

To Worship means to give praise and honor due to God for all that He has done and in a way that is pleasing to Him.

In Spirit means to do so out of love and respect, to have the right purpose.

2) Bible Verse Questions on Worshipping God in Spirit

10-15 minutes

Ask children who brought their Bibles and praise them if they remembered. Hand out bibles to other children who forgot and encourage them to bring theirs next week. Say:

We are going to look at verses that talk about our need to worship God in Spirit because it is very important.

The purpose of our worship is to glorify, honor, praise, exalt, and please God. Our worship must show loyalty to God for His grace in providing us with the way to escape sin, so we can have the salvation He so much wants to give us. The nature of the worship God demands is to be humble and submissive to God. Let's all turn to our bibles and read James 4:6. Can anyone raise their hand to volunteer to read this verse?

"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Or another verse might say, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."

Now, let's read James 4:10:

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up".

Our worship to God is a very humble and reverent action.

Now let's turn to our bibles to John 4:23-24 and see what Jesus says. Can someone volunteer to read these two verses?

John 4:23-24, "But the hour is coming, and now is, when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth."

It doesn't say we can worship God anyway we want, but we "must worship Him in spirit and in truth". The word "must" makes it absolute. There is no other way we can worship God and be acceptable to Him. The word "must", according to Webster, expresses "an obligation, a requirement, a necessity, a certainty, and something that must be done". When "must" is used it means that it is not optional. Here the word "must" is expressing that in spirit and in truth is the only way to acceptably worship God.

God seeks true worshippers, and He identifies them as those who "worship Him in spirit and in truth". Worshipping God in spirit means that it must be done from the love and respect we have for God, having the right purpose to please and bring glory to God in the way He asks. Worshipping God in truth means that it must be done according to the way God has specified in the Bible. Worshipping God in spirit and in truth is a serious matter which must not be taken lightly. If we have any regard for our own souls, we will want to make sure we are worshipping God in spirit and in truth.

Hand out Worship God in Spirit Questions Sheet – one per child along with pencils. Tell the children:

We are going to read the instructions on the sheet and work through each question as a group. We will circle the correct answer as we go through the verses. So far we have gone through two verses so we are going to answer questions 1 to 4. Let's start. Read through the questions, answers are at the bottom. After question 4 read the remaining statements below.

Since God is the object of our worship, He and He alone has the right to determine how we are to worship Him. Let's now turn and read Jeremiah 10:23,

"O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself, it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps."

We are not granted the option of directing our own ways in religion. God is the One who we look to for guidance and direction in our lives. Our very best in worship is due God and is prescribed by Him in the Bible.

Let's read and answer questions 5 and 6 on our sheet.

Worship is a time when we pay deep, sincere, awesome respect, love, and fear to the one who created us. Can someone read Acts 17:24-25?

"God who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives life, breath, and all things."

Worship should cause us to reflect on the majesty and graciousness of God and Christ, contrasted to our own unworthiness. God does not have to have our worship, but we must worship Him to please Him. Our singing, praying, studying His word, giving, and communion are designed by God to bring us closer to Him and to cause us to think more like He thinks, thus becoming more like Him. James 4:8 tells us to, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."

Now let's go through the remaining questions on the sheet, looking up the verses indicated as we go along. Ok? Go through questions 7-10

These questions and information have been kindly created in part by Ron Boatwright from the Church of Christ and come from the website <http://www.netbiblestudy.net/bulletin>

Answers:

1 C

God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. We must humble ourselves before God

2 False God wants us to be humble.

3 B

We must worship God in spirit and in truth if we want to please Him and go to heaven

4 False Our worship must be in spirit and in truth. Being sincere is not enough

5 A Only God is to direct our steps in religion

6 True

Only God is to direct our steps in religion. Man in trying to direct our steps is the reason for all the religious division we see in the world today.

7 C Our worship to God must be in reverence and great fear

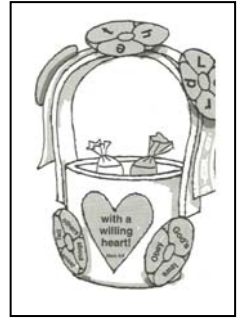
8 True Our God is greatly to be feared and must be held in reverence

- 9 A We must also be holy in all we do including our worship
10 False God wants us to be holy so we can go to heaven and be with Him.

3) I Should Worship God in Spirit with a Willing Heart Craft 10-15 minutes

Print copies of template page on colored construction paper or cardstock paper before class.

Tell children that, **“today we are going to make a craft that will help us remember to worship God with a willing heart – in Spirit!** Hand out a Styrofoam cup to each child along with scissors. Ask the children to cut the basket in half (see template picture) then cut handles (see template picture diagram 2). And staple the handles to the basket as shown in this picture. →



Cut lace or colored paper strips into 10 inch lengths and glue one onto handles. Next, have children cut out hearts and flowers from their template page. Show how to place a finger in the center of each flower and pull it up over a finger to give the flowers a 3-D effect. Glue the hearts to the sides of the baskets and the “Serve” “The” “Lord” flowers to the handles. Then glue the remaining flowers around the sides of their baskets. Give each child some Easter grass or tissue paper and wrapped candies to put inside the basket. Read each flower out loud for children who have trouble reading.

Tell the students, **“Here are some ways we can remember to worship God in Spirit – by having a willing heart, telling others about Jesus when we sing and worship on Sunday and during the week, obeying God’s will by reading our bibles and doing what He says, and by serving the Lord anyway we can. This week or today after class, share a candy with someone and show them your basket and how it reminds us of our need to worship God in spirit!**

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4) Discover the Verse Activity Sheet 5-10 minutes

Hand out the code sheets and pencil crayons, and ask children to put their name on the front of the page. Read the instructions and then have the kids discover the verse from Psalms. When done allow children to color the page if time.



Part of worshipping God in Spirit is to give praise to Him for all the wonderful things He has done for us. Even creation gives His praise when you see a beautiful sunset, a tiny frog, or a lady bug, all these wonderful creations are a gift from God and show His glory and power!

Answer to the verse: **All Your works shall praise You, O Lord**

What are some ways we can worship God in spirit according to the bible? Some answers may include:

Singing to God hymns on Sunday, praying to God and thanking Him for all He has done, reading and studying the Bible, going to church, etc.

5) Optional – Snack : Your choice**5 minutes**

Hand out snack along with a glass of water or juice to each child. Explain that **this is another reason we need to worship God – He provides for our every need – including snacks and drinks!** Have a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss questions and examples of how we should worship God in spirit while snacking!

6) Optional – Songs**5 minutes****O Worship the King**

O worship the King, all glorious above,
and gratefully sing of His wonderful love;
our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;
thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

I Will Call Upon the Lord

Chorus
I Will Call upon The LORD
Who Is Worthy to Be Praised
So Shall I Be Safe from My Enemies

The LORD Liveth
And Blessed Be My Rock
And Let The GOD Of My Salvation be Exalted (REPEAT)

7) Close in prayer

Thank you God that You have shown us again in the Bible what You want from us and that Your will for us is good. We pray that You will help us to know and understand how to worship You properly so that it brings joy to You and is pleasing to You. We pray that we will always worship You in spirit and in truth as You want us to. We pray also that we can help others learn about You as we grow. We pray for our families, friends, pets, health, and ourselves. We pray You will help us, guide us, and help anyone who is sick today and unable to make it to church. Be with us and help us to always study your word, and it is in Jesus' name that we pray this, Amen.