



UNIT 5 | SESSION 5

GOD DESERVES OUR WORSHIP

LEVITICUS 1-4

KEY PASSAGE:

Psalm 95:6-7

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is worship? *Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.*

CHRIST CONNECTION:

God deserves our worship. He created us to be in a relationship with Him, and He has provided salvation from sin through His Son, Jesus. We can worship God by loving and obeying Him as we live to give Him glory.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

Think back to Eden. When Adam and Eve rebelled against God, their eyes were opened and they realized their nakedness. What was once no problem in their innocence had become shameful in their sinfulness. So the couple took leaves to try to cover their bodies and their shame. But what did God do just before expelling the couple from Eden to face a fallen world on their own? He made clothing for them out of animal skins. (See Gen. 3:21)

Why? God may have had a practical reason; leaves would not last very long as clothing. But there is likely a deeper, spiritual reason for what He did. In order to clothe Adam and Eve with animal skins, animals would have to die. God had told Adam and Eve that death would result from the Fall, and this was a way to affirm God's word. As Adam and Eve exited the garden, then, they wore on their bodies an ever-present reminder that sin leads to death—perhaps not immediately, perhaps indirectly, but always.

Fast forward to Leviticus. By this time, we have seen animal sacrifices offered to God (e.g., by Abel, Noah, Abram, and the Israelites during the Passover). But now, God was taking the next step and sharing His requirements of how sacrifices were to be made. Leviticus gives great detail of what specific sacrifices were to be offered for

what purposes. Some of the sacrifices were voluntary, but some were not. Blood must be shed because of sin, as God had promised would happen.

But, we have to be careful not to go too far with these animal sacrifices. These sacrifices themselves could not save anyone. (See Heb. 10:4.) So what did they do? Why were they needed then? When God commanded His people to perform these sacrifices, He was calling them to act upon their faith in Him. This faith was anchored to the awareness that their sins had separated them from a holy God and that God's word is true: death was required because of sin.

God had promised that a Person—a descendant of Eve—would be the snake crusher. This is the faith that Israel's sacrifices pointed to: a future once-and-for-all death of a Savior, a sacrifice that was made by Christ Jesus.

SACRIFICES

Voluntary offerings: burnt (for propitiation for sin and commitment to God), grain (for thanksgiving), fellowship (for fellowship with God)

Mandatory offerings: sin (for unintentional sin or uncleanness), guilt (for purification)

WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “When your parents or teachers give you a direction to follow and you do it, how do they usually respond? Why do you think your obedience makes them happy?”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: MAY I?



Direct kids to stand shoulder to shoulder at one end of the room. Stand at the other end of the room. Call out one kid's name and give him directions on how to move across the room. For example, “Everett, take two giant steps forward.”

Kids must remember to ask, “May I?” before they carefully follow your directions, or they must return to the start.

Change the directions you give to each kid. Direct them to hop, skip, crawl, walk slowly, dance, and so on, moving forward or backward.

SAY “In order to play the game well, you had to listen carefully and follow the directions I gave. Today we will learn that one of the ways we can worship God is by obeying all that He says.”

OPTION 2: WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU

Distribute washable markers and paper. Instruct each kid to write her name at the top. Lead kids to arrange their papers around a table. Then encourage kids to move around the table and write something they admire or like about each kid on her sheet of paper.

Provide enough time so that most kids have written on one another's papers. Then allow kids to collect their papers and read the words their friends used to describe them.

SAY “How did it make you feel to read nice things about yourself? Today we will discuss how God is worthy of our worship. One of the ways we can worship God is to tell Him all that we love about Him.”

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (2 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “Hi, everyone! I'm [your name]. I am so glad you're here! Do you have your Bible with you? [Provide Bibles for kids who need one.] The Bible is the Word of God. Through His Word, God tells us about Himself. He wants to reveal Himself to us; He created us to know Him—for His glory and our joy. Isn't that amazing?”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

SAY “We have been thinking about the big picture question, **What is worship?** Does anyone remember the answer? [Allow kids to respond.] **Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.**

Let's say the big picture question and answer together: **What is worship? Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.** God is worthy of all worship because of who He is and what He has done.”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Leviticus 1–4. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “God Deserves Our Worship.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

GOD DESERVES OUR WORSHIP

“**God gave** Moses many **laws to show His people what holy living looks like**. God is holy and He wants to be with His people, but the Israelites could not keep God’s laws perfectly. **God gave His people rules about how to live, how to worship, and what to do when they sinned.**”

One day, **God met with Moses at the tabernacle**. The tabernacle was a place where God met with His people and where they worshiped Him.

God told Moses, “Speak to the Israelites and tell them what to do when they bring an offering to Me.” Then God gave Moses rules about offerings. Offerings are gifts people give to God, such as money, grain, or animals. **Different types of offerings were needed at different times.**

God also gave rules about the priests. **Priests made the sacrifices that God commanded.** The priests took care of the tabernacle, and they taught the people God’s rules for holy living. Aaron and his sons served as the priests. **God gave them rules about how to offer sacrifices.**

When people wanted to praise God, they gave burnt offerings. God deserves our praise. The Israelites praised God for bringing them out of Egypt.

When people wanted to thank God, they gave grain offerings. God deserves our thanks. The Israelites thanked God for providing everything they needed.

When people wanted to celebrate God, they gave fellowship offerings. God deserves to be celebrated. The Israelites celebrated God for dwelling with them, and they honored Him as their King.

When people wanted to say they were sorry for sin, they gave a sin offering. God is honored when people turn away from their sin and turn back to Him. The Israelites needed to make their relationship with God right again. **The priest gave an offering so the people could be forgiven.**

Christ Connection: God deserves our worship. He created us to be in a relationship with Him, and He has provided salvation from sin through His Son, Jesus. We can worship God by loving and obeying Him as we live to give Him glory. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Show visual aids: Provide pictures of what the tabernacle might have looked like as well as pictures of the garments the priests would have worn during this time.

Call for active listening: Challenge kids to listen for words like *celebrate*, *praise*, and *worship* while you tell the story to help direct their focus to the theme of today’s story. Each time they hear these words, they should lift their hands.

Small Group Discussion/Questions

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Open your Bible to Leviticus 1. In the first chapters of the Book of Leviticus, God instructed the people how to give offerings for different purposes. Look at Leviticus 1:4 . [Choose a volunteer to read the verse aloud.] Giving offerings was a way the people worshiped, praised, and thanked God; it was also a way to ask God for forgiveness of their sins. People would offer a burnt offering as a way to pay for their sins.

Later, God provided Jesus, the perfect Lamb of God, as the final sacrifice for sins. His death would take care of sin once and for all. People would no longer need to offer burnt offerings for their sin because Jesus conquered sin and death. (Hebrews 10:11-14)

God is worthy of all worship because of who He is and what He has done. One of the reasons we praise God is because He provided salvation through Jesus. Do we still give offerings like the ones mentioned in Leviticus? [Allow kids to respond.] No, we don't. We can praise God and worship Him for sending Jesus to save us from our sins. One of the best ways to show our thanks is to love and trust Him and to follow Him closely by obeying what He says. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ God deserves our worship. He created us to be in a relationship with Him, and He has provided salvation from sin through His Son, Jesus. We can worship God by loving and obeying Him as we live to give Him glory. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

| **SAY** “ What does it mean that God is holy? ”

Help kids understand that God being holy means that He is perfect and totally set apart from sin. Our sin separates us from Him. God had a plan to rescue people from sin by sending His Son, Jesus, to be the payment for sin. God wants us to live in holiness as His children.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Eph. 1:4-7.)

| **SAY** “ How can you tell God you are sorry for your sin? ”

Lead kids to understand that while we no longer need to offer a sacrifice for our sins, we do need to come to God to deal with our sin. The first step is to trust Jesus as Savior, but Christians will still mess up. It is important for Christians to confess our sins to God, admit that we were wrong, and then turn from that sin. We can pray and confess sin with other believers, and we can seek forgiveness when we have wronged others.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 32:5.)

| **SAY** “ What are some ways you can give an offering to God? ”

Let kids brainstorm ideas for how they can give an offering to God. While we no longer give grain or fellowship offerings, the best way we can worship God is by surrendering our lives to Him, allowing Him to use our lives as He wants.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 12:1.)