corinthians 14:15, 26-33

Students will discuss the meaning of “worship” and explore the different opinions on its definition.

As adults, we've probably internalized a definition of “worship” over many years of church attendance and Bible study. But for middle-school students, who are just beginning to understand what a meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ looks like and feels like, the concept of worship may be pretty superficial.

Most young people identify worship with singing, music, or hand-raising—all taking place in different styles depending on the church in which they were raised. Young people brand new to the church, such as your students' friends, may make other associations, seeing worship as something mystical or even a little frightening.

To introduce this week's lesson on worship, view this YouTube video to trigger an opening discussion on the meaning of worship. In this short interview clip, a variety of people share their definitions of worship. (If you don't have video access directly in your classroom, view this clip ahead of time and read some of the quotes out loud to your students.)

[<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZNrgzEQb80&feature=related>]

When you finish, ask your students these questions:

- ▶ **What were some of the words or phrases you remember hearing?** (the interviewees shared phrases like “pleasing God,” “craving or desiring something,” “gives God praise,” and “worship is everything after church is over,” etc.)
- ▶ **Did one of the definitions stand out to you at all? Did any of the definitions surprise you?**
- ▶ **Are all people's opinions equal? In other words, if the Bible already has defined something for us, does everyone else's opinion matter that much? How do we judge whether it's a valid opinion or not?**

Lesson 12
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

▶ **What would you have answered if this filmmaker had asked you to define worship? Where did you come up with that idea?**

As you continue your lesson, remind your students that the style of worship doesn't follow rigid boundaries or rules. Worship always ascribes worth to God and His attributes, and we can do that in many different ways.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your *Middle School Teacher's Guide*; your Step 4 appears below.)

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STEP 4 
Lesson 12
Focus:

Let's worship God together.

Lesson 12
Bible Basis:

2 Chronicles 5:12–13;
 Ezra 3:10–11; 1
 Corinthians 14:15, 26–33

Students will take a quiz to find out more about their personality types and learn what style of worship fits them best.

Materials:

- (Optional) blank paper and pens/pencils

Today's lesson encourages students to think about some of the ways the Bible defines worship. Worship is not a fixed prescription of activities or styles, but a lifestyle of surrender and love to our Creator.

As you give your students a chance to apply this to their lives, encourage them to participate in one final activity. They will consider their own personality traits and gifts and see how they might worship God in ways they hadn't considered before.

Have your students take this short quiz by choosing A, B, C, or D for each item you read out loud. They can write these down privately or, if your group is small, they can share openly with the others.

- ▶ **Which definition fits your personality best?**
 - a. active, full of excitement, on the move, friendly
 - b. creative, a deep thinker, quiet, compassionate
 - c. logical, calm, a peacemaker among friends, likes to just chill
 - d. ambitious, serious, a strong leader, mature for my age
- ▶ **Which activity appeals to you the most?**
 - a. an outdoor activity, such as a sport or recreation
 - b. reading and/or drawing
 - c. hanging out with friends, talking
 - d. competitive video games
- ▶ **Which activity would be the least natural for you?**
 - a. kneeling down in a completely quiet church for silent prayer
 - b. jumping and dancing at a loud, energetic Christian concert
 - c. writing a poem or song about my love for Jesus Christ
 - d. going on a hike and collecting objects that God created

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After the students have considered their answers, ask them whether they had two or more As, Bs, Cs, or Ds. As a group (or in small groups if time or inclination allows), write down some of the ways that different personalities respond spontaneously in worship to the Lord. Some of their answers might include:

- a. *physical expressions like hand-raising or dancing, spending time in nature to see God's handiwork, hands-on charity work*
- b. *writing prayers and journaling, reading scripture, meditating on God's character, making art, composing music*
- c. *listening to worship music in your room, praising God in a small group, praying while falling asleep or when you first wake up, being a role model to friends*
- d. *studying the Bible, leading worship in front of a group, going on a missions trip or attending a discipleship camp*

Make sure to stress that sometimes God wants us to worship Him outside what is most comfortable, but that He is also pleased with many different expressions of worship—not just one or two styles. Encourage your students to participate fully in worship with their entire lives no matter what kind of personality God gave them.

Close in prayer.

(David C. Cook is not affiliated with and does not endorse any website listed on these pages.)