

Lesson 1: The Right Response

What we want students to learn: That worship is the right response that results from our encountering God.

What we want them to do with what they've learned: To begin to be aware of where and how they are encountering God, and to be intentional about responding in worship once they encounter Him.

Scripture Focus: Psalms 8:1-5, Psalms 63:1-5, Psalms 33:1-5, Colossians 3:15-17

Overview: Your students know what worship is. In fact, it's probably one of their favorite parts of their church experience. Worship is invigorating and spiritually uplifting. It's a very real way we connect with God. But this series will help your students understand reason why they worship, what it looks like, and what its purpose is. In this lesson, Lesson 1, your students will learn exactly why they worship God. And they will be challenged to see that what worship goes beyond just merely God through song. They'll be lead to see that worship involves their entire lives, and that it's a fitting response to a true understanding of who God is.

Teacher Prep Video

The *elements Teacher Prep Videos* are short videos designed to help you grasp the main points of the lessons as you prepare to teach.

To access your "Worship Teacher Prep Video," click on the URL below.

- <https://youthministry360.com/worship-teacher-prep>
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Bible Background

The **Bible Background** is designed to help you provide some context for the Scripture you'll be studying. *The Details* gives you background info for each book, while *The Main Point* gives you an overview of how the passages are used in the lesson.

- **What do we mean by "context"?** In every **ym360** Bible study lesson, you'll notice we make a point to encourage you to provide the context for the passages you study. By "context" we mean at the very least helping students know *who* wrote the book, *when* it was written, and *why* it was written.
- **What's The Big Deal?** When we teach the Bible without giving context, students don't get a "big picture" understanding of the story of the Bible. But this view is vital to grasping the story of God's plan of redemption for humankind. As you teach, use the Bible Background to help summarize the context.

The Details

Psalms

- **Author:** God inspired various authors to write a majority of the Psalms in their era, including seventy-three by David, twelve by Asaph, eleven by the Korahites and two by Solomon. Heman, Ethan and Moses each wrote one, while the authorship of fifty other Psalms remain unknown.
- **Time frame:** The Psalms were written during different eras of Israel's history, spanning from 1100 BC (i.e Psalm 29, 68) to 400 BC (i.e. Psalm 119).

- **Purpose:** The Psalms are inspired by God to poetically reflect humanity’s journey with Him. Each psalm serves a different purpose, such as a personal or communal lament, hymn, song, reflection or declaration. Many of these were set to music and intended to be shared publicly, even when sharing a revealing confession (i.e. Psalm 51).

Colossians

- **Author:** The Apostle Paul identified himself as the author of Colossians.
- **Time frame:**
- Most people believe Colossians was written sometime between A.D. 61 and 63, during Paul’s first imprisonment in Rome (Acts 28:17-31).
- **Purpose:** Ultimately, this letter’s purpose is to emphasize the supremacy of Christ over everything. Paul was writing to combat the spread of false teachings among the church at Colossae. The exact heresy being refuted is not certain and may have been a blend of multiple influences. The legalism, mysticism, and asceticism corrupting the pure faith in Colossae were moving attention away from Christ, placing it instead on self-discipline and the awe of other spiritual things.

The Main Point

The idea is to help your students understand that worship can be defined as a right response that comes as a result of encountering God. You’re going to accomplish this by driving home the following four teaching points, supported by the following Scripture:

- First, you’ll teach students that they can encounter God through the world He created and respond in worship. You’ll do this by looking at the Psalm 8 passage.
 - Then you’ll look at Psalm 63, helping students see that the primary way we encounter God and worship Him is through Scripture.
 - Next you’ll remind students that worship often takes the form of singing songs of praise to God, both on their own or with a larger body of Believers, by looking at Psalm 33.
 - Finally, using Colossians 3, you’ll help students see that worship can also be understood as giving our very lives over to God to be used to bring glory to Himself.
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Lesson Plan

The **Lesson Plan** contains three elements: An introductory activity called *The Lead In*; the Bible study section called *The Main Event*; an application-focused segment called *The Last Word*.

The Lead In

- **Goal:** To help your students examine their thoughts on worship and help them to begin to build a Biblical view of true worship.
- **Set-Up:** You will need to provide a 3x5 index card and a pen or pencil for each student. Also, a dry-erase board or a large piece of butcher would be helpful to list their responses.

BEGIN by telling the students that over the next three weeks, you will be leading them in a study of what the Bible says about worship.

THEN, give each student an index card and a pen or pencil and tell them to write their name somewhere on the card. Have them think of all the worship experiences they have had including church services, camp experiences, mission trips, etc. Ask them to write the word WORSHIP at the top of the card, and then take a

few minutes to write their simple definition of the word. After a couple of minutes ask for volunteers to share answers or collect the cards and read the responses. Write as many of the definitions as possible on the marker board or butcher paper.

NEXT, use the definitions from the students as a springboard to examine their thoughts about worship. You may have all the same responses like “praising God” or “going to church” or other similar definitions. In either case, simply tell them that what you want to do during this three lesson series is help them see what the Bible says about worship. Continue this thought by asking the following questions:

- **Is worship something private, something done with other Christians, or both?**
- **What is the right attitude to have when we worship God?**
- **What part does music play in our worship?**
- **How is worship for New Testament believers different from that of people in the Old Testament?**

FINALLY, tell the students that whatever they think about worship, the most important thing is to let the Bible be their guide. Then say to the students:

- **Worship is such an important part of our faith that we are going to spend the next three weeks looking at what God’s Word says about this exciting and emotional subject. You may have been exposed to several different worship styles and may be confused about what is proper worship. While style of worship seems to be what we focus on the most, we will find out that God is not as interested in awarding worship style points. God desires heartfelt responses to the encounters we have with Him.**

The Main Event

- **Goal:** To help your students understand that worship is a response to His nature that involves scripture, music, and the giving of our lives to Him.
- **Set Up:** No set-up needed.

BEGIN the Bible study part of the lesson by telling the students that the Bible has a lot to say about the word worship. Tell them that sometimes we follow models of Christian behavior and discipleship that may be popular, but not necessarily biblical. Following what the Bible says is always the most important thing. Explain that you want to begin by looking at a very simple definition of worship:

- **In its simplest form, worship is the right response that results from our encountering God.** (Take a few minutes to talk over the meaning of this definition with your students.)

NEXT, give the context for the Book of Psalms from the Bible Background. Then read or have a student read Psalm 8:1-5. Ask if anyone noticed the way David encountered God in these verses. (He encountered God through the world God created.) David’s response to these encounters was worship. Discuss the passage with your students, fleshing out these key points:

- **(v. 1) The word *Lord* means rightful ruler of all things. David says that God’s majestic name is reflected in His creation, which includes every nation and every place on Earth. David then writes that the glory of God is not only seen in the heavens but goes beyond that. That is some mind stretching truth and you can just imagine the sense of wonder David was experiencing as he wrote this psalm.**
- **(v. 2) Praises to God flow from lips of even the youngest child and this is so awesome that it causes the enemies of God to be silenced.**
- **(v. 3-4) David does some comparing and contrasting here. What does he compare/contrast?**

- *Answer:* He looks at the greatness God's creation and the heavens then thinks about how small he is next to all of that. He is just amazed that God would not only acknowledge him but love him as well.
- (v. 5) **The idea of being made lower than the angels may refer to our earthly bodies compared to the eternal nature of angels. David was overwhelmed that God would make man the crown jewel of His creation and allow him to enjoy the splendor of the world and heavens. If David rejoiced in this with his limited relationship to God, how much more should we rejoice today since we can have a personal relationship with the Creator through Jesus Christ?**

Remind students that worship is the right response that results from our encountering God. Ask:

- **Have you ever had a moment where they saw something in nature that caused you to have a WOW moment with God?**
 - *Answers will vary.* They may have an example of a worship moment caused by something they saw in God's creation. Explain that we, too, can encounter God through the world He created and our response to that encounter is worship.

THEN, read or have a student read Psalm 63:1-5. Tell your students that you want them to see that they can also encounter God through Scripture. Set up this passage by pointing out that David wrote this while in the desert of Judah. Just as the body craves water, especially in a hot and dry place where water is hard to find, David's soul and body, his entire being and essence, longed for God. Read again Psalm 63:2 then ask the following questions:

- **What two ways did David encounter God?**
- **Do you think God still reveals Himself to people today?**
- **What is the primary way God reveals Himself to people now? Through His Word**

Tell the students that the rest of the passage is David's response or expression of worship resulting from his encounter with God. (If time allows, spend a few moments discussing the actual worship that took place which included David glorifying God with his lips, declaring he would praise God his entire life, the lifting of his hands, the satisfaction of his soul, and the act of singing.)

NEXT, tell them since it was mentioned in the previous passage, you want to spend just a moment looking at how worship takes the form of singing songs of praise to God, both on our own or with a group of Believers. Instruct your students turn to Psalms 33. Read or have a student read verses 1-5. (You may want to reread verse 1 and ask them what it means to be righteous or upright. Explain that this means people who are right with God, those who have confessed Christ and become Believers, can sing joyfully because the praise to God comes from a forgiven heart.) A few others things you may want to cover from these verses include:

- **Verse 3 mentions singing a new song, and the idea is for every generation to write and sing songs that express their love for God. Also, the command to play skillfully means to give God our best in music, our best efforts and our best talent.**
- **Verses 4 and 5 mentions some reasons we can sing joyfully before the Lord.**
 - **His Word is true and right, never contradictory and can be totally depended on.**
 - **God is always faithful in His works.**
 - **Righteousness and justice are parts of His perfect nature, and His love is revealed throughout the Earth.**

THEN, explain that so far we have learned that worship is the right response that results from our encountering God and we encounter Him through His creation and in Scriptures. We just found out that

worship often takes the form of singing praises to God. Tell them that you want to show them one more example of a worship response. Read or have a student read Colossians 3:15-17. Ask:

- **What are the two things Paul said for Christian to do in verse 15?**
 - *Answer:* Let the peace of Christ rule your heart, be thankful.
- **Do you notice two things in verse 16 that go along with this lesson?**
 - *Answer:* Paul talks about the importance of the Word of God and says to sing to the Lord.

Inform them that there is an act of worship in verse 18. Reread the verse and ask if anyone can identify the type of worship Paul describes. (*They will mention giving thanks to God but focus on responses dealing with what we do in the name of Jesus.*) Explain that some people call this lifestyle worship or worshipping God through the way we live our lives each day.

Remind your students the one thing they always have on display for the world to see is their lifestyle. The actions and attitudes of Christ-followers speak volumes as to how we really feel about God. Let them know that worshipping God in private times or at church are both great things, but our worship of God by living a life of devotion not only points our hearts to God but the world around us as well.

CLOSE by recapping the main points of the lesson which are:

- **Worship is the right response that results from our encountering God**
- **We encounter God in many ways including His creation and in Scriptures.**
- **Worship often takes the form of singing praises to God.**
- **Worship can also be understood as giving our very lives to God to be used to bring glory to Himself.**

Transition to “The Last Word” to wrap up your lesson.

The Last Word

- **Goal:** To help students experience various encounters with God and to learn their response to those encounters is worship.
- **Set-Up:** Have a sheet of paper and a pen or pencil available for each student. You will also need the following: a picturesque nature scene, available through a Google search, a praise and worship song to play, and a Bible.

FIRST, give each student a piece of paper and a pen or pencil. Tell them to number the paper from one to four. Explain that you’re going to help them experience some encounters with God and you want them to write down a one-sentence response to each of the encounters.

Begin by showing them the picture of a scene from God’s creation then tell them to write a sentence either expressing thanks to God for what they have seen or their amazement at the power of God.

NEXT, play a portion of the praise and worship song and ask them to write down any words or phrases they heard that they consider worshipful.

THEN, read from Job 42:1-3 and ask them to write a sentence contrasting the greatness of God with simple human life. Explain that they have three sentences on their sheet of paper which are worship responses to encounters with God.

FINALLY, brainstorm with the group some ways they can practice lifestyle worship this week.

- *Answer:* Possible responses include live a pure life, watch what I say about others, check my motives, plug into a ministry, offer a word of encouragement, share Christ with a friend, etc.

THEN, you can close in one of two ways. You can encourage the students to take their sheets home and place them in a visible place as a reminder of what it means to worship God. Another way to close is to collect the sheets and display them in your youth area during the worship study. If you have some creative students you could even let them create a Power Point of the responses to help lead in worship at your next session.

FINALLY, encourage your students to be true worshippers. Tell them to look for encounters with God over the next week and to be ready to share any of those moments at the next session. Remind them to read the Bible, listen to music that leads them to worship, and observe the world around them. Close with a prayer for your students and pray that God would reveal Himself to them in some incredible ways over the next week.

- Don't forget to distribute the "Worship Lesson 1" devotions to your students. If you're printing them, have them available for students as you wrap up class. If you're texting a link, posting them on Facebook, or some other means of electronic distribution, make sure you inform students of when they will be receiving them.
- Consider texting students a couple of times during the week to encourage them to follow through with reading the devotions.

We Want To Hear From You . . .

- Do you have questions about a lesson?
- Something that worked particularly well you want to share?
- Something that didn't work you want to bring up?

We value your feedback! Please do not hesitate to email us with your questions, comments, or concerns, at feedback@youthministry360.com.

