



## AUTHENTIC WORSHIP

### What's He Worth to You?

September 3, 2022

## 1 PREPARING

### A. THE SOURCE

**Romans 12:1 (NIV)** • “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”

**Hebrews 12:28, 29 (NIV)** • “Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our ‘God is a consuming fire.’”

**Psalm 29:2 (NIV)** • “Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.”

**Psalm 95:6, 7 (NIV)** • “Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.”

**Psalm 96:9 (NIV)** • “Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.”

**Psalm 100:2, 3 (NIV)** • “Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.”

**Psalm 86:8-10 (NIV)** • “Among the gods there is none like you, Lord; no deeds can compare with yours. All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord; they will bring glory to your name. For you are great and do marvelous deeds; you alone are God.”

**Revelation 4:9-11 (GNT)** • “The four living creatures sing songs of glory and honor and thanks to the one who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever. When they do so, the twenty-four elders fall down before the one who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives forever and ever. They throw their crowns down in front of the throne and say, ‘Our Lord and God! You are worthy to receive glory, honor, and power. For you created all things, and by your will they were given existence and life.’”

**Revelation 15:2-4 (GNT)** • “Then I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire. I also saw those who had won the victory over the beast and its image and over the one whose name is represented by a number. They were standing by the sea of glass, holding harps that God had given them and singing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb: ‘Lord God Almighty, how great and wonderful are your deeds! King of the nations, how right and true are your ways! Who will not stand in awe of you, Lord? Who will refuse to declare your greatness? You alone are holy. All the nations will come and worship you, because your just actions are seen by all.’”

**Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)** • “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

**Acts 4:31-35 (NIV)** • “After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.”

**Worship** • Reverent devotion and allegiance pledged to God; the rituals or ceremonies by which this reverence is expressed. The English word worship comes from the Old English word *worthship*, a word which denotes the worthiness of the one receiving the special honor or devotion.—*Nelson’s Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1986).

(See additional passages in student material.)

## **B. WHAT’S TO BE SAID ABOUT “AUTHENTIC WORSHIP”**

When we approach the topic of worship, the main emphasis should be on whom we worship. In other words, worship is a matter of priorities.

What are our dearest affections, our noblest purposes, and our truest commitments? Is our worship focused on our God, Creator, and Savior? This lesson will seek to challenge young people to engage in worship intentionally and with the deliberate attempt to show what God is worth to them. We often show what matters most to us by the way we value it. In the same way, we demonstrate God’s worth to us by the worship we give Him. Our worship isn’t simply a period of time between 11:00 and 12:00 every Saturday. It’s a lifestyle of adoration and devotion, honoring the one and only God whose power, wisdom, and influence reach far beyond our small world and limited understanding. It is also imperative to provide young people with forms and rituals and modes by which they can exercise their worship to God.

## **C. WHERE WE’RE GOING WITH “AUTHENTIC WORSHIP”**

As a result of this lesson we would like the students to be able to:

1. Explore the meaning and purpose of worship.
2. Develop a biblical mind-set for a lifestyle of worship.
3. Discover creative ways to ascribe worth to God.

## **D. MATERIALS NEEDED**

**Beginning:** • (Activity A) several items of different value (e.g., fruit, bread); a picture of a family member or loved one; paper; pens or pencils; (Activity B) “Continuum Exercise” handout (p. 106), pencils or pens.

**Connecting:** • Bibles, student lessons, paper, pens or pencils, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk.

**Applying:** • Paper, pens or pencils.

## 2 BRIDGING

### A. THE WEEK IN REVIEW

#### Allow 10 minutes as students are arriving to:

1. Share anything that was meaningful to them in this lesson.
2. Engage in a discussion about the topic of the lesson in connection to the belief highlighted this week.
3. Say the Bible memory text either individually or in a group.

### B. OTHER SABBATH SCHOOL COMPONENTS

- >> Song service
- >> Mission emphasis (find a link for Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults at [www.realtimefaith.net](http://www.realtimefaith.net))
- >> Service project reports

## 3 BEGINNING

**NOTE TO TEACHER:** Put together your own program with options from the categories below—Beginning, Connecting, Applying, and Closing. Please keep in mind, however, that the students need to have an opportunity to be interactive (participate actively *and* with one another) and to study from the Word.

### A. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

**Get ready •** Collect items of a variety of different values. Make sure you have some items that have a relatively fixed price (e.g., fruit, bread). Also include some items that are valuable—a watch, car keys, etc. Then bring something that is not necessarily a commonly valued item but is treasured for its sentimental value, e.g., a worn but well-loved article of clothing. Include a picture of your child, spouse, or a cherished family member. You won't be attempting to "sell" the picture but the person. The object of this game

is to get students to estimate the price of the items displayed. Some things are easy to place a value on, others are impossible to price. You have to establish the actual worth of that item to you and that will be the price that the students will try to guess. Write down the prices for the items on display.

**Get set • Say:** I have some items to sell, and I will not negotiate the price whatsoever. The goal of this game is for you to try to guess the correct price of the item. That price is the value, according to me. You are to try to guess what it is worth to me, and the closest price wins a point.

**Go •** Starting with the items that have less sentimental value and more of a fixed value, let the students write down their estimate on paper you've provided. As they reveal their guess, display yours. The closest guess wins a point. As you continue to the items that are more valuable or completely priceless, you can move the game along quickly. The point is obvious—You can tell how valuable something is by the price tag you are willing to sell it for.

**Debriefing • Say:** Worship is the reverent honor we show to God. Sometimes people show honor to objects (idols) that they think are special or are valuable to them. Some will sell their prized possessions if the price is right. Others would never sell something they valued no matter how much was offered. How we worship God shows what He is worth to us. How important do you think God is to people today? (Some pay attention to God only when something bad happens to them. Some only when something special is happening. Others have given up their jobs to faithfully worship their Lord and Savior and to honor Him in their lives.)

**Say:** It is easy to see how valuable God is to those that put Him first above everything else.

## B. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

**Get ready** • Reproduce the “Continuum Exercise” on page 106, and give each student one, along with a pen or pencil.

**Get set** • Students are to respond to the “Continuum Exercise” honestly and then share in pairs their response and why they responded the way they did.

**Go** • After students answer the “Continuum Exercise” and share with a partner, **say: Let’s find out how the whole group responded to the short survey on worship.**

## C. BEGINNING ILLUSTRATION

**In your own words, tell the following story:**

“Mike and Sarah, hurry up, or we will be late to the awards banquet!” “Mom, are you sure we have to go? We are old enough to stay home by ourselves,” Mike argued—once again. “Besides,” said Sarah, “it’s not going to be any fun. Just a bunch of people giving speeches, and the food is always awful.” “Your grandfather is getting an award tonight, so everyone is going. No more whining or arguing about it. Let’s get going.” *Will this night ever end?* thought Mike and Sarah. “Grandpa, congratulations!” exclaimed Mike and Sarah as they hugged their grandpa.

**Ask: Have you ever attended a program or event that your parents were invited to and because they were going so was the whole family? Did you enjoy the event, or did you just go through the motions, like Mike and Sarah? Have you ever just gone through the motions of worship? What are some of your own personal experiences in worship? How could church worship become more meaningful to you?**

# 4 CONNECTING

## A. CONNECTING TO THE KINGDOM

**Present the following ideas in your own words:**

As citizens of God’s kingdom we need to be reminded that our worship experience should not be about rituals and external practices but about the King.

Copy the texts for each category of worship below on a separate piece of paper. Divide the students into five groups, giving each one of the papers. Each group will read the Bible passages listed about their particular form of worship (Music/Singing, Praying, Teaching, Giving, and Living). After reading, each group is to write a short statement of how they will show God’s worth through worship. The statements will all start out with the phrase: We will show that God is worthy by the way we \_\_\_\_\_ (sing, pray, learn, give, live). Then each group will describe what that might look like or sound like or feel like in a worship service.

Write the following questions that might help them on the white/chalkboard:

- How does the Bible passage describe this form of worship?
- When you read about this Bible writer’s passion for worship, is it alive or is it depressing? How?
- What is the focus of this form of worship?

**By our singing**

1 Chronicles 16:23-25

Psalms 13:6

Psalms 96:1, 2

Psalms 147:7

**We will show that God is worthy by the way we sing.**

**By our praying**

Psalms 69:13

Psalms 65:1, 2

Isaiah 56:6, 7

**We will show that God is worthy by the way we pray.**

### By our teaching

Psalm 86:11-13

Psalm 119:12-16

Psalm 119:169-175

We will show that God is worthy by the way we teach and learn.

### By our giving

Psalm 96:8

Psalm 116:17-19

We will show that God is worthy by the way we give tithes and offerings.

### By our living

Psalm 15

Psalm 119:144

Psalm 133:1

Psalm 140:13

Psalm 146:2

We will show that God is worthy by the way we live each day for Him.

## B. CONNECTING TO THE LESSON ILLUSTRATION

Ask someone beforehand to read or tell the story from Sabbath's section of the lesson.

Share the following thoughts in your own words:

It is true that placing value on God in worship is not the same as clinging desperately to an old sweatshirt or other treasured item. What is similar is that we value everything from a personal perspective. A five dollar baseball caught at a game isn't worth very much. But it may have sentimental value to a father and a son at their first big league game. Even more, that five dollar baseball could be considered to be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars if hit by the right person. Some fans might never sell such a souvenir no matter how much money was offered. Everything depends on your personal value system.

Ask: What do you treasure that others tend to undervalue?

Read or have a student read these two passages from Revelation: **Revelation 4:9-11**; **Revelation 15:2-4**.

Ask: What is heaven's most valuable asset? How do the heavenly beings express what is valuable to them? (The angels and all the heavenly beings spend all day and night saying what the Lamb [Christ] is worth.)

Say: When our worship becomes personal, it becomes alive! No drums necessary. No fancy preacher or professional concert pianist is required, only worshippers who take the value of their God personally. *He's Everything to Me* was a song from long ago about how valuable God is. It is difficult to sing it and truly mean it because it's not always easy to live that way on this earth.

Ask: Can you think of other songs that make a bold claim about God's worth to us? How are they harder to live by than sing?

## C. CONNECTING TO LIFE

Pose the following scenario:

Once a year the young people are organized to lead out in worship. From the prelude through the sermon the teens are in charge.

Ask: What should they do based upon some of the principles already set forth about worship in this lesson?

Say: Worship is supposed to be about taking time to tell God what He is worth to us.

Ask: Have you ever felt or been in a worship service that was like what Isaiah 29:13 describes? "The Lord says: 'These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught'" (Isaiah 29:13, NIV). Ask: How can you make worship a daily personal connection between you and God?

## 5 APPLYING

### A. APPLICATION ACTIVITY

**Say:** In groups of three to four, organize an hour of worship that includes the five components from the Psalms (music/singing, praying, teaching/learning, giving, and living). **Be as creative as you want to be. Choose a theme or topic and plan the worship service. You may want to take the worship inventory in Friday's Applying section of the student lesson first to see what areas you may want to give special attention to.**

Challenge the students to be as specific and thorough as possible. Invite them to report and share a description of their proposed time of worship.

**Debriefing • Ask:** What were some of the struggles you faced planning the service? How did you deal with the obstacles that emerged? What part of the service was the easiest to plan? What was the hardest?

### B. APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. If you were to define worship in one sentence, how would you communicate the experience of worship accurately?
2. Describe a time of worship that was especially meaningful to you. What happened and how did it affect you? What were some of the components that contributed to the significance of the event?
3. What do you think is the relationship between corporate worship and private

personal worship? Some think worship begins as a community and feeds the desire for personal worship, others would reverse the process. What do you think?

4. If you were to design an hour of worship that would truly honor God in your community, what would it look like?
5. What are some attitudes and perceptions you have about worship that you think need to be changed?

## 6 CLOSING

### SUMMARY

**In your own words, conclude with the following ideas:**

The exercise of worship is crucial to spiritual growth. It is one of those spiritual muscle groups you can't neglect for long without getting weak. On the other hand, when your praise and your giving and your singing reflect a desire to announce to God what He means to you, you are renewed spiritually. It's an interesting phenomenon: when we give all we can in worship to God, we gain more than we expect. What would happen if you took a few moments before you passed through the doors of your church to reflect on why you want to worship God? What would happen if every believer considered how valuable their relationship with God was before they opened the hymnal or listened to a sermon or opened their wallet to give an offering? It could get interesting.

## Continuum Exercise on Worship

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Circle the number that best describes where you are when it comes to public worship each week.

**A. Worship is . . .**

Something I endure

Eagerly look forward to

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

**B. In worship at my church I am a . . .**

Spectator on the sidelines

An engaged participant

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

**C. When I come to worship I hope to . . .**

Gain a blessing (have my batteries charged)

Express my joy and devotion to God

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

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## STUDENT LESSON

### AUTHENTIC WORSHIP

What's He Worth to You?

September 3, 2022

#### Sabbath

#### FOR STUDY

- » **Memory Text:** "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord'" (Psalm 122:1, NKJV).
- » **Our Beliefs, no. 21, Stewardship:** "We are God's stewards, entrusted by Him with time and opportunities, abilities and possessions, and the blessings of the earth and its resources. We are responsible to Him for their proper use."
- » Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 106, 107

### WHAT'S HE WORTH TO YOU?

Every once in a while adults feel the need to really clean the house. Much thought is put into what should be kept and what should be thrown out. And then there is almost always a yard sale for the unwanted items that are just too good to throw away.

Recently that whole scenario was played out at my house. My wife made quick work of a few closets upstairs and pointed to several boxes that needed to be taken out to be sold at the yard sale.

"Just put them in the garage, and I'll get them ready to sell," she said rather nonchalantly.

While she is a precious and wonderful bride,

she is a terrible actress, and her casual way of instructing me to take the boxes out caused me to become suspicious.

"What's in the boxes that she does not want me to discover?" I mused to myself.

She noticed my suspicion and quickly said, "If you don't have anything else to do, I could think of a few . . ."

Sensing the ultimatum, I wisely chose to carry the boxes downstairs to the garage.

When I was alone with the boxes, I opened one of them and rummaged through the contents. Overall, I was pleased to see the items in the box on their way out. On the bottom, however, was my green sweatshirt I have had since college. Fifteen years that sweatshirt accompanied me through football seasons and work bees, mission trips, and vacations. Clearly, it had seen better days, but that was exactly the point. It had been with me as a faithful friend through the best and worst of times.

"Why would she hide this at the bottom of the box?" I wondered. It was a conspiracy. What was extremely valuable to me was seen as trash to be discarded by my wife. I was keeping this and was willing to fight for it. I took the price tag off the sweatshirt and stomped back into the house ready for war.

Sad to say, I lost the battle for the sweatshirt. It seems that my love for my wife is greater than my love for a dingy, old, worn-out sweatshirt. My reaction shows, though, that what we value is extremely personal. The stories, experiences, and memories of our lives are all tied up in simple symbols, and some of those symbols are as



old as an old sweatshirt. Kneeling in prayer may seem old-fashioned and out of place to some today, but why? Returning tithe and giving to the work of the church might seem like less of a priority to many today than it did 100 years ago. Why? Listening to a preacher teach from God’s Word may seem almost irrelevant to people in our fast-paced world. Why would that be? What happens to us that makes it hard to worship our God?—Pastor Troy.

## Sunday RESPONDING

- » Read Isaiah 29:13.
- » Kurt had been coming to worship in the same church for years. It seemed ordinary to him, and he had a hard time staying focused on what was happening. Then some changes occurred. The service exploded with new life, new church initiatives, new people. But after a year he found himself slipping out of church again. He found himself becoming disengaged and uninterested. How could you encourage Kurt? What could be at the root of his disengagement? What difference does it make if a person is actively involved in worship rather than being a passive observer?

## Monday BIBLE ANSWERS ON STEWARDSHIP

- » Read Haggai 1:3-11; Malachi 3:8-10; Matthew 23:23.
- » Everything we have is from God, so everything we own belongs to Him. When we view our belongings as God’s, we will use them the way He wants us to. It will help keep us from becoming selfish and holding on to the things He has blessed us with so we could help others.
- » How do you view the blessings God has

given you? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- » Are they yours to do with them what you want?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- » How can you use them to help others?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- » Find the verse by underlining the following message: **we should use our blessings to bless and help others.** By omitting the underlined message, write the remaining verse on the lines below. The text is from NKJV.

wesoshouldletuseeachouroneblessingsgive  
 toasblesheandpurposeshelpinothershiswe  
 heartshouldnotusegrudginglyourorblessing  
 softonecessityblessforandGodhelplovesothers  
 awecheerfulshouldgiveuse2ourCorinthians  
 blessings9:to7blessandhelpothers.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Tuesday REFLECTING

- » Read John 2:13-17.
- » Most of the time when Jesus addresses the issue of worship, the subject of money comes up. Not music. Not style. Not how long the service lasts. Money. What a peculiar thing. The Scripture is clear about tithes and offerings. The tithe (one tenth of your income) is to be returned to the storehouse (the church) for the work of God’s kingdom around the world. Our offerings (additional

gifts beyond the tithe) are given to support the local church and its mission in the community.

- » While Scripture is clear about what to do and how much to give, Jesus made it personal. The Savior made it a matter of the heart. Jesus maintained that you can tell a lot about a person's heart by the nature of their gift. Giving joyfully with a heart of praise is worship. Even giving in such a way that you live differently says something about which kingdom you are going to stick your neck out for. Remember the widow who gave abundantly out of her poverty? Jesus didn't make a scene over the number of coins she dropped in the plate. He numbered the size of her heart and counted her generosity and rebuked the elite for showing off the pounds of cash they popped in the offering plate.
- » The heart of the giver is what God sees. A girl is saving all her extra money to go on a short-term mission trip for a few weeks. A dad drives an old car so other things are possible for his church. A family decides to forgo their holiday to keep a young boy in church school. A college student sells his guitar to buy Bibles for a church across the globe. Whether it be the songs we sing or the prayers we pray, you can tell what God is worth to people by the way they give in worship.

### Wednesday

## BIBLE INSIGHTS

- » Match the phrase with the text.
  - A. "Let us hold unswervingly . . ."
  - B. "Let the peace of Christ . . ."
  - C. "So he made a whip out of cords."
  - D. "Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught."
  - E. "They broke bread in their homes and ate together."
  - F. "There were no needy persons among them."

- G. "Suddenly there was a great earthquake."
- H. "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father. . . ."
- I. "The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them."

- \_\_\_ Isaiah 29:13 (NIV)
- \_\_\_ John 2:13-17 (NIV)
- \_\_\_ Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)
- \_\_\_ Acts 4:31-37 (NIV)
- \_\_\_ Acts 16:22-26 (KJV)
- \_\_\_ Matthew 21:12-14 (NIV)
- \_\_\_ Ephesians 5:15-20 (KJV)
- \_\_\_ Hebrews 10:23-25 (NIV)
- \_\_\_ Colossians 3:15-17 (NIV)

### Thursday

## CONNECTING

- » Read Hebrews 10:23-25.
- » Review the memory text.
- » Sometimes picturing the face of the Father is an important thing to do in worship. It might help to focus your attention to visualize Him there with you. He loves you with a love so great, it is hard to understand (see **John 3:16, 17**). The rich young ruler came to Jesus looking for a shortcut to the kingdom. The Bible says, "Jesus looked at him and loved him" (**Mark 10:21, NIV**). Even though Jesus wanted him to follow Him, the ruler walked away from Jesus. Everyone is loved the same way. It has to be painful for the Father when His children resist His attention, ignore His presence, and walk away. Even so, He loves them the same.
- » Worship is a moment to stop and spend time talking with God and listening to Him. It is a time that everyone can sing and praise God, letting Him know how much He is worth to them. Sometimes just being there quietly is enough to know He is there. Like every other exercise, it requires little steps taken regularly. Try it. If you forget or get distracted or even get bored, don't get down on yourself.

Find a way to tell God that you love Him and want to know Him more. The promise is that you will find Him when you seek Him with all your heart (see **Jeremiah 29:11-13**).

## Friday **APPLYING**

- » Read Colossians 3:15-17.
- » The parts of the worship service that are most meaningful to me are:

	Least			Most	
Music and Singing	1	2	3	4	5
Fellowship and Community	1	2	3	4	5
Praying	1	2	3	4	5
Preaching/Teaching	1	2	3	4	5
Giving	1	2	3	4	5
Serving and Helping	1	2	3	4	5
Applying and Living	1	2	3	4	5

- » As you look at the results of this inventory, think of some ways you can make your worship experiences more meaningful. Ask God for wisdom.

