

3

Worship
We praise God for His great love.

POWER TEXT

"I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken" (Psalm 16:7, 8).

KEY REFERENCES

- Luke 4:16-30
- *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 24, pp. 236-243
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 7, pp. 165-168
- Student story on page 42 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 4, The Son
- No. 9, The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ
- No. 18, The Gift of Prophecy

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that Jesus is the center of all true Christian worship.
- **Feel** a desire to make Christ the center of their own worship.
- **Respond** by seeking to get to know Jesus better through personal, family, and corporate worship.

Now You See Him; Now You Don't

POWERPOINT

When we respond to God's love, Christ becomes the center of our worship.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Jesus goes to the synagogue to worship God every Sabbath. He takes part in the worship service. He reads the Scripture. He knows the Old Testament stories. He applies Scripture to things happening in His day. But sometimes the people do not appreciate Jesus or the things He has to say. One day they actually shove Him out of the church and toward a cliff.

This is a lesson about worship.

Christ is the center of all Christian worship. By keeping Him as the focus and center of our worship, we respond to God's great love.

Teacher Enrichment

True worship involves our response to God. We take time to think about Him and what He has done for us. We ask God to listen to our attempt to pour out our feelings of adoration and praise to Him.

We respond to God Himself—the ever-living, all-knowing, all-powerful God. We respond to God's actions—His death for us, the example of His life on earth, the continuing presence of the Holy Spirit. Worship is to connect us with (1) what God has done for us, (2) what He is doing for us, and (3) what He will do for us. The center is God.

The synagogue was an important religious institution among the Jews of Jesus' day. Originating during the exile, it provided a place where Jews could study the Scriptures and worship God. A synagogue could be established in any town where there were at least 10 married Jewish men. Visiting teachers were allowed to participate in the worship service by invitation of the synagogue leaders.

How do I respond to God's love? How important is my personal worship time?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson. Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the readiness activity of your choice.

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness Activities	10-15	*A. Create It!* *B. Experience It!*	Bibles, paper, blocks or boxes, tape, cloth, art supplies, poster board
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 37. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, offering plate/basket
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story Experiencing the Story Exploring the Bible	four copies of *Net Kids* script (p. 147) Bibles Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*On Target*	large sheets of paper, pencils/pens
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Worship Committees*	paper, pencils/pens
* Closing		Prayer and Closing Comments Reminder to Parents Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED: A1
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ paper
- ☐ blocks or boxes
- ☐ tape

YOU NEED: A2
- ☐ cloth for banner
- ☐ art supplies

YOU NEED: A3
- ☐ art supplies
- ☐ poster board

Create It!

Allow students to participate in one of the following activities:

1. Find Isaiah 56:7 and read it. With the materials provided design, draw, construct "a house of prayer for all nations." Keep in mind what you know of the architecture of other countries. You can draw a floor plan and/or the outside.

2. Read Psalm 22:22 or Psalm 35:18 as inspiration and with the materials provided create a cloth banner. You may change the pronoun "you" to the name *Jesus Christ*.

3. With the materials provided create a poster or bumper sticker that focuses on the theme "Jesus is the center of our lives."

Have each group present and explain what they did.

Debriefing

Ask: **Of what are we reminded through each of these creations?** (To praise God; why and how we worship Him.) **How can we make Christ the center of our worship? When is it easy to praise God? Why? When is it difficult to praise Him? Why? Let's say our power text, Psalm 16:7, 8:**

"I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken" (Psalm 16:7, 8).

Our power point reminds us that

When we respond to God's love, Christ becomes the center of our worship.

Accommodations for students with special needs

Place students with special needs in the activity groups in which they would feel most comfortable participating. Identify their skills and talents and create opportunities for them to thrive.

B

Experience It!

Discuss with the students that prayer, communication with God, is an important aspect of worship. Ask them to each get in a position that they normally assume while talking with God, as with a friend. For this activity, encourage them to experiment a little (stand, bow, kneel) and spread out around the room. When they have assumed their position, ask them each to talk silently, but earnestly, with God about something they really care about.

Debriefing

After they have finished praying, ask: **How did you feel about the appropriateness of your posture? Did you feel that you were really communicating with God? Was it easier or harder to communicate in the position you chose? How do you think God felt? Was Christ at the center of your thoughts? What can you learn about you and prayer from this? Let's say together our power text, Psalm 16:7, 8:**

"I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken" (Psalm 16:7, 8).

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Prayer and Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"Oh, Magnify the Lord" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 12)
"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" (*Praise Time*, no. 71)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use *Adventist Mission* for youth and adults (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. Using a world map, have the students identify and mark with pushpins the location where the mission story is taking place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Read 1 Chronicles 16:29: **"Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him. Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness."**

Prayer

Before praying you may want to use the song "As We Come to You in Prayer" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, no. 671) or a song that has a prayerful message. Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ four scripts (p. 147)

Introducing the Bible Story

***The* Net Kids**

(Refer to Lesson 2 for background and setup information.)

Make four copies of the *Net Kids* script found on page 147 of this guide. Distribute to the students you have selected as early as possible. Allow practice time before using this activity. Present the skit.

Debriefing

Ask: **What devotional book do you use for your personal worship? How does it encourage you to read the Bible? Today we are going to talk about what we can do to make Jesus the center of our worship.**

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles

Experiencing the Story

Say: **The power point of our lesson this week is that**

When we respond to God's love, Christ becomes the center of our worship.

Our Bible story is actually about when people decided NOT to make Jesus the center of worship. Let's read about it from the Bible.

Ask a student to read Luke 4:16 and 17 aloud. (Choose good readers and encourage others to participate by answering questions.)

Ask: **Where was Jesus?** (home) **How surprised were people to see Him?** (They weren't; they were used to seeing Him there.) **Why do you think they asked Him to read?** (He knew the Scriptures well; He probably had a good voice.)

Have someone else read verses 18 and 19.

Ask: **What did He do when He finished reading the Scripture text from Isaiah?**

Have someone read verse 20.

Say: **The people sat there amazed, because He brought such meaning to the words of the prophecy. But this was a young man they had known all of their lives. They just couldn't accept that He could be who He was saying He was. He also told them that He was not going to do the things that they expected the Messiah to do. How did they respond to this?**

Have someone read verses 28 and 29 aloud.

Ask: **Try to imagine the crowd of angry people chasing the young man out of the house of worship and toward a cliff to throw Him off.**

But Jesus knew it wasn't time for Him to die, so He slipped away. (Have someone read verse 30.) **Can you imagine the looks on the faces of the crowd, standing on the edge of the cliff when they realized He was gone?**

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles

Exploring the Bible

Say: **God created human beings with a desire to know Him. Although people belong to many different religions in the world, they are all looking for the one true God. How do we find out about God? Let's find and read John 14:9, 10.** (Read the verse together.)

Ask: **Who is the focus of our worship? Let's find and read 1 Corinthians 2:2.** (Jesus and His death for us)

Ask: **Who makes it possible for us to worship? Let's find and read Galatians 2:20.** (Christ lives in us and makes everything we do possible.)

Ask: **Are there ever times when Jesus does not seem to be at the center of our worship? When? Why do you think that is?**

Let's say together our power text, Psalm 16:7, 8:

"I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken" (Psalm 16:7, 8).

Remember:

When we respond to God's love, Christ becomes the center of our worship.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ large papers
- ☐ pens/pencils

On Target

Let the students pair off and give each pair a large piece of paper and a pen or pencil. Ask them to draw a target with a bull's-eye in the center. In the center of their bull's-eye they should write "Jesus," indicating that He is what everything else centers around. Then ask them to prioritize other things in their lives, writing them in the outer circles of the target with the most important things being closest to the center and the less important things written in the outer rings of the target.

Ask: **How can we keep Jesus in the center of our lives and our worship? What things get in the way of Jesus being the central focus of our lives? How does drawing this target help us understand how to respond properly to God's love?**

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pens/pencils

Worship Committees

Ask students to share with the class if they had the opportunity last week to participate actively in family worship. Ask: **How did you get involved in family worship? In what ways did you or your siblings lead out in family worship? What did you learn about the joy that comes from praising God with others?**

Set up groups of chairs around the classroom, each designated for a particular aspect of the worship service at your church (music, sermon, offering, praise, prayer, etc.). Divide the students among the groups, taking into consideration student interest. Each group should make a plan for conducting that area of worship in a Christ-centered way. (Have an adult facilitator with each group to ensure that ideas will be acceptable in your situation, but instruct that person to let students express themselves and be creative.) The plans should include: number of people needed, materials needed, amount of time needed. Collect the plans at the end of the period. Keep them for next Sabbath.

Debriefing

Ask: **How did it feel to design a part of worship yourself?** (exciting; awesome)

We are going to keep working with these plans and create a service that we can share with the rest of our church sometime.

Remember:

When we respond to God's love, Christ becomes the center of our worship.

Accommodations for students with special needs

Allow students with special needs to work in groups in which they would feel most comfortable participating. The goal is for them to be able to contribute to the best of their ability.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Pray that Jesus, through the Spirit, will particularly reveal Himself to your students.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Jesus preaches in Capernaum. Worship is a verb and involves action.**

Notes

Student lesson

Now You See Him; Now You Don't

Can you remember something in church that made you feel close to God? It may have been a song, a reading, a sermon, or something else. When we worship God, we get to know Him better, and He can speak to us about His plans for us. Imagine a worship service like this one.

Jesus got up to read the Scripture. People in the village had been talking about Him, telling stories about His going to other towns and healing people. Now He was back in Nazareth, where He had grown up. It seemed that more people than usual were at the synagogue today. The whole town had heard that one of their own was back. They wanted to see just how He had changed.

Standing in front of the group, Jesus opened the scroll. The whole room seemed to be holding its breath, waiting for Jesus to speak.

Jesus told the group He was reading from Isaiah where the prophet says, "The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (Isaiah 61:1, 2).

The way He read the verses, people felt drawn to them. He spoke with authority, but also with kindness. Finishing reading, Jesus rolled up the scroll and handed it to the synagogue attendant. Wrapped in silence, everyone wondered what would happen next.

Jesus looked around the room and slowly began to explain what He had read. "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21). They remembered Him as someone who could mend their broken furniture. Now He was talking about being able to mend broken hearts.

Questioning faces looked at one another. Not everyone was pleased with Jesus' comments about Himself. Some thought they were right to doubt Jesus' authority because He did not perform any miracle in their town. They wanted more proof than the stories they had heard from Capernaum. After all, they had known this man since He was a little boy.

Suddenly one of the elders jumped to his feet. "Don't you remember who this Jesus is? He's just the son of Joseph."

"That's right!" shouted another elder. "Why are you following after this man like a herd of goats?"

"Jesus has done a lot of good. What about the healing He's done?" questioned someone else.

"Healing? How do we know those stories are true?" another person retorted. "He hasn't done anything like that here in Nazareth."

The crowd was beginning to take sides. People shouted to make themselves heard. The synagogue was in complete turmoil. The people agreed to put an end to Jesus' teaching by throwing Him down from the cliff.

The crowd started pushing its way toward the cliff outside of town. For a while it seemed that this would be the end of Jesus' ministry, right in the place where He had grown up. The noisy crowd approached the top of the cliff near Nazareth. But suddenly they stopped in confusion. Where was Jesus? Who had seen Him last? Where had He gone?

As the people of Nazareth milled around the edge of the cliff in confusion, it finally dawned on them that Jesus was no longer with them. Confused, they finally wandered back to their homes.

They had had a chance to get to know Jesus while He lived among them. They had had a chance to believe in Him after they started hearing about the wonderful work He was doing in the villages around them. But they just couldn't believe He was anybody but the boy who had grown up next door.

KEY REFERENCES

- Luke 4:16-30
- *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 24, pp. 236-243
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 7, pp. 165-168
- Our Beliefs nos. 4, 9, 18

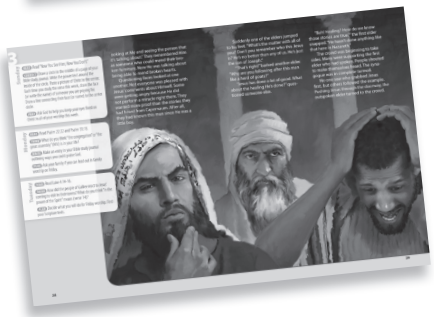
POWER TEXT

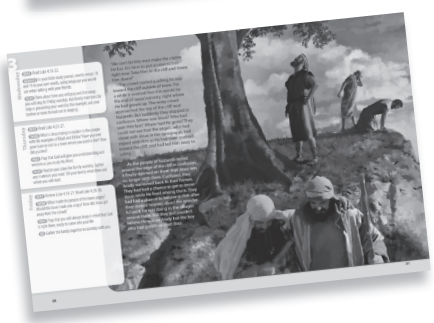
"I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken" (Psalm 16:7, 8).

POWER POINT

When we respond to God's love, Christ becomes the center of our worship.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 32.

Sunday

READ Read Isaiah 61:1, 2 and this week's story, "Now You See Him; Now You Don't."

CONNECT Draw a circle in the middle of a page of your Bible study journal. Write the power text around the inside of the circle. Paste a picture of Christ in the center. Throughout the week, write the names of those for whom you are praying outside the circle. Draw lines to connect their names to the center circle.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you keep your eyes on Christ.

Monday

READ Read Psalm 22:22 and Psalm 35:18.

THINK What is the meaning of these verses? What does "the assembly" or "the great assembly" represent?

PLAN Plan to lead out in family worship on Friday.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Praise God cheerfully both at home and at church.

Tuesday

READ Read Luke 4:14–16.

THINK Where did Jesus receive power for His ministry?

PLAN Find Bible texts for your family worship on Friday.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray for the power of God's Spirit in your life.

Wednesday

READ Read Luke 4:18–22.

REWRITE In your Bible study journal, rewrite verses 18 and 19 in your own words.

PLAN Plan the songs you will sing for Friday worship. Ask family members for help in presenting your worship

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you reach out to others for Him.

Thursday

READ Read Luke 4:23–27.

THINK Why was faith essential when God chose people for special roles? How do you feel knowing that you are God's chosen one as long as you believe? How will you exercise your faith in God today?

PLAN Prepare the materials needed for family worship.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God for a deeper understanding as you study His Word.

Friday

READ Read Luke 4:28–30.

THINK What made the people of the town angry? Would this have made you angry? How did Jesus get away from the crowd?

REPEAT Repeat the power text.

WORSHIP Gather the family together for family worship and lead out according to the plan you made during the week.

PRAY Pray that you will always keep in mind that God is with you and that He longs to come into your life.