



# Worship and Praise

## Lesson 4:

*Experiencing the community of the church as expressed in worship of God together.*

The majority of Jesus' childhood was spent in the small village of Nazareth where his family would have taken part in the Jewish community and worship. Infants and toddlers can feel love and acceptance as part of a church family today. They can relate to observing others worship God and learning to be part of a church community who worships together.

*Scripture: "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."  
Matthew 18:20, English Standard Version*

## Class Schedule

45 Minutes

### Welcome Time (15 minutes)

*On the mat in the soft corner.* Time to settle in and enjoy free play. Music or singing.

### Bible Time and Lesson (20 minutes total)

*At the table*

- Bible Time
- Lesson: (In preparation for class the teacher should read about the community of the early church in Acts 2:42-47 and verses such as Psalm 95:6 about worship). In the lesson today help children participate in worship activities that are familiar to them when they worship with the church. *"Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs."  
Psalm 100:2 (NIV)*
- Craft: (optional) Any craft having to do with worship activity of the church.
- Snack: Water and any simple snack will do (raisins, crackers, vegetables or fruit).

### Closing (10 minutes)

*On the mat in the soft corner:* Quiet activities to settle down. Quiet worship songs.

## Teaching Items to Collect

(Some are in the Theme Boxes)

- A "big" bible that are more similar to what grownups would carry. Have Psalm 100:2 marked to read. Smaller Bibles for the children to hold.
- Picture books or other illustrations depicting people in worship.
- Pictures of members of your church family.
- Church song books.
- Items similar to those used when taking up the collection at church. These will be used to role-play giving. (Infants love putting coins in a container and hearing them clank and rattle around!)
  - Bags, collection plates, small buckets or even plastic cups
  - Large "coins". Actual coins are a choking hazard so use something like large plastic poker chips.
- Doll Family



## 1. Welcome Time

(15 minutes) *On the mat in the soft corner*  
Time to settle in and enjoy free play.  
Sing songs or play a recording of Christian children's songs on the background as you play.

- Welcome each by name
- Mirrors, Peep Tube
- Use paper plates as steering wheels or toy vehicles to mimic driving to church.
- Bell to indicate class is about to start

## 2. Bible Time

When you move to the table spend the first 5 minutes in routines that you repeat each week.

- Pat the bible
- Find Jesus picture (sticker) in bible. Take time to talk about Jesus as our friend.
- "Read" - God loves \_\_\_\_\_. Filling the blank with the child's name and members of his/her family.
- Sing B-I-B-L-E

### Vocabulary:

- God
- Church
- Bible
- Sing
- Pray

### Sensory:

- Hearing the singing of songs (loud, soft, fast, slow)
- Clanging of coins in a cup
- Touching Bible pages

## 3. Bible Lesson

(15 minutes) *At the table*

- Guide children in worship by helping them act out various aspects of a normal worship assembly. Be prepared to do much of this while they watch but include the children as much as possible:
  - Open with a greeting. Shake each child's hand while saying how happy you are that they came to church today.
  - Read from the "big" Bible.
  - Sing songs from a songbook. You might call out a song number and let them "look it up" before singing.
  - Take part in a monetary collection. One at a time let children drop "coins" into a container.
  - Lead a prayer and have the children repeat after you.
  - Clap in praise to God.

- One at a time show photos of members of your church that children know. Each time ask the children the name of the person and then say "Yes, \_\_\_\_\_ is in our church family!"

- Draw a simple shape of a church building and then guide children in sticking smiley face or people stickers on it. As the children do this you can name various people in your church that the children know.



- Craft (optional): A craft depicting a church building or group of people. Entitle it "I worship" or "My church family".
- Prayer: Fold hands and close eyes to pray.
- Snack: Any healthy snack.

## 4. Closing

(10 minutes) *On the mat in the soft corner.* Quiet activities to settle down

- Encourage the children to be the leaders in "helping" the baby dolls to sing and read their Bibles.



# Suggested Songs for this Lesson:

Note: Infants and toddlers enjoy the rhythm and melody of song but they are not critics of the teacher's abilities! It's fine if you sing the same tune every time, make up your own tune or even just say the words in a poetic or fun way. Just have fun with it and put the children's needs above your own shyness.

Children enjoy singing along with adults. Often parents and grandparents sing old hymns to children as lullabies. If you are familiar with these then sing them for this lesson. Do not feel you are limited to only singing classic children's songs.

## God is So Good

God is so good. God is so good.  
God is so good. He's so good to me.

I praise his name. I praise his name.  
I praise his name. He's so good to me.

*\*Sing the first verse of this of this hymn by Paul Makai © 1970. If this song is not in your church hymnal then search online to hear the tune.*

## Are You Singing?

Are you \*singing? Are you singing?  
Little one. Little one.  
Listen to our singing. Listen to our singing.  
Sing to God. Sing to God.

*\*Substitute other aspects of worship (praying, reading, listening, etc.)*

Tune: Frere Jacques/Are Sleeping, Brother John.

Action: Use this song as you guide the children in worship.

## This is the Way

This is the way we \*read our Bible.  
Read our Bible. Read our Bible.  
This is the way we read our Bible.  
To worship our God.

*\*Substitute other aspects of worship (sing a song, give to God, greet our friends, etc.)*

Tune: This is the Way We Wash our Clothes

Action: Use this song as you guide the children in worship.

*Another activity is to provide each child with a paper or plastic plate that they use as a toy steering wheel as if driving a car. They can turn their steering wheels as you sing "This is the way we drive the car (or beep the horn etc.) on the way to Bible class."*

## Yes Jesus Love Me

Jesus loves me this I know  
For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to him belong.  
They are weak but he is strong,

Tune: Traditional

Action: Use this song as you guide the children in singing from the hymnal.



## This is the Church (poem and finger play)

Instructions: Folded hands form a church and steeple while fingers are the people inside in this traditional poem. Toddlers, in particular, are fascinated by the way the teacher makes the fingers appear and disappear. Say each line while doing the actions at the same time.

Here is the church (Action: Fold your hands with fingers on the outside of knuckles)  
And here is the steeple (Action: Put index fingers up to form the steeple of the church)  
Open the doors (Action: Move your thumbs apart)  
Where are the people? (Action: The fingers are outside so there are no people)

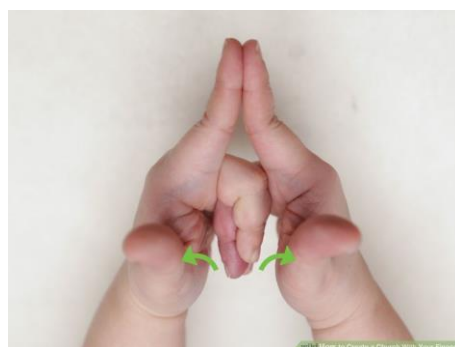
Here is the church  
(Action: This time around fold your hands with fingers on the inside as pictured.)



And here is the steeple (Action: Put index fingers up to form the steeple of the church)



Open the doors (Action: Move your thumbs apart)



Here are the people!  
(Action: The fingers are inside so wiggle them around for effect)

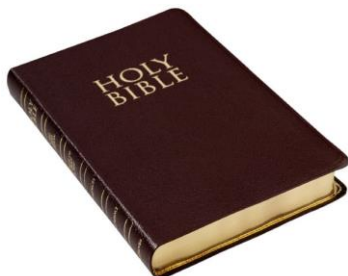


These hand photos are from <http://www.wikihow.com/Create-a-Church-With-Your-Fingers> 2016

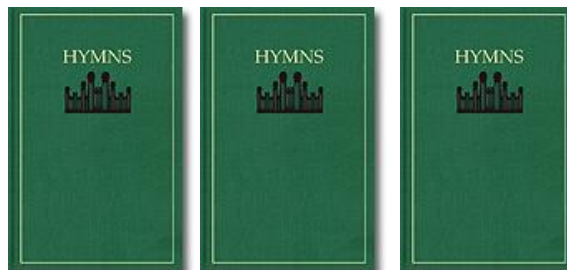




## Items to Use to Teach this Lesson



A large Bible and smaller Bibles for the children.



A hymnal or songbook for teacher and each child. Alternatively, make song booklets for each child.



Bags, collection plates, small buckets or even plastic cups



Toy coins. They should be large enough that they could not be swallowed. An interesting alternative is very large unmarked poker chips.



Doll family to act out going to church.



Photos of people in your church that are familiar to the children.