

LOOKING UP

1. Place an X on the line to show where your worship service fits the line below.



Never boring

Sometimes boring

Always boring

2. Finish these statements in your own words.

My church's worship service would be better if—

One thing I'd like to change about church is—

3. What do you think are the most important parts of a worship service? Circle three.

choir

sermon

hymns

prayer

offering

communion

Scripture reading

announcements

special music

other—



4. What do you think—Y (yes) or N (no).

___ The best place to worship God is in church.

___ I feel close to God when I worship at church.

___ I never get anything out of sermons.

___ The songs during the church service help me worship God.

___ The church service helps me live the Christian life during the week.

___ I can invite friends to church without feeling embarrassment.

___ A good worship service should be entertaining.

5. Draw a line connecting the Bible verses with the correct statements.

1. 2 Kings 21:19-22

2. Matthew 28:17

3. John 4:20-24

4. Acts 10:25-26

5. Revelation 4:11

a. Do not worship man.

b. Some worshiped Christ, but others doubted.

c. The king worshiped idols.

d. Worship in spirit and truth.

e. Christ is worthy of worship.

LOOKING UP [w o r s h i p]

THIS WEEK

Some junior high and middle school kids don't understand the importance and meaning of worship. Maybe they think it's just a boring meeting that their parents force them to attend. Maybe they think it doesn't apply to them all. This TalkSheet provides the opportunity to discuss your church worship service and to encourage your youth group to take their worship service more seriously.

OPENER

Worship isn't just singing, or reading the Bible, or praying. It's a combination of a few different aspects, including listening to God's word and what we can learn about it. We can worship anytime, anywhere—not just in church. Have each of your kids write down on a 3x5 card what worship means to them. Tell them not to include their names, because you're going to collect and read them. Discuss their ideas and why worship is beneficial for Christians. How does worship affect us? How does it affect God?

Brainstorm some ways that kids can worship everyday—not just in church on Sundays. Make a list on a whiteboard or poster board of ways that they can learn more about God during the daily routine. This may include ideas like—saying a prayer in the shower, reading one verse in the morning, listening to some Christian music and thinking about the words, or spending a few minutes of quiet before bed. Communicate that worship isn't just church—it's what goes on in church.

THE DISCUSSION, BY THE NUMBERS

1. Draw a line on a whiteboard or poster board and have each student place an X on the line. Or have one side of the room be "Always boring" and the other "Never boring". Have the kids stand where they placed their X. Then talk about what makes it boring or not boring for them.
2. Ask the kids to share their sentences. (You might wish to show these sentences to your church's worship planning committee. If the kids know this in advance, they might come up with more thoughtful responses.) Let them talk about the parts of the service they don't like. What would they change if they could? What gets them excited to praise God? Remind them that if a part of the service is boring, that's okay—worship is different for everyone, especially in a church with mixed ages.
3. What part of the worship service they enjoy the most and which part they think the church could do without. What do they want more of? What changes would they like to make?

4. These statements focus on different aspects of worship and the worship service. Let the group talk about these and discuss different opinion. Try to save your own comments for the conclusion.
5. How did these verses match up? Ask them to share any new insights they might have gained from reading the passages on worship. What does God think of worship? What is our purpose in worshipping?

THE CLOSE

What are your views of worship? Why is worship important? Consider these ideas—

- Worship is a verb, not a noun. It isn't something we attend in order to be entertained. Instead, it is something we do.
- The worship service brings everyone in the church together, both young and old, which is important. The church is people, the community of God, and it is important for the church to have that common experience together. Corporate worship (worship with others) is one way we acknowledge the church is the body of Christ and how much we need each other.
- Worship is for God, not for us. The question to ask after a worship service is not "Did I like it?" but "Did God like it?" and "Did I do my best for him?" Close by sharing praise and prayer requests to God.

MORE

- Get involved! Plan a worship service with your youth group, and encourage your kids to get involved in different parts of the morning service, such as Bible reading, ushering, offering, greeting, and so on. They are an invaluable part of the church! You may want or need to work with your planning committee to get your youth involved in the services.
- There are several praise and worship rallies and retreats for youth of all ages. One is DCLA—Youth For Christ (www.yfc.org). These mass events give kids a chance to learn and worship with others their age. They often include big-name Christian artists and speakers that give a new light to worship and praising the King. You can find more information on these events and links at www.YouthSpecialties.com.