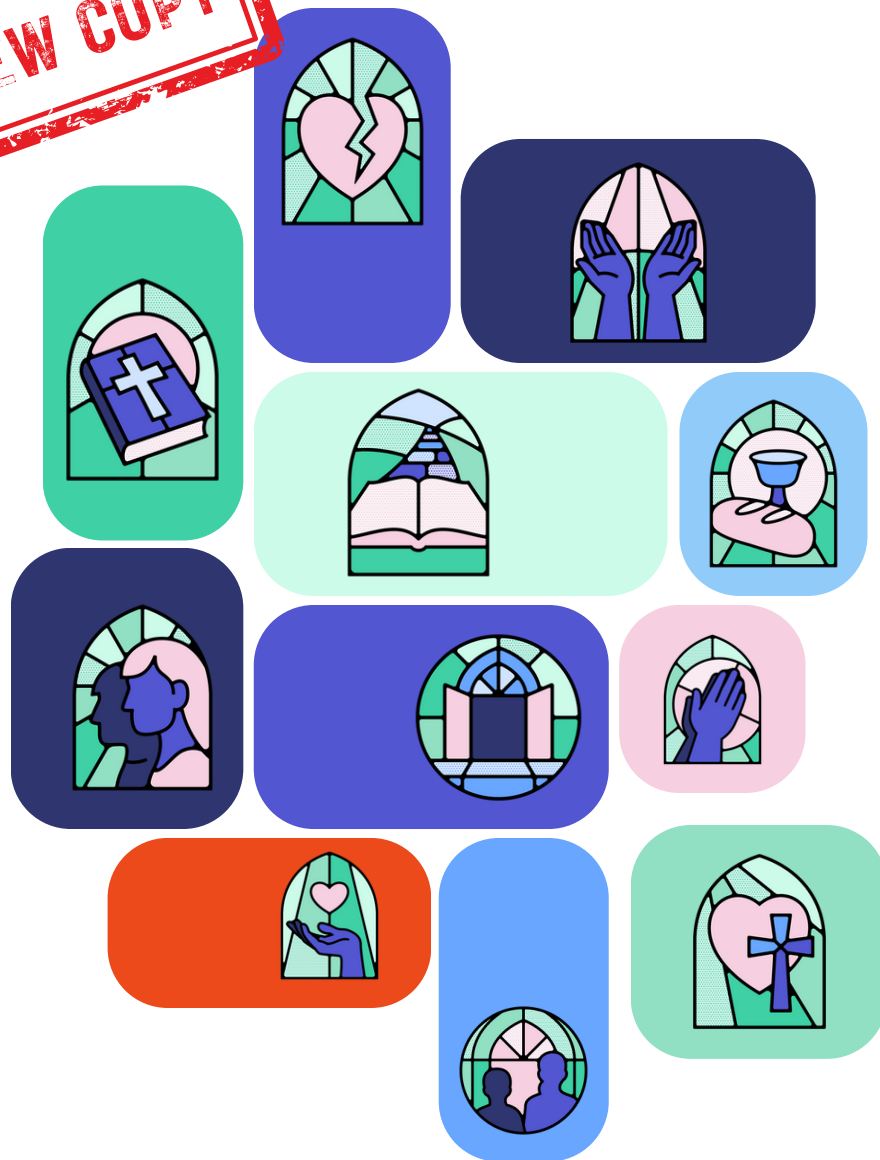


# ***EXPLORING THE ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP***

Teaching the Rhythm of Corporate Worship to Our Covenant Children

**PREVIEW COPY**



**Children's Worship Curriculum from  
Teach Us to Worship and the Committee on Discipleship Ministries**



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# ***EXPLORING THE ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP***

Teaching the rhythm of corporate worship to our covenant children



**Children's Worship Curriculum from  
Teach Us to Worship and the Committee on Discipleship Ministries**



# Exploring the Elements of Worship

Teaching the Rhythm of Corporate Worship to Our Covenant Children

## Welcome

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship  
Romans 12:1

*Exploring the Elements of Worship* creates a rhythm for corporate worship every Sunday that brings the church—the body of Christ—before the throne of God. Here, God has determined to reveal His Son Jesus to us as we pray, read and hear the Word, and participate in the sacraments together as one body.

*Exploring the Elements of Worship* is a yearly curriculum for children ages 4–6, focusing on the key components of corporate worship. Through this study, children deepen their understanding of these elements and actively engage in them, reinforcing their participation in the worship service.

Divided into 48 interactive lessons, the curriculum may be used in a breakout session during the sermon portion of corporate worship each Sunday.

Lessons are designed to help young children become familiar with the practice of worshiping God together as the body of Christ. Young children are taught the elements of worship through repetition and engagement. This is not intended to be a separate worship service for children. It is an intentional teaching opportunity to equip children to worship alongside their church family.

The classes in each unit are customizable and include the following elements of worship:

**Call to Worship**  
**Prayer**  
**Praise**  
**Reading the Word**  
**Walking in the Word**  
**Tithes and Offerings**

**Confession of Sin**  
**Assurance of Pardon**  
**Confession of Faith**  
**Sacraments**  
**Benediction**

Churches can adapt and build their own class lesson according to their order of worship and length of service.

# Exploring The Elements of Worship

## Why Teach Children the Elements of Worship?

The Bible teaches us that we are the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12). This includes every member of the church, from the tiniest baby to the triple-digit senior. As a body, we gather on Sundays before the throne of God. The Maker of heaven and earth invites His people into His presence. We come together to read scripture, pray, and share the sacraments. Practicing this as one body in unity is a means of grace God has given to His church.



“The means of grace are God’s appointed instruments by which the Holy Spirit enables believers to receive Christ and the benefits of redemption. Although he could have chosen to reveal Christ immediately to His people, He has determined instead to do so through certain means. God assigned the Word, sacraments, and prayer to be the foremost means by which he communicates Christ and His benefits to believers.”<sup>1</sup>



The elements of worship are the components of the church’s conversation with God. They flow together to lead the congregation through a corporate time before His throne. The order of worship may clearly identify each element, or the elements may be interwoven together through times of prayer, praise, reading God’s Word, and participating in the sacraments.



“In every age, we worship God to further the cause of the gospel. We know the ‘good news’ of that gospel as we recognize the holiness of our Creator, confess our sin, seek his grace, are assured of his mercy, give him thanks, petition his aid, seek his instruction, and, in loving response to all his mercies, live for him.”<sup>2</sup>



Every church is the body of Christ and a light to their world at a particular time, at a particular place, and to a particular people. Worship services may appear to be very different, but at the core, they hold the rhythm of worship, this conversation initiated by God, when His people, through the blood of Christ, enter His presence and respond to Him.

<sup>1</sup> Nick Batzig, “What Is a Means of Grace?” *Tabletalk* 44, no. 6 (June 2020), 4.

<sup>2</sup> Bryan Chapell, *Christ-Centered Worship: Letting the Gospel Shape Our Practice* (Baker Academic, 2010), 15.

# Exploring The Elements of Worship

## The Why Continued:

In his book, *Let the Children Worship*, Jason Helopoulos writes,



“We must never forget God chooses to work by means ordinary means. Churches and parents can chase after the next creative means by which to impact their children, but nothing holds the promise of that which God himself clearly ordained. These ordinary means of grace prove effectual. When our children attend corporate worship, they dwell in the midst of these effectual means of grace. The more we place them in the way of the means of grace, the better the opportunity for their souls to encounter the God of grace.”<sup>3</sup>



As we teach the elements of worship, our prayer is that children will be welcomed into the conversation of worship alongside the generations of God’s people who gather because God has called them and created them to worship Him.

**Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
Consecrate a fast;  
Call a solemn assembly;  
Gather the people.  
Consecrate the congregation;  
Assemble the elders;  
Gather the children,  
Even nursing infants.  
Let the bridegroom leave his room,  
And the bride her chamber.  
Joel 2:15-16**

<sup>3</sup>Jason Helopoulos, *Let the Children Worship* (Christian Focus, 2022), 41.

# Exploring The Elements of Worship

## **STRUCTURE**

Each month, the curriculum will highlight a specific element of worship, helping children understand its significance in corporate worship.

Each unit consists of four lessons that explore the month's focus element while also incorporating all key elements of worship: Call to Worship, Prayer, Praise, Tithes and Offerings, Confession of Faith, Reading the Word, Walking in the Word, Confession of Sin, Assurance of Pardon, Sacraments, and Benediction.

## **TIME ALLOTMENT**

With all the elements of worship on separate pages, the units were created to enable you to build a customized lesson that mirrors the corporate worship time at your church. You choose from the materials provided to make the lesson as short as 20 minutes or as long as 60 minutes to fit the time frames of your church and allow the children to stay in corporate worship until the sermon.

Each lesson has been written to take approximately 20-60 minutes to allow the children to stay in corporate worship until the sermon.

You may adapt the lessons to align with your church's order of worship. However, we recommend including Call to Worship, Praise, Prayer, Reading the Word, Walking in the Word, and a closing in each weekly lesson. (These elements are marked with a pink asterisk, while others will be highlighted in their designated units.) Feel free to incorporate additional elements as needed to better reflect your church's corporate worship.

Each lesson includes a "closing," but it is not a benediction. We encourage you to return with the children to corporate worship so they can participate in the benediction and/or the Lord's Supper at the end of your church's service.

## **PRAISE TIME**

The suggested songs in the curriculum align with the units, but you are welcome to choose songs your congregation already sings. Whenever possible, collaborate with your music director in the selection process. Teaching children familiar congregational songs helps them engage in worship, and it also blesses the congregation to learn the songs the children are singing!



# **Exploring The Elements of Worship**

## **Teaching the Children Continued:**

### **INTRODUCING EACH ELEMENT OF WORSHIP TO THE CHILDREN**

To help identify each element of worship, there is a worship sign and an introduction for the element. The worship signs can be used in several different ways. Visit the [Teach Us to Worship](#) website for ideas and teaching aids.

### **SUGGESTED TEACHING MODEL**

To maintain continuity and clarity in each unit, consider recruiting teachers for the entire month rather than rotating them weekly. This approach fosters unity in the study, helps teachers better understand the unit's goals, and strengthens their connection with students. For example, instead of assigning teachers to children's worship once every six weeks, have them teach for two months each year. This consistency also supports relationship-building, discipline, and accountability.

### **BIBLE STORY BOOKS RESOURCE\***

In case it is needed, the Walking in the Word lesson includes a suggested story from a children's Bible storybook. This resource is especially helpful for volunteers who need a last-minute teaching option, have limited time to prepare or prefer additional support in teaching the lesson text. Using the Bible storybook ensures that children still receive a meaningful and biblically grounded lesson, even when circumstances require flexibility.

Bible storybooks: *The Read-Aloud Bible Stories Vol. 1-5* by Ella K. Lindvall, *The Biggest Story Bible Storybook* by Kevin DeYoung, *The Big Picture Story Bible* by David R. Helm, *The Jesus Storybook Bible* by Sally Lloyd-Jones, and *God's Big Picture Bible Storybook* by N.T. Wright.

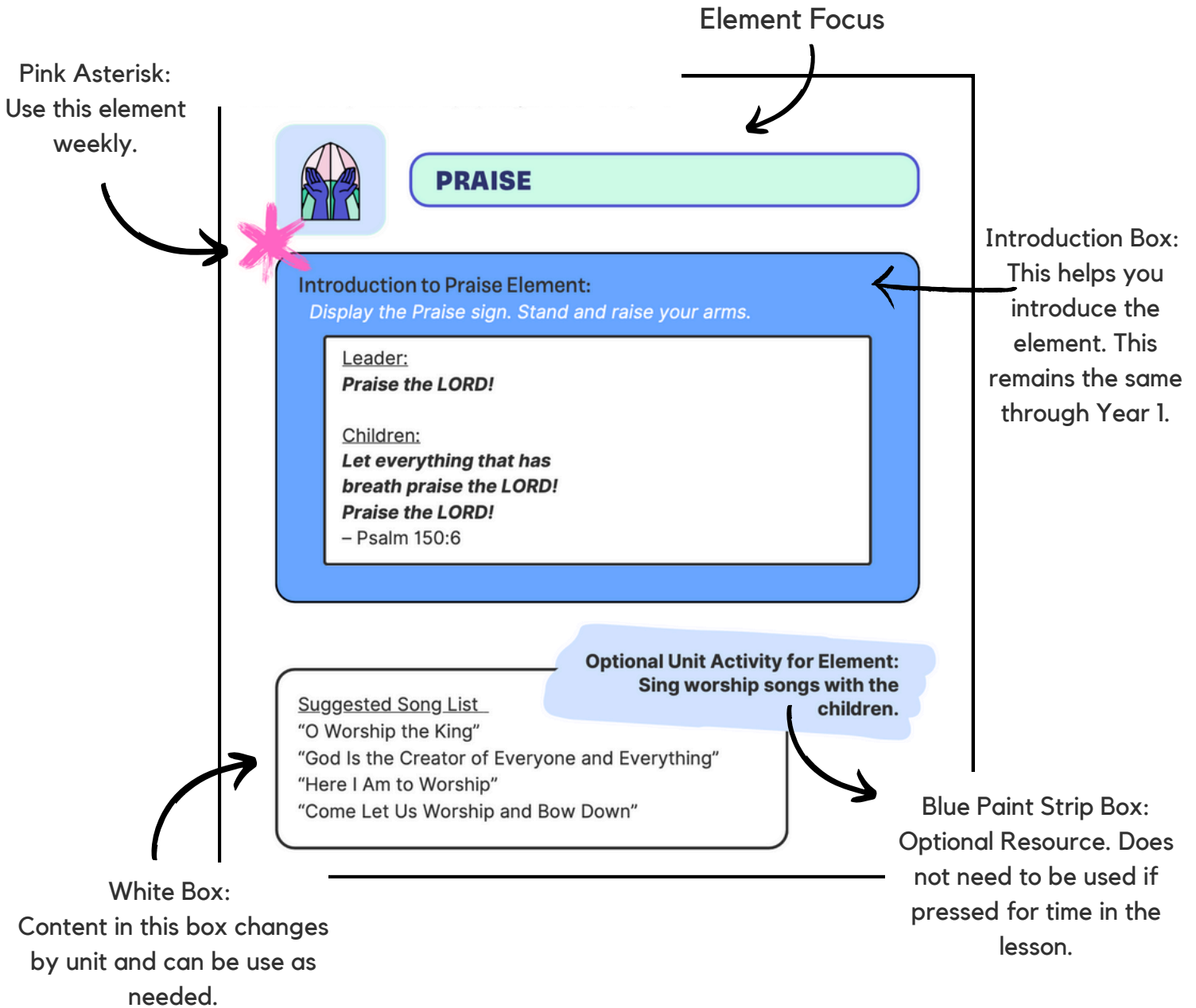
\* Some readers may object to the illustrations used to portray the human nature of Jesus ( *WLC* 109).

### **FIFTH SUNDAYS (4x a year)**

Each element of worship is structured into four-week units, allowing children to join the main worship service with their families on 5th Sundays. This provides an opportunity for them to practice what they've learned. Consider involving them in corporate worship by arranging for them to sing the Call to Worship or recite a memory verse.

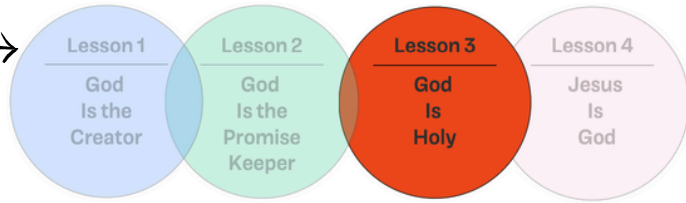
# EXPLORING THE ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP

## CURRICULUM KEY:



**EXPLORING THE ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP**  
**UNIT 1: CALL TO WORSHIP**  
**LESSON 3**

**Unit Main Idea:**  
 God calls His people to gather and worship Him.



**Lesson 3 Focus:** We worship God because He is holy.

**Lesson 3 Goals:** Children will know that God is holy and there is none like Him.

**Lesson 3 Vocabulary:** Holy: perfect and set apart, pure with no sin. Children's Definition: God is perfect and powerful. He does nothing wrong.

- Lesson 3 Supplies Needed:**
- A Bible
  - Clean strip of white fabric (one for each child if possible)
  - Dirty strip of white fabric
  - Picture of Mt. Sinai
  - Staff for Moses
  - Recording of thunder
  - A line on the floor that the children can stand on

Use this phrase to frame the week's focus and tie back to the unit's main point.

Unit 1: Call to Worship - God calls His people to gather and worship Him.

**CONFESSION OF SIN**

Introduction to Confession of Sin Element:  
*Sing together:*

**What can wash away my sins?**  
 (Circular motion like washing a window.)

Elements without an asterisk can be used as needed or if you want to mirror what your church does in corporate worship.

**Additional Activities:**

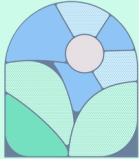
- \* God's Story Bible Coloring Book page 39.
- \* The children can also reenact the story with each other using the peg people.

Pink circles: These additional activities can be added when needed in the lesson plan.

# **EXPLORING THE ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP**

## **CURRICULUM YEAR 1 OUTLINE**

### **UNIT 1: WE GATHER TO WORSHIP**



#### **We worship God together.**

- Lesson 1: We are the church. (1 Peter 2:4-5)
- Lesson 2: We worship only God. (Matthew 4:1-11)
- Lesson 3: We worship God through Jesus. (John 4:1-30)
- Lesson 4: We worship God together. (Acts 2:42-47)

### **UNIT 2: CALL TO WORSHIP**



#### **God calls His people to gather and worship Him.**

- Lesson 1: God Is the Creator (Genesis 1)
- Lesson 2: God Is the Promise Keeper (Genesis 12:1-3, 15:1-6)
- Lesson 3: God Is Holy (Exodus 19 & 20)
- Lesson 4: Jesus Is God (Matthew 17:1-8)

### **UNIT 3: PRAYER**



#### **We talk to God through prayer.**

- Lesson 1: We thank God in prayer. (Daniel 6)
- Lesson 2: We pray God's kingdom will grow. (Matthew 6:9-13)
- Lesson 3: We bring requests to God in prayer. (I Samuel 1)
- Lesson 4: We confess our sins in prayer. (Luke 5:17-26)

### **UNIT 4: PRAISE**



#### **We gather to praise God with all our being!**

- Lesson 1: All creation praises God! (Psalm 148)
- Lesson 2: We praise God with our songs. (Exodus 15:1-21)
- Lesson 3: We praise God with our words. (Luke 17:11-19)
- Lesson 4: We praise God with our bodies. (Acts 16:25-34)

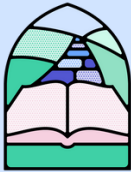
## UNIT 5: READING THE WORD



### God speaks to His people through His Word.

Lesson 1: God spoke to Moses from a burning bush. (Exodus 3:1-12)  
Lesson 2: God called to Samuel when he was a boy. (1 Samuel 3)  
Lesson 3: Jesus called his disciples. (Matthew 4:18-22)  
Lesson 4: Jesus told Lazarus, "Come out!" (John 11:1-44)

## UNIT 6: WALKING IN THE WORD



### God's Word teaches His people how to live.

Lesson 1: God told Noah to build an ark. (Genesis 6:9-7:5)  
Lesson 2: God called Abraham to make a sacrifice. (Genesis 22:1-19)  
Lesson 3: Jesus called Zacchaeus to come out of the tree. (Luke 19:1-10)  
Lesson 4: Jesus called Paul while he was traveling. (Acts 9:1-19)

## UNIT 7: CONFESSION OF SIN



### Because God loves us, we can confess our sins to Him.

Lesson 1: Sin separates us from God. (Genesis 3)  
Lesson 2: King David sinned against the LORD. (2 Samuel 12)  
Lesson 3: King Josiah repented when the scroll of the law was found and read to him. (2 Chronicles 34-35:19)  
Lesson 4: We are all like sheep who have gone astray. (Isaiah 53:6, John 10:1-18)

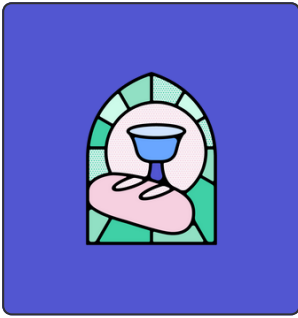
## UNIT 8: ASSURANCE OF PARDON



### We know we are forgiven because we belong to God and Jesus died for our sins.

Lesson 1: Jesus told the story of a father who forgave his son. (Luke 15:11-16)  
Lesson 2: Jesus forgave a sinful woman. (Luke 7:36-50)  
Lesson 3: Jesus healed a paralytic and forgave him. (Mark 2:1-12)  
Lesson 4: Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches, and we are forgiven because we are in him. (John 15:1-17)

## UNIT 9: SACRAMENTS



**God gives us signs to proclaim His love for us and seal us as His own.**

Lesson 1: God told His people to celebrate Passover. (Exodus 12)  
Lesson 2: Jesus instituted a new meal to celebrate as God's people. (Matthew 26:17-29)  
Lesson 3: Jesus is baptized. (Matthew 3:13-17)  
Lesson 4: The jailer believes in Jesus, and he is baptized with his family. (Acts 16:25-34)

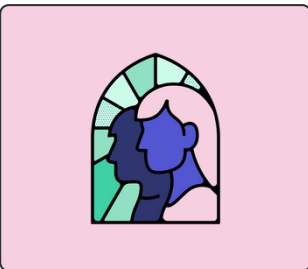
## UNIT 10: TITHES & OFFERING



**Everything belongs to the Lord!**

Lesson 1: Because we belong to the Lord, we give to Him. (Genesis 4)  
Lesson 2: Because we belong to the Lord, we trust He will provide for us. (Luke 21:1-4)  
Lesson 3: Because we belong to the Lord, we care for others. (Ruth)  
Lesson 4: Because we belong to the Lord, we care for His creation. (Genesis 1:26-28, Genesis 2:15)

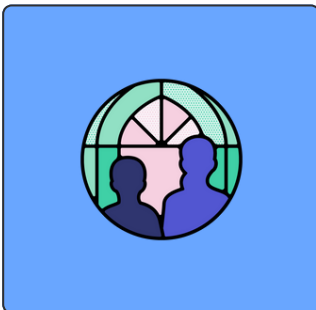
## UNIT 11: CONFESSION OF FAITH



**We gather and affirm what we, as God's people, believe.**

Lesson 1: We believe by faith alone. (I Samuel 17:1-54)  
Lesson 2: We believe that Jesus is God. (Mark 4:35-41)  
Lesson 3: We believe there is only one God. (I Kings 18)  
Lesson 4: We believe in the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:1-12)

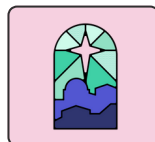
## UNIT 12: BENEDICTION



**God sends us with His blessing.**

Lesson 1: The LORD watches over you. (Mark 10:13-16)  
Lesson 2: Jesus tells His disciples to make disciples of all nations. (Matthew 28:16-20)  
Lesson 3: The church is born to share the good news of Jesus. (Acts 8:26-40)  
Lesson 4: Jesus is coming again! (Jude 24, Revelation 22:12-14)

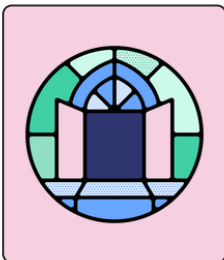
**ADDITIONAL  
UNITS:**



**CHRISTMAS**



**EASTER**



## EXPLORING THE ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP

### UNIT 2: CALL TO WORSHIP

### Unit Main Idea:

God calls His people to gather and worship Him.

### Unit 2 Outline:

#### Lesson 1

God  
Is the  
Creator

Genesis 1

#### Lesson 2

God  
Is the  
Promise  
Keeper

Genesis 12:1-3,  
15:1-6

#### Lesson 3

God  
Is  
Holy

Exodus 19 & 20

#### Lesson 4

Jesus  
Is  
God

Matthew 17:1-8

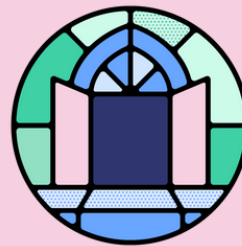
## **Unit 2: Call to Worship Memory Verse:**

**Oh come,  
let us worship  
and bow down;  
let us kneel  
before the  
LORD our  
Maker!  
Psalm 95:6**



# CALL TO WORSHIP

## *Introduction*



### ***God calls His people to gather and worship Him.***

The Call to Worship begins the corporate worship service. The Lord spoke the universe into existence by the power of His Word, and now, with the same voice, He is calling His people into His presence to worship Him. It is not merely an invitation to gather but a summons from the Creator to clear our hearts and minds and focus on Him. The Call to Worship reminds us that God Himself has instituted worship and, through His Word, has told His people how to worship Him (*WCF* 21).

The Call to Worship also reminds us that God is the Initiator, and we respond to His calling. This is the rhythm of worship. It is a beautiful privilege to gather as His people and, along with the heavenly hosts, be invited to praise the King of the Universe. Along with this beautiful privilege comes a weighty responsibility. The triune God, who is sovereign over all, is worthy of our worship. He commands us to worship none but Him (Ex. 20:3-6). While the Call to Worship may vary from church to church, the purpose is the same: God is calling His people out of their everyday lives and responsibilities to come and worship Him.

**And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who is seated on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, "Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they existed and were created."**

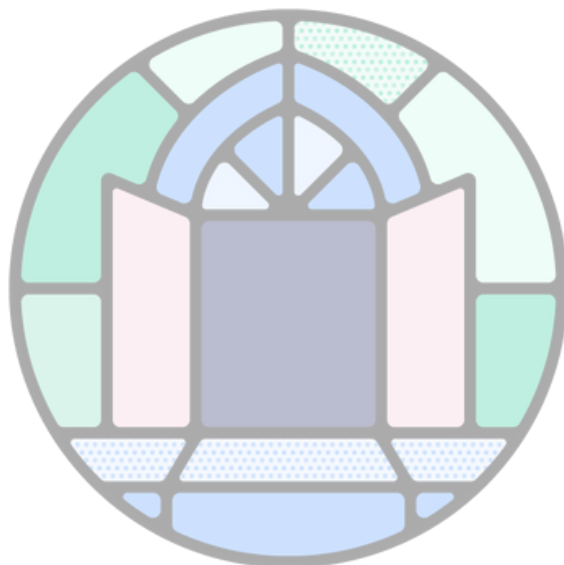
**REVELATION 4:9-11**

What a beautiful reminder of who we are and who God is! We, broken sinners made whole by His mercy, are called by the King of Kings to lift our voices alongside the heavenly hosts. Through Christ alone, we enter the presence of the Creator of all things—the One who upholds the universe by the word of His power.

As we enter His courts with praise, let us marvel that the voice which spoke life at the dawn of creation now calls us into life eternal through His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

## TEACHING OUR COVENANT CHILDREN

We want our children to understand that the Call to Worship is more than the start of a church service; it is a sacred moment setting this time apart. It reminds us worship is not just another event on our schedule but a divine invitation from God to come into His presence as His beloved family. Our covenant children are an essential part of this family!



## ELEMENT SPOTLIGHT

In this unit we will teach the children about the element of worship: Call to Worship. Display the Call to Worship sign. As you introduce this element of worship, you can use the following dialogue in the first lesson and then review it in the following lessons. (Teacher's words are bold and instructions are not.)

**When we come to church, we begin the service with the call to worship.** (Hold up the call to worship sign.) **Do you know what this means? Let's think about what it means to "call" someone.** (Let the children answer.) **It might mean that we call them on the phone, or we call them to come over to us.**

**We come to church because God calls us! He doesn't use the phone; instead, He has taught us in the Bible that God calls all His people to come together and worship Him. You can remember God calls us by placing your hands around your mouth as if you are going to call someone.** (Demonstrate this to the children.) **God is calling you, because you are part of His family, and He wants all His family to worship Him together!**

**What is worship?** (Let the children answer.) **Worship is when we praise God. We remember that God is the Creator of all things, He loves us, and He calls us to obey Him. God calls us to come to church to worship Him together! How do we worship God when we are here on Sunday morning?** (Let the children answer.) **We sing to Him, we pray to Him, and we read the Bible together. We remember that we belong to God.**

**These are the elements of worship for Unit 2, Lessons 1-4.**

(You will only need to print once to use over the course of the four lessons.)



## CALL TO WORSHIP

### Introduction to Call to Worship Element

Display the **Call to Worship** worship sign.

Call and response, then sing together:

Leader sings:

**Bless the LORD Oh my soul!**

(Cup hands around mouth as if calling.)

Children sing:

**And all that is within me, bless His holy name!**

– Psalm 103:1

**Optional Unit Activity for Element: Unit  
Memory Verse**

Psalm 95:6

### **Oh come**

(Repeatedly pull your hands to yourself in a circular motion.)

### **Let us worship**

(Raise both arms above your head.)

### **And bow down;**

(Hold right arm with a fist on forehead. Hold left arm out, ready to receive. Move right hand with fist to rest in the left hand.)

### **Let us kneel**

(Raise both arms above head and move down to a bow.)

### **Before the LORD our Maker!**

(Raise left arm above head and move right hand making an "L" with fingers to the top of left shoulder. Move "L" across body like a seatbelt.)



## PRAISE

### Introduction to Praise Element:

Display the **Praise** worship sign. Stand and raise your arms.

Leader:

**Praise the LORD!**

Children:

**Let everything that has  
breath praise the LORD!**

**Praise the LORD!**

– Psalm 150:6

**Optional Unit Activity for Element:  
Sing worship songs with the children.**

### Suggested Song List

“O Worship the King”

“Come Let Us Worship and Bow Down”



## PRAYER

### Introduction to Prayer Element:

Display the **Prayer** worship sign. Leader and children sing:

**Open, shut them. Open, shut them,**

(Open and close eyes and hands.)

**God hears us today.**

(Point to ears.)

**Open, shut them. Open, shut them,**

(Open and close eyes and hands.)

**It is time to pray.**

(Put hands together and bow heads in prayer.)

Focus prayers on different aspects for each lesson. Use the suggestions below or choose your own. Lead the children in prayer, or invite a child to pray. Have them pray by repeating after you.

Lesson 1:

**Give a prayer of adoration and thanksgiving to our Creator.**

Lesson 2:

**Give a prayer of confession to our promise-keeping God.**

Lesson 3:

**Give a prayer of thanksgiving to our God who is holy.**

Lesson 4:

**Give a prayer of supplication (request) to Jesus who is God.**



## CLOSING

The closing will indicate the end of your time with the children. We encourage you to send the children back to church to be a part of the benediction.

Option 1. You may sing “The Doxology” with hand motions.

### **Praise God**

(Lift both hands up toward the sky.)

**from whom all blessings flow.**

(Wiggle fingers and move hands downward like rain.)

### **Praise Him**

(Lift both hands up again.)

**all creatures here below.**

(Sweep arms outward and down, gesturing to everything around you.)

### **Praise Him above**

(Point both hands upward.)

**you heavenly host.**

(Flap hands like angel wings near shoulders.)

### **Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

(Hold up three fingers, then bring hands together in front of your chest.)

### **Amen.**

(Fold hands in prayer or lift them up once more.)

Option 2. You may also choose to say with hand motions.

Leader: **Let us go forth and serve our city and our world as those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

All: **We will go forth and serve our city and our world in the name of Christ.**

Use these additional elements of worship if you need more material or if it helps you mirror what your church does in corporate worship.



## TITHES & OFFERINGS

### Introduction to Tithes & Offerings Element:

Display the **Tithes and Offerings** worship sign.

Sing together:

**God is so good.  
God is so good.  
God is so good.  
He's so good to me.**

**Optional Unit Activity for Element:**  
If you pass around an offering basket, you can ask the following questions as you pass it.

If you pass around an offering basket, you can ask the following questions as you pass it.

**What can we give to God?** *Our love, our time, our prayers, our money, etc.*

(Pray) **Thank you, God, for all You have given to us. Please help us give to You with all our hearts because You love us and have made us Your children.**





## CONFESSION OF FAITH

### Introduction to Confession of Faith Element:

Display the **Confession of Faith** worship sign.

Call and response:

Leader:

**What do we believe?**

(Hold hands out as you ask the question.)

All:

**We believe**

(Point to your head and then place both hands over your heart.)

**in God**

(Point upward with one hand.)

**the Father**

(Hold both arms out in front as if cradling a child.)

**Almighty,**

(Flex both arms to show strength.)

**Maker**

(Pretend to shape something with your hands, like molding clay.)

**of heaven**

(Raise both hands up toward the sky.)

**and earth!**

(Bring both hands down and touch the ground.)

### Optional Unit Activity for Element:

Use *The Children's Catechism Classroom* by Simply the Gospel to teach the following catechism question. You may use the same question for the entire unit, or you may add additional catechism questions if you have time.

### First Catechism Questions 1-2

Q1. Who made you?

A. God.

Q2. What else did God make?

A. God made all things.



## CONFESSION OF SIN

### Introduction to Confession of Sin Element:

Display the **Confession of Sin** worship sign.

Sing together:

**What can wash away my sins?**

(Circular motion like washing a window.)

**Nothing but the blood of Jesus.**

(Shaking head no and raising finger.)

**Optional Unit Activity for Element:  
Read the following confession. Have  
the children repeat after you.**

**We have sinned against God with our thoughts**

(point to your head),

**with our words**

(put hand on lips and move it out),

**with our deeds**

(march in place).



## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Introduction to the Assurance of Pardon Element:

Display the **Assurance of Pardon** worship sign. Call and response:

Leader:

**As far as the east**

(spread out your right arm)

**Is from the west,**

(spread out your left arm)

Everyone:

**He has removed our sins from us!**

(Motion for pushing something away)

Psalm 103:12

**Optional Unit Activity for Element:  
Read the following assurance with  
great joy!**

**“For God so loved the world**

(sign for world: hold fingers like a “W” and make a circle in front of you with your arms)

**that He gave His only Son,**

(sign for Jesus, point to the place in your hands where the nails would have been)

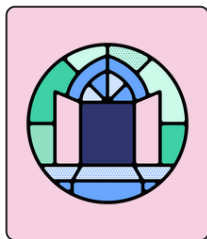
**that whoever believes in Him should not perish**

(shake head no)

**but have eternal life.**

(raise arms upwards in joy)

– John 3:16



## **EXPLORING THE ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP**

### **UNIT 2: CALL TO WORSHIP LESSON 1-4 SUPPLY LIST**

#### **Lesson 1 Supplies Needed:**

- A Bible
- *God's Story Bible Coloring Book* from Great Commission Publications page 11.
- Crayons or markers
- *Creation Illustrated Scripture Flip Book* by Simply the Gospel
- Modeling clay, enough for each child (any color) (optional)

#### **Lesson 2 Supplies Needed:**

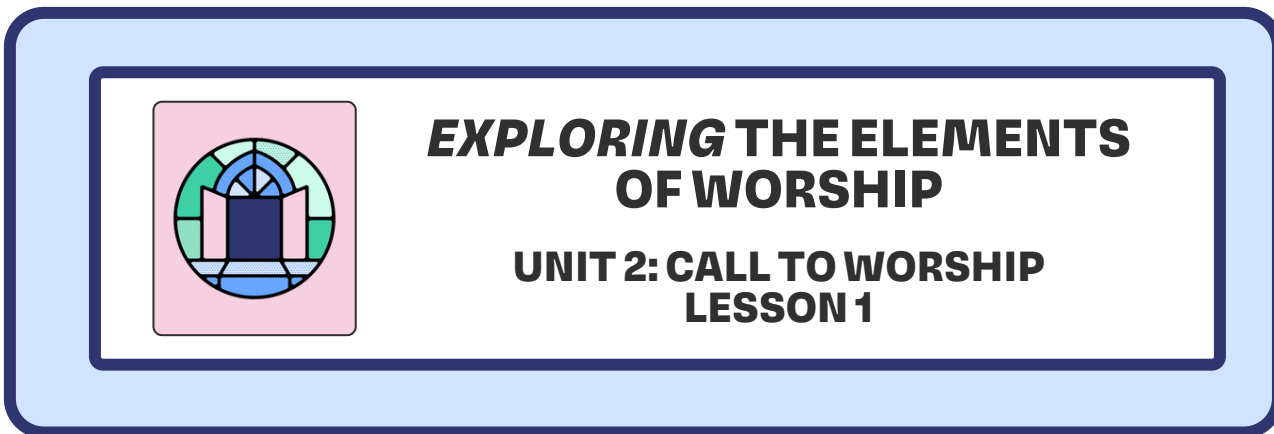
- A Bible
- *God's Story Bible Coloring Book* from Great Commission Publications page 39.
- Crayons or markers
- 3 (12"x12") squares of felt (green or brown)
- Picture of a nation of people
- Peg people (each child will hold one)
- *God's Big Picture Bible Storybook* by N.T. Wright page 16 (optional)

#### **Lesson 3 Supplies Needed:**

- A Bible
- Clean strip of white fabric (one for each child if possible)
- Dirty strip of white fabric
- Picture of Mt. Sinai
- Staff for Moses
- Recording of thunder
- A line on the floor that the children can stand on
- *God's Big Picture Bible Storybook* by N.T. Wright page 44 (optional)

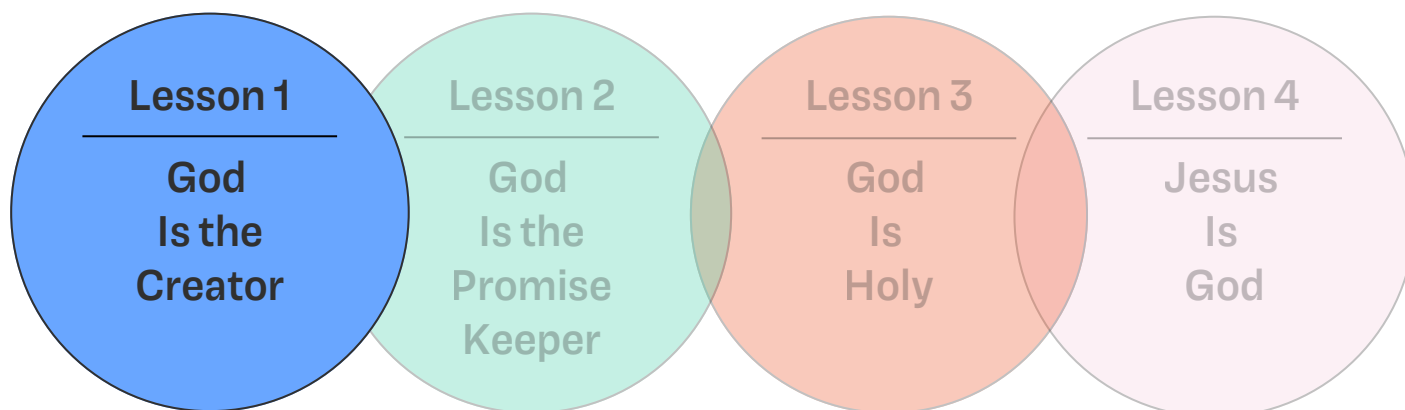
#### **Lesson 4 Supplies Needed:**

- A Bible
- *God's Story Bible Coloring Book* from Great Commission Publications
- Crayons or markers
- Flashlight (Optional – one for each child)
- Box with green felt over it for the "mountain"
- Peg people for Jesus, Peter, James, John, Moses, and Elijah
- Picture of Mt. Sinai from Unit 2: Lesson 3
- 3 (12"x12") squares of felt (green or brown)
- Picture of a nation of people
- Peg people (each child will hold one)
- *God's Big Picture Bible Storybook* by N.T. Wright page 176 (optional)



**Unit Main Idea:**

God calls His people to gather and worship Him.



**Lesson 1 Goals:**

- Children will know that God created all things.
- Children will know that we praise God because He is the Creator of all things.

**Lesson 1 Vocabulary:**

**Create:** to come into being  
Children’s Definition: to make something from nothing

### Lesson 1 Set the Stage:

This is intended to familiarize the children with the story you will be teaching today. You may choose to teach this when the children first come into the room before you begin your time together, or you may choose to teach this right before the lesson.

Take out the modeling clay and tell the children you are going to make a bowl. Make a bowl in front of them.

**If you didn't have the clay, could you make a bowl? No! In today's Bible story we are going to see that God created the world from nothing! That means He made everything, just by speaking. Only God can do that!**



## READING THE WORD

### Introduction to Reading the Word Element:

Display the **Reading the Word** worship sign.

Leader and children sing:

Children (singing):

**Your word**

Leader(singing):

**is a lamp to my feet.**

Children (singing):

**Your word**

Leader(singing):

**and a light to my path.**

– Psalm 119:105

Additional Scripture for Teachers:  
Psalm 95:6-7

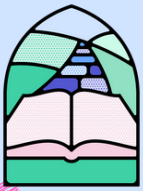
To help children understand that this is God's Word, read the passage from a Bible.

Genesis 1:1

**In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.**

Genesis 1:31

**And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good.  
And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.**



## WALKING IN THE WORD

### Introduction to Walking in the Word Element:

Display the **Walking in the Word** worship sign.

Call and response:

Leader:

(Place your hand behind your ear to signify listening.)

**And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying,**

Children:

(Children can walk in place.)

**This is the way, walk in it.**

– Isaiah 30:21

### Lesson 1 Teaching:

Teach the story to the children using the text below as a guide. Use creation images to help illustrate the story.

**God calls us, His people, to worship Him. That is why you came to church this morning!**

**God tells us in His Bible to come together and worship Him! Isn't that exciting?  
We worship God because He is the Creator of all things.**

**Let's look at all God made.** (Hold up the images for each day of creation. If you have enough time you may want to read through Genesis 1 as you hold up the images. At the end of each day you can say, "God saw that it was..." and the children can respond, "GOOD!")

## **Lesson 1 Discussion Questions:**

### **How did God create our world?**

*God spoke, and it was created.*

### **What did God say about His creation?**

*He said it was VERY GOOD!*

### **When you go outside, I wonder what you see.**

*(Let children respond.)*

### **Did God create those things?**

*Yes!*

### **Did God create you?**

*Yes! God created all people.*

### **I wonder how we could say, "Thank You, God," for what He has created.**

*We can take care of His creation.*

### **I wonder what people can create. We create pictures, buildings, etc.**

### **Can you create the same way God creates?**

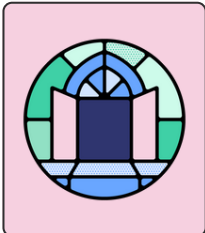
*No. We can't speak things into being because we are not God. But we were created to show the world who God is.*

*He is the first Creator, and we can create using what God has given us.*

### **Additional Activities:**

- \* Give each child modeling clay. Ask them to create a ball. Then allow them to create other things and share with the class.
- \* **God's Story Bible Coloring Book** page 11.



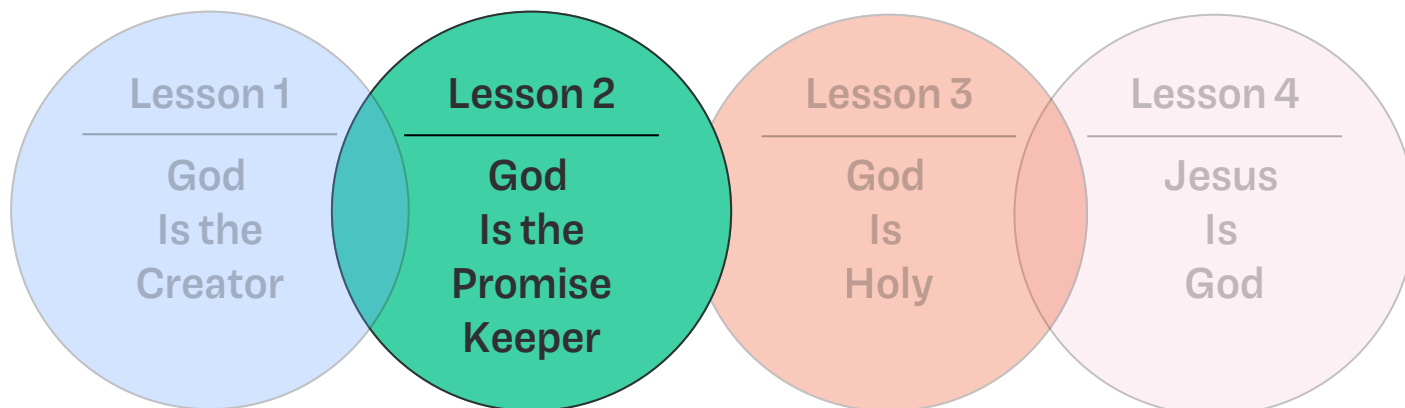


**EXPLORING THE ELEMENTS  
OF WORSHIP**

**UNIT 2: CALL TO WORSHIP  
LESSON 2**

**Unit Main Idea:**

God calls His people to gather and worship Him.



**Lesson 2 Goals:**

- Children will know that God made a big promise to Abraham.
- Children will know that God always keeps His promises.

**Lesson 2 Vocabulary:**

**Bless:** God’s favor upon His people  
**Children’s Definition:** God promises to love His people and take care of them.  
**Nation:** a large group of people who live in the same place

## **Lesson 2 Set the Stage:**

This is intended to familiarize the children with the story you will be teaching today. You may choose to teach this when the children first come into the room before you begin your time together, or you may choose to teach this right before the lesson.

**In today's story we are going to hear about a man named Abraham.** (Hold up a peg person in your hand.) **He lived thousands of years ago, even long before Jesus was born.**

**God made a promise to Abraham. He promised Abraham that he would be blessed. Do you know what that means? Blessed means loved by God.** (Cross your arms over your chest as if giving a hug.) **We are blessed because we are loved by God.** (Have the children cross their arms over their chests with you.)

**God also promised Abraham that his family would become so big that it would be a great nation.** (Hold up the picture of the nation.) **That is a lot of people! And this nation would be blessed. That means it would be loved by God!** (Hug yourself again and have the children do the same.)



## READING THE WORD

### Introduction to Reading the Word Element:

Display the **Reading the Word** worship sign.

Leader and children sing:

Children (singing):

**Your word**

Leader(singing):

**is a lamp to my feet.**

Children (singing):

**Your word**

Leader(singing):

**and a light to my path.**

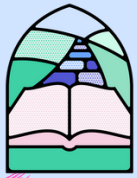
– Psalm 119:105

Additional Scripture for Teachers:  
Genesis 15:5-6, Galatians 3:29

To help children understand that this is God's Word, read the passage from a Bible. Tell the children to cross their arms over their chests as if giving themselves a hug when they hear the word "bless."

Genesis 12:1-3

**Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go away from your country and your family to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will not bless, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."**



## WALKING IN THE WORD

### Introduction to Walking in the Word Element:

Display the **Walking in the Word** worship sign.

Call and response:

Leader:

(Place your hand behind your ear to signify listening.)

**And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying,**

Children:

(Children can walk in place.)

**"This is the way, walk in it."**

– Isaiah 30:21

### Lesson 2 Teaching:

Teach the story to the children using the text below as a guide.

(Place three felt squares in different places, like a baseball diamond, around your teaching space. Place the peg person on the first square closest to you.)

**Have you ever had to leave your house and move to another one? Do you know anyone who has moved far away? God called Abraham to leave his home and go to live in a place he had never seen before.**

(Move the peg person to the next square. Add another peg person for Sarah, his wife.) **It was hard for Abraham to move so far away from home. He took his wife, Sarah, but he had to say goodbye to the rest of his family. He would not be able to call them, because there were no phones.**

## Lesson 2 Teaching Continued:

**He would not be able to FaceTime with them, because there were no videos and no computers. He would not even be able to write them a letter because there was no mail! Abraham was called to trust that God was good and His plan was good. And God made a very big promise to Abraham.**

(Move Abraham and Sarah to the third square. Hold up three fingers.) **God's promise to Abraham had three parts.**

(Hold up one finger.) **First, God promised to give Abraham land where his family would live.**

(Hold up two fingers.) **Second, God promised Abraham a family that would become HUGE. There would be so many people in his family they would become a nation!** (Show the picture of the nation again to the children.)

(Hold up three fingers. Hug yourself and have the children do the same.) **"Blessed" means they would be loved by God! That is a big promise!**

**Can you help me remember all the parts to of this promise that God made to Abraham?**

(Hold up one finger.) **God said, "I will give you land."** (Pat the ground with your hands.)

(Hold up two fingers.) **God said, "I will make your family grow into a nation."** (Spread your arms out wide.)

(Hold up three fingers.) **God said, "I will bless you and your family."** (Hug yourself.)

(You can repeat this with the children.)

**What a big promise! And it is a promise only God could keep. God never breaks a promise.**

**God kept all His promises to Abraham. Abraham's family got to live in the land God had promised them.** (Pat the ground with your hands and have the children do this with you.) **Abraham's family grew and grew.** (Spread your arms out wide and have the children do this with you.) **And Abraham's family was blessed.** (Hug yourself and have the children hug themselves.)

## Lesson 2 Teaching Continued:

(Give each child a peg person. Let them each put their person on a square next to Abraham and Sarah so that there are many people all together. Put a small peg person in the middle of all the people.) **Abraham's family grew and grew. Abraham's grandson had grandchildren, and on and on it went. And one day, many, many years later, a special child was born into Abraham's family. His name was Jesus! And when Jesus came, He made all people who believe in Him part of Abraham's family! Wow! We are part of God's big promise to Abraham! What a great promise-keeping God we serve!**

## Lesson 2 Discussion Questions:

**I wonder how Abraham felt when he had to leave his family.**

(Allow children to respond.)

**Are the people in your family part of Abraham's family?**

*Yes! When we believe in Jesus, we become part of Abraham's family!*

**Does God always keep His promises?**

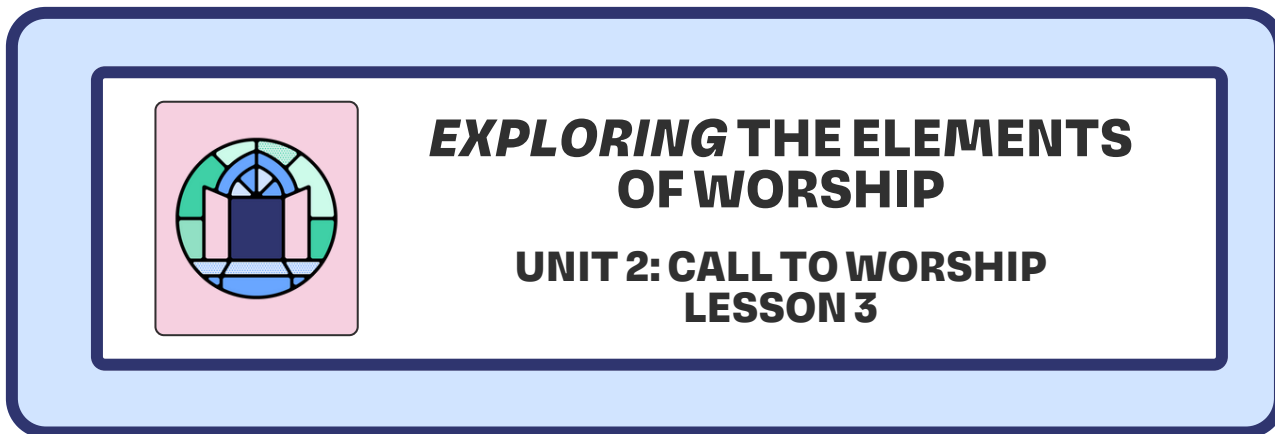
*Yes! He is a promise-keeping God.*

**What promises does God make to us?**

*He promises to always love us no matter what, to be with us, to take care of us.*

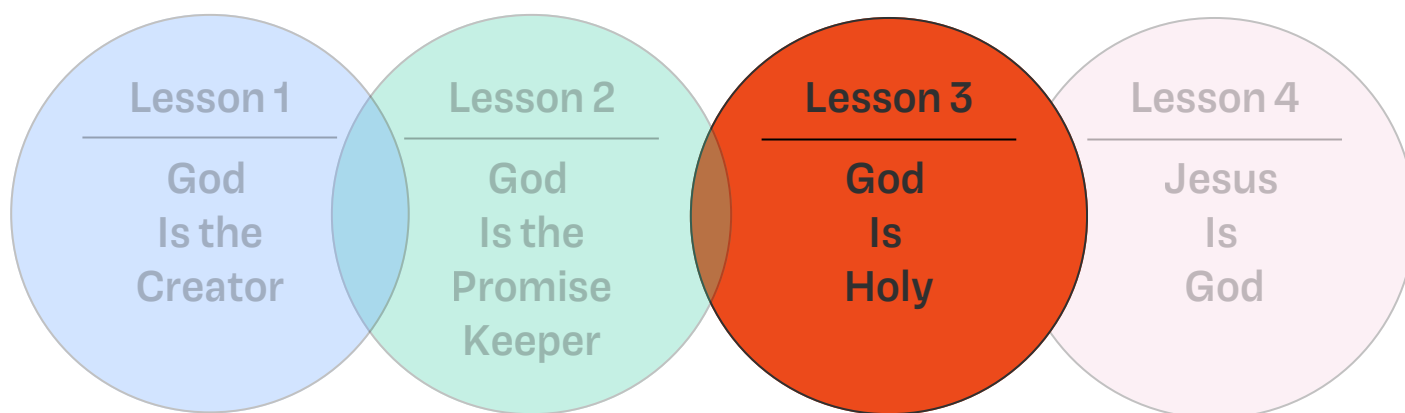
### Additional Activities:

- \* **God's Story Bible Coloring Book** page 39.
- \* The children can also reenact the story with each other using the peg people.



### Unit Main Idea:

God calls His people to gather and worship Him.



### Lesson 3 Goal:

- Children will know that God is holy and there is none like Him.

### Lesson 3 Vocabulary:

**Holy:** perfect and set apart, pure with no sin

Children's Definition: God is perfect and powerful. He does nothing wrong.

### **Lesson 3 Set the Stage:**

This is intended to familiarize the children with the story you will be teaching today. You may choose to teach this when the children first come into the room before you begin your time together, or you may choose to teach this right before the lesson.

(Hold up the white strip of fabric.) **Look at this fabric. Can you tell me something about it?** *It is white, it is clean.*

(Hold up the dirty fabric.) **Now look at this piece of fabric. Can you tell me something about it?** *It is white, but it is dirty. It needs to be washed.*

**God is holy. That means He is powerful, perfect and clean. He is like the clean piece of fabric that has no dirt. God does not sin. There is no one like Him. We praise Him because He is holy.**

**But we are not like the clean, white fabric. We are like this dirty piece of cloth. Do you know why? Because we are not holy. We sin against God. We do not love God with all our hearts, and we do not love our friends and neighbors as much as ourselves. Just like the dirty fabric needs to go in the wash, we need to be cleaned. And Jesus washed our sins away with His blood when He died on the cross!**

(Show the picture of Mt. Sinai.) **In our story today, we are going to see how God was with His people at Mt. Sinai. This is Mt. Sinai. It would be hard to climb! God came to this mountain and showed His people that He is holy. He is powerful, perfect, and has no sin.**





## READING THE WORD

### Introduction to Reading the Word Element:

Display the **Reading the Word** worship sign.

Leader and children sing:

Children (singing):

**Your word**

Leader(singing):

**is a lamp to my feet.**

Children (singing):

**Your word**

Leader(singing):

**and a light to my path.**

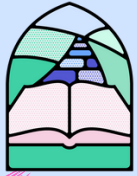
– Psalm 119:105

Additional Scripture for Teachers:  
Exodus and 1 Peter 2:9

To help children understand that this is God's Word, read the passage from a Bible.

Exodus 20:1-3

**And God spoke all these words saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me."**



## WALKING IN THE WORD

### Introduction to Walking in the Word Element:

Display the **Walking in the Word** worship sign.

Call and response:

Leader:

(Place your hand behind your ear to signify listening.)

**And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying,**

Children:

(Children can walk in place.)

**“This is the way, walk in it.”**

– Isaiah 30:21

### Lesson 3 Teaching:

**Teacher Note:** The Israelites were freed from slavery to Egypt by the miraculous work of God. They had crossed the Red Sea, and Pharaoh’s army had drowned. God had provided water and manna for them. Now they were at Mount Sinai. At Mount Sinai God said to Moses, “You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, you shall be My treasured possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel” (Exodus 19:4-6).

Then, God gathered the people at Mount Sinai to teach them how to live as His people, a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. God would give them His law. They would need to obey His law—not to be considered worthy, but because they had already been redeemed and set apart by God. Following God’s law would allow them to live as God had created them to live.

### Lesson 3 Teaching Continued:

Teach the story to the children using the text below as a guide.

**What have we learned about God? We have learned that He is the Creator of everyone and everything. We have also learned that He is a promise-keeper. Do you remember His promise to Abraham? It had three parts.**

(Hold up one finger.) **God promised Abraham land.** (Pat the ground with your hands.)

(Hold up two fingers.) **God promised Abraham a big family.** (Spread your arms out wide.)

(Hold up three fingers.) **God promised Abraham blessing.** (Hug yourself.)

(Repeat again with the children.)

**Today we are going to pretend that we are the Israelites who lived a long time ago. They were part of Abraham's family, born many years after Abraham. They were part of God's promise to Abraham, just like you and I are!**

**I am going to pretend to be Moses, and I am going to lead you.** (Have the children line up behind you. Lead them throughout the room as you review the story. As you have time, you can stop and act it out with the children.)

**The Israelites had been slaves in Egypt. They were owned by other people, and they had to work extremely hard for them. They cried out to God for help, and He saved them. He freed them from slavery and told them He was going to take them to their own land, the land He had promised Abraham.** (If you have time, you can reenact walking through the Red Sea.)

**The Israelites walked through the desert with Moses leading them. When they ran out of water, they prayed to God, and God made water come out of a rock when Moses struck the rock with his staff. Can you imagine water coming out of a rock?**

**When they ran out of food, God told them that when they woke up in the morning, a special bread would be on the ground for them to eat. And when they woke up the next day, there was bread called manna, and they were no longer hungry! Can you imagine finding bread all over the ground outside?**

**God was taking care of His people! He loved them so much that He wanted to give them something incredibly special. He wanted to give them instructions so that they would know how to love Him and obey Him.**

### **Lesson 3 Teaching Continued:**

(Go to the line you have taped on the floor and tell the children to line up and listen carefully.) **Moses took God's people to Mt. Sinai. He told them that God would be on the mountain, and He would give them instructions for how to live. All the people had to get ready for God to be there. Do you know what they had to do? They had to wash themselves clean and put on clean clothes.** (Pretend to do this. If you have a strip of white fabric that you can give to each child to put around her neck, go ahead and do this.)

**Now they were ready to meet God! But there were special instructions. The people could not cross the line and go up the mountain to meet God. If they tried to cross the line, they would die! God is holy. He is powerful, mighty, and perfect. He is the Creator of all things. Nobody could go up to God. His holiness is too powerful for sinful people.**

**The people waited at the bottom of the mountain.** (Play the thunder recording.) **Then they heard thunder and saw lightning. They saw a cloud on the mountain, and they heard a trumpet play. God was there.**

**God gave Moses His law for all the people. God told them they must worship only Him. He is the Creator who is the Promise-Keeper, and He is holy. He is the only thing worthy of our worship.**

**God's law taught His people how to live as His holy people. But on their own, God's people failed to obey God's law. They could not be perfectly holy like God. But God didn't want to be separated from His people. Do you know what He did? He sent His Son, Jesus, to earth. Jesus is holy because He is God's Son. When He died on the cross and rose again, He paid the price for all our sins. He took our sin and gave us His holiness!**

### **Lesson 3 Discussion Questions:**

(Once the children are sitting down again, you can discuss the following questions.)

#### **Why did God save His people from slavery in Egypt?**

*He loved them because they were His people and part of Abraham's family. He was keeping His promise to Abraham.*

#### **How did God take care of His people in the desert?**

*He gave them food and water.*

#### **I wonder if God's people liked walking in the desert.**

(Allow children to comment.)

#### **What did the people hear at Mt. Sinai?**

*They heard thunder and the sound of a trumpet.*

#### **I wonder how the people felt when they heard the loud thunder and the trumpet.**

(Allow children to comment.)

#### **What did the people see at Mt. Sinai?**

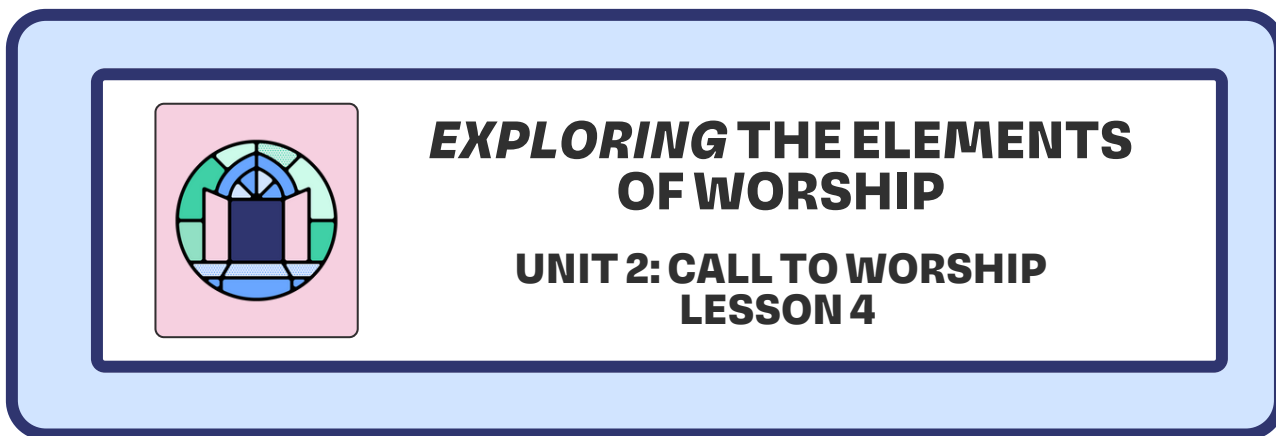
*They saw lightning and a cloud covering the mountain.*

#### **Why couldn't the people go up Mt. Sinai?**

*God was there. He is holy, which means He is perfect and strong and set apart. God's people were not holy. They were sinners like you and I are. God's holiness would be too powerful for them, and they would die.*

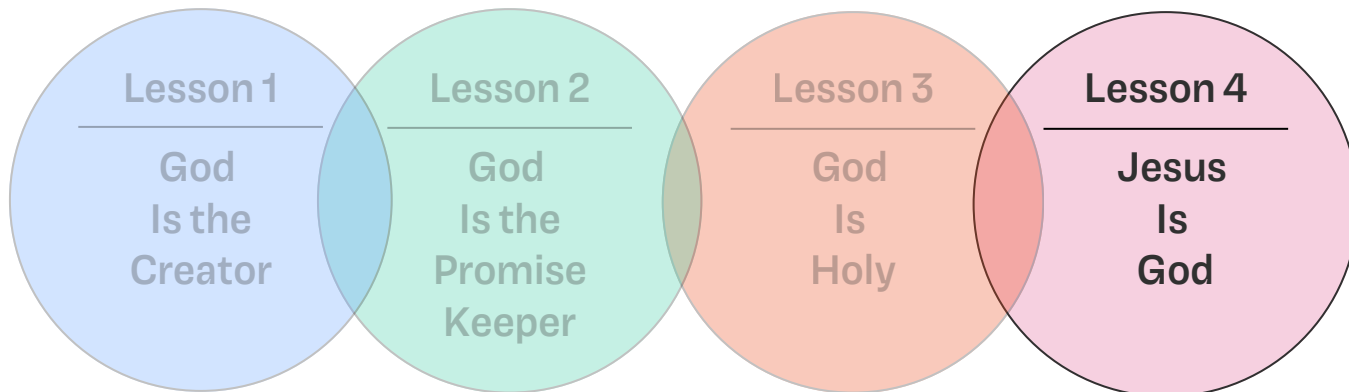
#### **Additional Activities:**

- \* Allow the children to reenact traveling through the desert. They can take turns being Moses.
- \* You can also read the story from a children's Bible.



### Unit Main Idea:

God calls His people to gather and worship Him.



### Lesson 4 Goals:

- Children will see that Jesus is holy because He is God.
- Children will know that we worship Jesus because He is God.

### Lesson 4 Vocabulary:

**Transfigured:** changed, totally different

**Disciples:** friends of Jesus who were His helpers. Peter, James, and John were disciples.

### **Lesson 4 Set the Stage:**

This is intended to familiarize the children with the story you will be teaching today. You may choose to teach this when the children first come into the room before you begin your time together, or you may choose to teach this right before the lesson.

**Do you remember what happened last week when Moses led God's people to Mt. Sinai? (Show the picture of Mt. Sinai.) There was thunder and lightning because God was there, and He is holy. Only Moses could go up the mountain.**

**Today in our story we are going to talk about another time when God's people went to a mountain.**



## READING THE WORD

### Introduction to Reading the Word Element:

Display the **Reading the Word** worship sign.

Leader and children sing:

Children (singing):

**Your word**

Leader(singing):

**is a lamp to my feet.**

Children (singing):

**Your word**

Leader(singing):

**and a light to my path.**

– Psalm 119:105

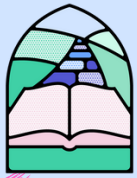
Additional Scripture for Teachers:  
2 Corinthians 3:17-18, 2 Peter 1:16-18,  
Revelation 1:12-17

To help children understand that this is God's Word, read the passage from a Bible.

Matthew 17:1-8

**And after six days Jesus took with Him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them, and His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with Him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If You wish, I will make three tents here, one for You and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.**





## WALKING IN THE WORD

### Introduction to Walking in the Word Element:

Display the **Walking in the Word** worship sign.

Call and response:

Leader:

(Place your hand behind your ear to signify listening.)

**And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying,**

Children:

(Children can walk in place.)

**"This is the way, walk in it."**

– Isaiah 30:21

### Lesson 4 Teaching:

Teach the story to the children using the text below as a guide.

**Last week we learned that God is holy. Remember what happened when God's people went to the mountain? They had to stand at the bottom of the mountain, and they could not go up to God because He is holy, and His holiness is too great for sinful people. Do you remember what the people heard?** (They heard thunder and a loud trumpet.) **Do you remember what they saw?** (They saw a big cloud over the mountain and lightning.)

**God does not want to be separated from His people. He loves us and He wants to be with us. Remember how God took care of His people while they were in the desert? He gave them water when they were thirsty and manna when they were hungry. He gave them His law so that His people would know how to live. But nobody can keep God's law perfectly because all people have been born with sinful hearts and would rather love themselves than God.**

## Lesson 4 Teaching Continued:

**So, do you know what God did? God sent His Son, Jesus, to come and live with His people. Jesus is a human, and He is also God. That means He is perfect and He is holy!**

**In our story today, Jesus went up on a mountain with three of His disciples, Peter, James, and John. While they were up on the mountain, Jesus was transfigured. That means He looked totally different. His face became bright like the sun, and His clothes became so white they were like a bright light.** (Shine a flashlight on the figure or let children shine their flashlights on him.) **Then there was a big cloud on the mountain and a voice said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him." Jesus is God!**

**The disciples were so afraid they fell on their faces!** (It would be good to show them what this means by bending to the ground with your face down.) **Do you know what Jesus did? He touched them! He said, "Rise, and have no fear." The disciples did not die even though they were on a mountain with Jesus—with God. And they did not die even when Jesus touched them! God sent Jesus to put an end to the separation between God and His people.**

**Jesus is God, and not long afterward, He would die on the cross to take away the sins of God's people. His blood paid for all our sins. Remember when the people had to wash their clothes and stand at the foot of Mt. Sinai with Moses because they couldn't approach God? Now, because Jesus's blood has washed our sinful hearts and made us clean, we can come before God with our prayers and desires and needs.**

**One day Jesus will come back again. He is the King of kings, and He will reign as King forever. Everything will be made new, just like our sinful hearts. There will be no more sin and no more brokenness. And we will get to be with Jesus forever and ever! Isn't that good news? We worship Jesus because He is God and the King of all Kings!**

#### **Lesson 4 Discussion Questions:**

**What happened to Jesus when He and His disciples went up on the mountain?**

*His face became like the sun, and His clothes became white as light.*

**I wonder what Peter, James, and John thought when they saw Jesus become totally different.**

**(Allow children to comment.)**

**What did God say from the cloud?**

*"This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him."*

**What did the disciples do when they saw Jesus and heard God speak?**

*They fell down on their faces.*

**Why did they do this?**

*They were afraid.*

**What did Jesus say and do to them?**


*"Do not be afraid." And He touched them.*

**Why do we sing to Jesus, pray to Jesus, and worship Jesus?**

*Because He is God! He loves us and He died for all our sins!*



#### **Additional Activities:**

 **God's Story Bible Coloring Book** page 207.