

THE WONDER OF WORSHIP



THEOLOGICAL QUESTION

How can I really worship God in everything I do?

BIG IDEA

Our Triune God is worthy of our worship! We should worship Him in everything we do, and make His name known to those around us.

SCRIPTURE USED

Hebrews 13:15-16

Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to his name. And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God.

John 4:23-24

It's who you are and the way you live that count before God. Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of truth. That's the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are simply and honestly themselves before him in their worship. God is sheer being itself—Spirit. Those who worship him must do it out of their very being, their spirits, their true selves, in adoration (The Message).

Romans 12:1-2

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

OPENER (TWO OPTIONS)

Media Collage - Option #1

We want respect everyone's choices about media and be sensitive to your tech and internet availability. If the following activity does not work for you, please use Option #2, the Paper Collage.

For this Media Collage Opener you will need:

- **Enough computers / tablets / laptops for every group of 5-7 students**
- **Slips of paper**
- **Pens or pencils**
- **An internet connection that is already established prior to the activity**

Leader's note: You can bring or borrow tablets and laptops, but be sure they are already set up with WiFi access for your meeting space prior to your students' arrival. Using smartphones for this activity is also an option, however it does open the door for personal texting distractions during your precious time together. You are free to use your own judgment on whether smartphones are a good option for YOUR group.

Break students up in groups of 5-7, according to the number of devices you have available. Set a timer for 2:30 minutes and ask teams to quickly find the three best "pictures—NO WORDS—for "worship" that they can locate online. Each group should write down a brief description of each of their pictures on their individual slips of paper. Then, they must choose which one they think is the best representation of authentic worship.

After you call time, gather your students back into one large group. Ask a representative of each group to read their explanation of, and then show their small group's "best" picture to the whole group. Then, collect all the pieces of paper with the descriptions of the pictures on them, and read them to the group (including the "bests"). Discuss the similarities and differences in our interpretation of worship.

Paper Collage – Option #2 (for those who prefer a non-internet based activity)

For this Paper Collage Opener you will need:

- **Appropriate magazines or travel brochures for students to cut from, the more the better. If possible, obtain some magazines with nature-based content such as *National Geographic*, etc., or pick up some "nature travel" brochures and magazines from a travel agency**
- **Construction paper or card stock**
- **Several pairs of scissors for sharing**
- **Glue sticks, glue dots, tape or rubber cement**

Ask students to create a collage entitled "This is Worship." You may want to create your own in advance as an example. The idea is to grab an insight into what students interpret to be worship, but also to stretch their own understanding of it by having to use the limited pictorial examples they have available. Let them know that they can also draw something, if they prefer. Give the students enough time to fill up a sheet of sturdy paper with their selections, and provide a one minute warning to wrap up the project.