

# Worship The Lord!

Psalm 100

## **MEMORY VERSE**

PSALM 100:4

“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.”

## **WHAT YOU WILL NEED:**

Noisemaker: two small plates for each child, dry beans, glue, a hole punch and thin, colorful ribbon. Streamer: enough streamers for a 36” length to be given to each child, glue, and a tongue depressor.

A pencil and piece of paper for each pair of children in your class.

Clear shelf paper, white paper, markers, stickers, glitter, and scissors.

## **ATTENTION GETTER!**

### **Worship the Lord!**

Give the children a choice to make two different items for worship. They can either make a noisemaker or a streamer. You will need two small plates for each child, dry beans, glue, a hole punch, and thin, colorful ribbon for the noisemaker. For the streamer, you will need enough party streamers for a 36” length to be given to each child, glue, and a tongue depressor.

To make the noisemaker, set a small amount of beans on a small plate. Put glue on the outer rim of the plate. Set the other plate over it and staple it. When dry, use the hole punch to make a few small holes in the rim. String thin ribbon through the holes to make tassels. To make the streamer, simply cut out 36” lengths to give to each child. Glue one end to a tongue depressor to use as a handle. Allow it to dry. You may want to bring in a children’s worship tape to play along as the children worship the Lord with their noisemakers and streamers.

Introduce the lesson—Let us praise God with a joyful hearts.

## LESSON TIME!

Have you ever been asked what you wanted for your birthday or Christmas? Wow! Given the opportunity to tell your mom or dad what you really want can be exciting. When you think about it, we naturally have a lot of wants. We tend to want more than we really need.

Have you ever wondered what God wants? We are well acquainted with our desires, but what about God's desires? We were created to fellowship with God—to honor and glorify Him. Our lives should be a living expression of worship to God. Psalm 100 encourages us to **praise God with a joyful heart.**

### PSALM 100:1

**Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands!**

Verse 1 tells us to shout joyfully to the Lord. When we consider what God has done for us, how can we not shout with joy? God has given us the opportunity to respond to His offer of salvation by putting our faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ; we are saved from the punishment we deserved—separation and eternity in hell. How could we not shout joyfully to the One that has shown such great love for us? Praise will come naturally when we count our blessings. **Praise God with a joyful heart.**

### PSALM 100:2

**Serve the LORD with gladness; come before His presence with singing.**

When we respond to God's great love, we will worship Him with a joyful heart, **and** we will serve the Lord with gladness. When you truly know and fellowship with God, serving God is not a duty, nor is it following a list of do's and don'ts. Our heart's desire will be to please the One who has brought such pleasure and gladness to us. It is wonderful and exciting to serve Jesus!

The apostle Paul wrote, "I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship" (Romans 12:1). God wants us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices everyday, laying aside our own desires to follow Him. You have heard, "Actions speak louder than Words." Our actions can be an expression of worship bringing glory and honor to God.

One translation of Romans 12:1 reads: "I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice--the kind he will accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask?" Naturally, out of gratitude and joy, because we have been forgiven and embraced by our Father through Jesus Christ, we should offer our lives to His service.

Let your life be a genuine expression of worship to the One who is worthy of our praise. God wants our best; let us not hold back anything in our service and love toward Him, for He is worthy.

When we come to God in prayer with our requests for ourselves and others, it's all about us and those we are praying for. When we praise God, *it's all about Him*. And yet, as we worship, we remember who God is and all He has done. Thanksgiving comes naturally and life is put in perspective. Throughout the psalms, we are encouraged to worship God. Psalm 70:4 exhorts, "Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; and let those who love Your salvation say continually, 'Let God be magnified!'" **Praise God with a joyful heart.**

## Praise Pairs

Have the children in the class pair up with each other. Give each pair a pencil and piece of paper. Have the pair think of at least five things that they are thankful for or can praise the Lord for. When the pairs are done, make a large list on the chalkboard. The pairs will have no difficulty. Emphasize to the class the almost endless list of things we have to be thankful for as Christians enjoying God's goodness.

### PSALM 100:3

Know that the LORD, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

God is sovereign. He is the Creator of all, including us! We belong to Him. Those of us who have come into fellowship with Him through Jesus Christ are His people and the sheep of pasture. He is our loving Shepherd.

We live in a society today that constantly persuades us to live for ourselves as though we were the center of our own little world. Pushed to live life for self, we can easily give in to the world's influence. How good it is to realize we were created for God's pleasure! We will then understand that He should be the center of our lives. As we get to know Him more, we will desire to please Him and to offer our sincere praise. **Praise God with a joyful heart.**

### PSALM 100:4,5

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.

The psalmist exhorts us to enter the presence of God with much thanksgiving because God is good and faithful. How do you approach God?

The Israelites were called to enter Jerusalem (God's gates) and to go to the temple (His courts) to offer their thanksgiving sacrifices for His blessings to them. They could only dwell in the courts of the temple; they were prohibited from entering the Holy of Holies, the presence of God. Only the High Priest could enter it once a year to atone for the sins of the people.

But, we as Christians, have Jesus as our High Priest; we can enter boldly the throne of grace to find help and mercy in our time of need (Hebrews 4:16). We can come into the presence of God with confidence and assurance that He will hear our prayers. What a privilege. As you come before Him, be in awe, for He is God. Remember His goodness, faithfulness and blessing toward you—He is your Friend, your Helper, your Shepherd. Be *thankful* to Him and bless His name. **Praise God with a joyful heart.**

## Bumper Stickers

The object of this craft is for the children to make a sticker telling the whole world about their love for Jesus. You will need clear shelf paper, white paper, markers, stickers, glitter, and scissors.

Cut the white paper into 2"x 8" strips (enough for each child to have one). Cut 3"x 9" strips of shelf paper (enough for each child to have one). Have the children think of and write a small phrase on the paper that declares their love for Jesus. It can be as simple as, "I love Jesus!" Decorate the paper. Peel the shelf paper and center it on the paper. The size should leave a border of shelf paper of about 1/2". The children can put their bumper stickers on themselves or on the bulletin board. But be sure to get mom or dad's permission before putting them on the car!

## PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of praise and thanksgiving to our Lord for His goodness toward them. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.