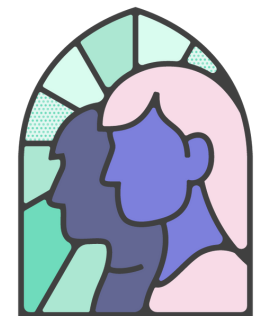
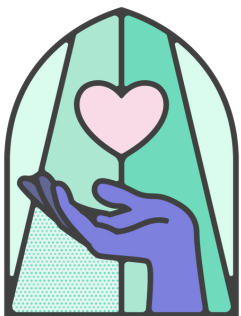
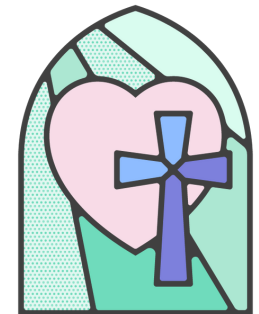
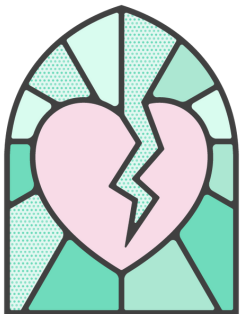
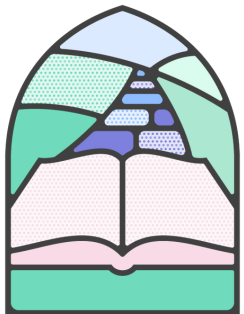


Exploring the Elements of Worship

Teaching the rhythm of corporate worship to our covenant children



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



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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 year-round 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.

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.[1]

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.[2]

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 is initiated by God when His people, through the blood of Christ, enter His presence and respond to Him.

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.[3]

[1] Nick Batzig, "What Is a Means of Grace?" *Tabletalk* 44, no. 6 (June 2020): 4.

[2] Bryan Chapell, *Christ-Centered Worship: Letting the Gospel Shape Our Practice* (Baker Academic, 2017), 15.

[3] Jason Helopoulos, *Let the Children Worship* (Christian Focus, 2016), 41.

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**

Exploring the Elements of Worship Curriculum

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, Reading the Word, Walking in the Word, Confession of Sin, Assurance of Pardon, Sacraments, Tithes and Offerings, Confession of Faith, 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 material 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.

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 referred to as "Suggested Elements and Lesson" in the online curriculum platform.) 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!

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 connections with students. For example, instead of assigning teachers to children's worship once every six weeks, have them teach for two consecutive months each year. This consistency also supports relationship-building, discipleship, and accountability.

Fifth Sundays (four times 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 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)

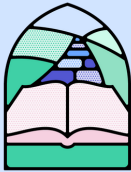
UNIT 5: READING THE WORD



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 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)

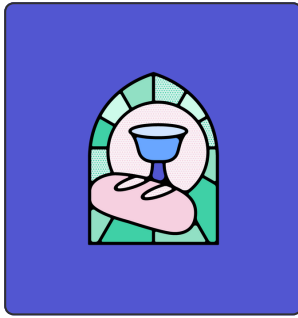
UNIT 8: ASSURANCE OF PARDON



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)

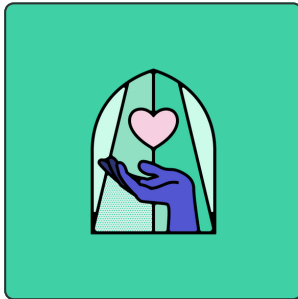
UNIT 9: SACRAMENTS



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)

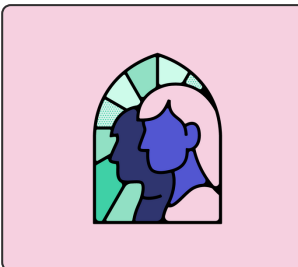
UNIT 10: TITHES & OFFERING



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)

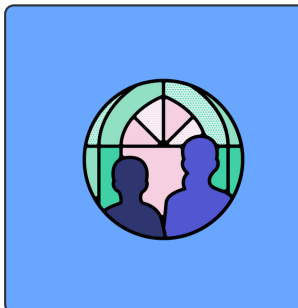
UNIT 11: CONFESSION OF FAITH



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)

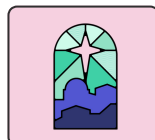
UNIT 12: BENEDICTION



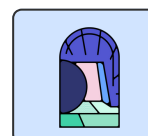
God sends us with His blessing.

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