



WORSHIP: A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

*Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk with him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.
Colossians 2:6-7 (ESV)*

We realize that you, as parents, are the primary faith influencers in a young person's life. The best disciple-making takes place when students' parents take the lead. That's why we've created this helpful guide for you to use at home with your child. It is designed to give you some basic information about what is being taught at church through *The Core: A Deep Discipleship* program, along with some helpful tools, suggestions, and questions to help you reinforce this learning at home.

Overview of the Worship Root:

We sing because we worship. We pray because we worship. We dance because we worship. By themselves, these things are not all that special and can even be self-serving. But when they are done in response to God, they become worship played out in our lives. You see, worship is a lifestyle. It's how you go about your day, and it happens when you get a vivid glimpse of God, his power, and his majesty. In the Bible, anyone who has a close encounter with God can't help but marvel at his glory. The angels, his messengers, are in a constant state of worship. We, too, can express a life of worship by encountering God on a daily basis.

Main Topics Covered:

- 1) *Worship Intro Lesson*: This lesson will help students gain a framework for what worship is and what things in our lives get in the way of worshipping God.
- 2) *Beyond Singing: Is worship on Sunday enough?* This lesson will focus on the idea that having a heart of worship comes from a deep, rooted relationship with Jesus, and that worship is a lifestyle. Bible Passage: Luke 10:38–42
- 3) *Giving: Do I have to give as a teenager?* This study is focused on all the things that go into giving and why we do it. It will help each student address their attitude, heart, thankfulness, and what resources they have to offer to God. Bible Passage: Mark 12:41–44 and 2 Corinthians 9:12–15
- 4) *Prayer: Does it even make a difference?* This lesson will focus on one of Jesus' most well-known teachings on prayer—the one that includes the Lord's Prayer—and will share the story of a Christian from a few hundred years ago who was dedicated to prayer, even in the midst of some really hard stuff. Bible Passages: Matthew 6:1–16
- 5) *Joy: Why should I worship when I'm hurting?* This lesson will focus on how joy in Christ relates to our deep purpose as rooted followers of Jesus. It will also emphasize the difference between temporary happiness and joy in the middle of hard times. Bible Passage: Acts 16:16–40

Questions you can ask your child:

- 1) What are some ways you like to worship—besides singing?
- 2) What role does prayer play in your life? What kinds of things do you find yourself praying for the most? Have you ever seen God answer your prayers?
- 3) Are you ever challenged to give but feel like you have nothing to offer because you don't have much money? We often think that giving is just about money, but what are some other ways you can give?

Activities you can do together:

1. Make a prayer bowl. Get a large clear glass bowl (like a fish bowl) and fill it with names of people to pray for and other prayer requests. This is a great way to get the family praying together. You can start by brainstorming together and writing out names of people you know who need prayer (missionaries, sick people, neighbors who don't know Jesus, etc.) and other regular prayer requests you may have. Fill the bowl with these requests. Then, at a regular time when you gather as a family, draw requests out of the bowl and pray together for those items. This is great to do before or after a meal, or during a family devotion time. This is a fun and creative way to instill the value of prayer in your child and family.
2. Find a cause that connects with your child's heart and set a goal together to raise money for that cause. It's amazing what students can do when they have a goal in mind and a passion to give.

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