

## LESSON 4

### Why Worship?

**GOAL/PURPOSE:** To understand the importance of worship. We worship together on Sunday mornings at church and every day of our lives by what we do, say, and think. The lesson's reading outlines the different rituals of corporate worship and discusses why ritual is important. It also teaches students how they can worship God on a daily basis. The most important thing to highlight in this lesson is that God is good, and God is worthy of our time, energy, attention, and hearts in worship – in church and every day.

***\*Begin the class with prayer.***

***\*Offer a quick review of last week's lesson or the material so far.***

#### **ACTIVITY:**

##### **\* Hymn Drill**

Explain that a *hymn* is "a song of praise" and hymns have been sung to God for thousands of years. A hymnal is a collection of praise songs. We use hymnals in the Sanctuary, but we do not use hymnals in Wellspring since we project the song lyrics on the screen.

Divide into teams of two or three students. Pass out a set of hymnals so that there is at least one hymnal for every other team member. Explain that you will call out a description of something from a hymn in the book. Whoever finds the hymn first wins 1,000 points for his or her team. Note: A hymn can be used only once. Ask for the following:

- A hymn with the word "love" in it
- A hymn written by someone named Wesley
- A hymn with words about an attribute, or characteristic, of God
- A hymn with the word "blood" in it
- A hymn with an unusual word (such as "Ebenezer")
- "Amazing Grace"
- The hymn on page 27 (not necessarily hymn number 27)
- A hymn about heaven
- A hymn with a chorus
- The last hymn in the book
- Others

**MATERIALS NEEDED:** 5-6 hymnals. Copies of the planning center worship sheets.

#### **LESSON INTERACTION:**

**Planning Center Worship Outline:** Pass out a copy of the worship outline to students. Refer to it as you have the discussion below. Call attention to the things in the bulletin that are designed for particular parts of worship (ex: sermon = proclamation; praise = singing, etc.)

## **DISCUSSION:**

- 1) What is worship?
- 2) Why do we worship?
- 3) Who can tell me something great about God?
- 4) What does God's greatness have to do with worship? (go deep/get into student's lives and how all that God is and does for us should inspire worship in us)
- 5) Why is it important to participate in corporate worship?
- 6) Why is ritual important in church even though it may seem boring?
- 7) Who should we make worship about? (God!)
- 8) What does it mean to be "reverent"? Why is it important that we make our worship *reverent*?
- 9) How can we be active participants in worship? (sing songs, pray, actually listen to the sermon, etc.)
- 10) Why is it important to respect and appreciate the ways other denominations and people choose to worship? (b/c God works in different ways in different churches and criticizing other churches criticizes God's people and the ways He works)
- 11) Read Romans 12:1-2 from your manual. What does it mean to live a life of worship? (*to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God*)
- 12) What are some ways we can worship God in our every day lives? *\*There are some examples in the manual, but have them come up with some of their own too and/or discuss what they wrote in their manual.*
- 13) Is it hard to live a life of worship? Why?
- 14) What can we do to make sure we always worship God even if we don't feel like it? (focus on/look for the goodness of God above our own circumstances)

*\*Finish with anything else they'd like to discuss (Go the extra mile) and then close the class in prayer.*