

Service One

Objective: To teach children that we worship God because of who He is.

Key Verse: "O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker"
(Psalm 95:6).

Why We Worship the Lord

Scripture Text: Luke 19:28-40

POWER line: God is worthy of our worship.

Schedule

I. Power of Worship (25-30 minutes)

A. Welcome/Theme Introduction (6-8 minutes)

- Worship
- Perfect Praise

B. Energy Outlet (5-7 minutes)

- Kazoo Time

C. POWER Line (3-5 minutes)

- Hangman

D. Offering (2-3 minutes)

E. Praise Generators (5-7 minutes)

- Name That Tune
- Sing Praises

F. Prayer (2-3 minutes)

- "Lord, You're Worthy of My Highest Praise"

II. Power of the Word (25-30 minutes)

A. Bible Memorization (8-10 minutes)

- Scripture Card Turnover

B. Spirit Generator (2 minutes)

- "Lord, We Lift Your Name on High"

C. Illustrated Sermon (10-12 minutes)

Why We Worship

D. Invitation and Prayer (5-? minutes)

Supplies

- kazoos
- clean, smooth stones, one per child
- permanent markers
- clipboard, whistle, songbook, CDs, hankie, choir robe for CeeDee
- CD/tape of theme tunes
- small candy prizes
- 9 sheets construction paper
- transparencies of songs
- 2 biblical robes
- small tree branches, at least 6, or one per child; or handkerchiefs, one per child
- chalk board or white board, chalk or markers
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Before the Session

- Purchase kazoos, one per child, in four different colors.
- CeeDee, the choir director, will need a choir robe (or a baptismal robe), a hankie, a whistle around her neck, clipboard loaded with papers, songbook, stack of CDs, and an attitude of frustration.
- Determine which chorus will be CeeDee's cue for entering.
- Prepare a CD/tape of various theme songs the children will recognize: Happy Birthday, Jingle Bells, national anthem, Easter song, wedding march). Record a few bars of each, not the entire song. Have a small candy prize for each child that first identifies the song.
- Use construction paper to prepare nine Scripture cards of the key verse, broken as follows: O come, / let us / worship / and bow down: / let us / kneel before / the LORD / our maker / (Psalm 95:6). On the back of each card, number them 1-9, in order. When distributing these

cards, be sure to give them in number order so that when the children reverse them, the Scripture will read correctly.

- ❑ Make transparencies of worship choruses the children know well—as many songs as you have colors of kazoos. Add a color border to match a kazoo color for each transparency. For example, add a red border to the song “God Is Great,” a green border to “Praise Him, Praise Him,” and so on.
- ❑ Ask someone (child or adult) to sing a special worship song during Praise Generators.
- ❑ Provide one clean smooth stone for each child and a permanent marker. Each child will also need a small tree branch, or a handkerchief or tissue.
- ❑ Place a large writing board (chalk board or dry erase board) in the front where all can see. Have two writing instruments available (chalk or markers).

POWER of Worship

Welcome/Theme Introduction (6-8 minutes)

Five minutes before service starts, the musicians begin playing a lively praise chorus. At service time, the worship leader (or lead teacher) leads the congregation in singing. Beginning the Children's Prayer Revival with worship is the key to the entire revival. After a few minutes of praise and worship, ask the pastor to pray for the revival and the children, especially. Move into the chorus that will be CeeDee's cue for entry.

Worship Choruses (to correlate with POWER line)

“He's Worthy, God's Worthy”

“What a Mighty God We Serve”

“God Is Great, and Greatly to Be Praised”

CeeDee enters in a rush, her arms loaded with her hankie waving, clipboard, CDs (some dropping to the floor as she rushes to the front), talking loudly as she enters. The director stops singing and watches her approach.

- CeeDee: Suddenly stops as she notices the children. **What, you are here already? Where has my day gone? I'm not ready. There are songs to copy and papers to hand out and the piano to tune and . . .**
- Director: Interrupts. **Can we help, Sister CeeDee? As the choir director, I know you have a busy schedule. The children are ready to worship and . . .**
- CeeDee: Interrupts. **Oh, no they're not! They can't be. Why, they're so young, and inexperienced, and well, they are only little kids. What do they know about worship? They can't possibly be ready to worship; they don't know how.**
- Director: Shocked. **Why ever not? They've been worshipping in song for the last several minutes, and I think they're doing a great job.**
- CeeDee: **But, but . . . I've worked all day getting ready to teach them the perfect way to worship God. God is so special, so awesome, that He deserves the perfect praise and worship. And that's my job to teach these children . . . and now you're telling me they don't need me. Starts loudly crying into her hankie. They are just children! Children cannot possibly know how to worship God!**
- Director: Pats her on the back and leads her to a chair. **Sister CeeDee, why don't you sit over here, and let the children show you how they worship? If you think they are doing it wrong, then we will listen to your ideas, okay?**
- CeeDee: Looks dejected. **I suppose so. I just can't believe it. Children worshipping God—without me! Oh, what is this church coming to?**

Energy Outlet (5-7 minutes)

Distribute the kazoos, evenly dispersing by color. Tell the children that when you show the song transparency that matches their kazoo color, those kazoo players are to quickly come to the front and begin playing the song as the congregation sings along. Keep this moving quickly, so that each group has opportunity to play and sing.

Worship can be fun and exciting. We can sing, clap, play music, shout, and dance—and all

of that is worship as long as our hearts are giving praise. We don't worship God because of what we can do or how well we do it. We worship God because of who He is. Worship is all about God, not about us.

CeeDee blows her whistle; the director spins around to face her in surprise. **I think I see what you mean. These children were having fun, but they were still worshipping God.** Sighs deeply. **I don't know, though, somehow I'm still picturing everyone in serious quiet worship before God. I think I'll sit and watch a bit more to see what else you do to worship God.** Sits down.

Offering (2-3 minutes)

Ask the ushers to come forward. **Did you know that giving an offering is another way to worship God? His Word says that we should decide in our hearts what to give, not because we have to, but because we want to give. Let's give to the Lord in an offering march.** As the music plays, have ushers stand in front, and let each side of the congregation come forward and drop their offering in the plate. Continue singing until everyone has given.

Power Line (3-5 minutes)

Play a quick game of hangman to determine the POWER line. Keep this moving quickly; if someone can guess the entire phrase, he can do so only on his turn. Depending on the size of your group, not every one will be able to play.

When it is solved, let each color group say it. "God is worthy of our worship." Then let the congregation say it through their kazoos. Give the Lord a hand clap of praise.

Praise Generators (5-7 minutes)

Name That Tune

Ask for (*number of theme songs you have recorded*) volunteers (or draw names). Tell these children that they are to name the tune of the song they hear; the first one to correctly identify it will receive a prize. Warn the rest of the congregation to sit quietly so that the contestants can

hear clearly – no help from the audience! If they cannot identify a song, CeeDee blows her whistle and calls out the title. Volunteers return to their seats, pocketing their prizes until after service.

We have songs for almost every special occasion. We also have songs that are good for one purpose only, and that is to worship God. Songs such as "God Is Great," and "Praise Him, Praise Him." Let's see how many other songs we can name in one minute twenty-three seconds. Sister CeeDee, would you watch the time for us and blow that whistle you love to blow when time is up? Okay, let's start . . . now! At the whistle, commend the children for their fine efforts.

Introduce the special soloist. After the song, lead in a time of worship.

Prayer (2-3 minutes)

Instead of taking prayer requests, tell the children that prayer tonight will be a worship song. Talk about the importance of taking time to praise God instead of always asking God for something. Sing the song "Lord, You're Worthy of My Highest Praise." Be sure they understand that their praise is the best thing they can offer God.

POWER of the Word

Bible Memorization (8-10 minutes)

Sister CeeDee, the only perfect way to worship God is to remember our POWER line: God is worthy of our praise, just because of who He is. He is our maker, our savior, our . . . well, let the children tell you what He is. Encourage the children to stand up and call out an attribute of God: king, healer, friend, etc. CeeDee blows her whistle at least once to call out an attribute. After several names have been called, the director speaks.

You see, Sister CeeDee, we worship God because of who He is, not with perfection, but with our whole hearts. Let's see what God's Word says about it. Draw nine volunteer names; call these children to the front and give each a Scripture card. Line them up in front of the

congregation in number order. Ask CeeDee to step down and read each card as the children turn them over, one by one, repeating it when all the cards are turned over. CeeDee speaks to the children.

Does this mean that we should be on our knees before God as soon as we enter the church? After all, His Word says to bow down, (she bows down) and to kneel before Him (she kneels, still bowed over), and we should worship Him. Ouch, that hurts my back! I don't think I can do this for two straight hours every church service.

The director helps her up and answers her. **No, Sister CeeDee. What this means is that in our hearts we should know that God is great, the mightiest of all kings, and He is worthy of all of our respect, love, and worship. In our hearts and minds we should come before Him with an attitude of humility and love. We don't have to actually get down on our knees, but our hearts should always be ready to worship Him.** Ask the congregation to read the Scripture together. Thank your volunteers as they are seated.

Spirit Generator (2-3 minutes)

“Lord We Lift Your Name on High”

Illustrated Sermon (10-12 minutes)

Why We Worship the Lord

Sister CeeDee, I need your help for our Bible story. For the next forty-two seconds, the children are going to call out words of praise, and you and I are going to write them down. We'll have to write fast; can you do it? CeeDee nods her head. Ask someone to keep time. The director says “Go!” and the children begin calling out worship words. A volunteer could shout out the first word to get them started, such as Hallelujah! The director and CeeDee should not write the same phrases. When time is up, commend the children for their list of words.

Distribute the rocks and one marker to each child. Tell them to select one word from the list and write it on their rock. Give them thirty-three seconds to do this. Ask them to place their rocks

under their seats.

Close your eyes and think of a time when you wanted to shout because you were happy. Open your eyes. What made you want to shout, (*child*)? Call on two or three children to see what made them happy enough to shout—a special gift, grandparents coming for a visit, receiving the Holy Ghost.

When exciting things happen to us, we want to share the news. We want everyone to hear about it, and to get excited with us. There was a time when the people that knew Jesus became excited about Him. Let me tell you about it.

Jesus gave His disciples some strange instructions in the Book of Luke. He had been preaching and teaching long and hard to His followers, and now it was time for Him to go to the big city of Jerusalem. There was going to be a holiday, so Jesus told His disciples to do something quite different than anything He had ever done before. He told them to go find him a donkey to ride!

Does that seem strange to you? I'm sure it was strange for His disciples. They had never heard Jesus ask for any kind of special treatment before, and now He wants to ride a donkey into Jerusalem. Not just any donkey, though. It had to be a young donkey, one that had never been ridden by any man. And it belonged to a complete stranger. The disciples had to go this stranger, ask for the donkey, and tell him it was for the Master. Strange words for a strange request! But the disciples had learned to listen to Jesus, so they did just what he said. Select three volunteers, two disciples and a strong one to be the donkey. Give the two “disciples” each a biblical-style robe. Let them mime as you tell the story.

Sure enough, when they got to the man's house, just as Jesus had instructed, there was a young donkey in the front yard, as well as the owner. They asked to borrow the donkey, and were told, “Sure, go ahead.” Wow! What strange but wonderful things happen when you listen to Jesus!

The disciples took the donkey back to Jesus, laid their coats on its back for a more comfortable ride, and helped Jesus climb on. The disciples lay their coats on the “donkey.”

Select a small volunteer to be Jesus, letting him climb on the “donkey's” back. **Jesus and His disciples started down the road to Jerusalem. It wasn't long before a crowd gathered around them, for the people knew Jesus. They had heard Him preach and had seen His miracles—miracles such as raising Lazarus from the dead, healing blind Bartimaeus, feeding 5,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two little fish. Oh, yes, they knew this Man, and they wanted to be near Him to see what great thing He would do next.** Depending on the size of your group and the area, either let the entire group gather around, or select six children. Quickly distribute the branches or handkerchiefs.

As they walked along the road, though, the feelings of the crowd seemed to change. Instead of waiting and watching for another miracle, they began to feel joy and happiness and praise—and all of it was because of the Man on the donkey. Suddenly, someone shouted out “Hosanna!” Then another did the same. Another cried out “Glory to God!” Soon the entire crowd was shouting praises to God, looking directly at Jesus and waving their branches at Him as they walked along. Instruct the children to wave their branches (hankies) as they follow “Jesus.” **What a loud and glorious time they had praising the Lord!**

But then, a Pharisee—a man who did not like Jesus—walked right up to Jesus and asked Him, (do so) “Why don't You tell Your followers to be quiet? They should be rebuked for praising You as though You are God!” Everyone standing nearby became quiet. Were they wrong in what they were doing? Was it wrong to be so excited about this Man who could do what only God could do? Were they in trouble?

Ask the children to quietly return to their seats. When they are seated, continue. **Jesus looked the man straight in the eye and said something very strange. “If these people stay quiet, then the rocks will cry out instead!”** Pause dramatically for effect.

Invitation and Prayer (5-? minutes)

CeeDee comes to the front. **I can see now how important it is to worship from your heart, not just with perfection. I wanted every note to be right, every word to be just so, but these**

children—and of course God's Word—have taught me that praise, not perfection, is what matters to God. The director agrees with her and continues.

Pick up your rock, and hold it in your hand. Can it speak? Hold it to your ear. Can you hear the rock? Of course not. But Jesus knew that the Word of God says to praise the Lord, for two very good reasons. Read Psalm 138:1-2, 5. For great is the glory of the Lord! Read Psalm 146. We praise God because He is our creator, because He does miracles, because He loves the righteous. Read Psalm 147:1, 3, and 5. We praise God because it feels good to praise Him! It makes sense to praise the One who heals us, who makes us, who saves us from sin. And if we who have tongues and voices and breath to praise Him, choose not to praise Him, then these hard, dry, lifeless little stones will suddenly cry out in worship and praise to God!

Rub your rock against your neighbor's rock. Does it sound like praise? Do you want God to hear the stones cry out? He did not make the stones to praise Him. He created man to praise Him! He is our creator, and our savior.

Musicians begin to play softly. The world cannot save us. Doctors can help us, but they cannot raise us from the dead. Scientists cannot create us. Only God, our very own Creator and Savior, can do this. Don't you agree that He deserves our highest praise? Let's come to the front and show Him how much we love Him. Don't let your little rock be the only thing with a word of praise. You have breath and life to praise the Lord; let's praise Him together!

As the musicians play, lead in a time of praise and worship. Be sensitive to those who begin to praise in earnest, allowing the Spirit to wash over them. Continue to encourage praise, both in words and song. Just as God created us to worship Him, He came to earth to be our Savior. He still wants to hear our words of praise and worship, but now we can have a double blessing as we worship. We can ask Him to come into our hearts, to forgive us of our sins. Those same sins can be washed away through baptism in His name, and then He will enter your heart—you will be filled with the Holy Ghost and speak in other tongues! What wonderful words of praise will flow from your lips as you let Jesus fill you! You can receive Him now by raising your hands and talking to Him with your words of repentance, and then words of praise.

Again, be sensitive to the Spirit and those children who sincerely cry out to God. Your prayer warriors should already be mingling with the children praying with and encouraging them.

Close with the song, "I've Got the Holy Ghost Down in My Soul."

The children take home their rocks and kazoos.