



Worship Experience February 7, 2021 Community

This W.E. (Worship Experience) is designed to help children (and their parents) discover a deeper level of awe, wonder, and celebration of a God who loves us and is worthy of our praise. While we prefer to do these in person, this W.E. is an “at home” experience, to be used when it best suits your family. Read it through, then pick a time and the pieces that will best work for your children - and worship together - because WE are changed when we enter into worship and celebrate God. We invite you to pick what works for your children. That being said, we also encourage you to trust the process as some of these might take you out of your comfort zone and ask your children (and you) to be uncomfortable. That uncomfortableness is God growing us - lean it to that!

Bold text are recommended to be read
Regular text is informational/instructional

Welcome

This W.E. or Worship Experience is designed to help us grow closer to God through celebrating God’s character and all the good God has done for us. We are going to start by preparing. Let’s go through the following checklist to make sure we are ready.

- 1. Location - Do we have a good space to worship together?**
A good space could be anywhere - a kitchen table, a living room, car while you’re driving, a front deck, in a yard. You will need some place to write, and writing utensils and/or crayon.
- 2. Distractions - During this time we are going to focus on God. So, let’s put all distractions away. What might distract us? Let’s put that away for now.**
This means put phones away, turn off games, radios, computers, etc.

3. Time - We are going to spend _____ minutes (hour) worshipping together.

After reading through options and picking what you think will work best for your family - set a reasonable amount of time. When that time is up - you can offer to go longer if your kids are into it. Worship is a response of love - forcing anyone to worship doesn't work - so pick a realistic amount of time.

4. Readyng ourselves - So we can focus on God and enter into worship, we are going to take a couple of moments to focus. (Pick one of the options below).

- a. **Go around your family and ask each person - Are you ready to worship? If not - what can we do to get you ready?**
- b. **We are going to sit quietly for 15 seconds. (Then) God we are here to worship you, what is distracting us? We will sit 30 more seconds and every time something comes into our mind that distracts us we will pray, "God remove that thought."**
- c. **Breathing Prayer - While we sit quietly, we will breathe in deeply and pray quietly in our minds, "God fill me". As we breathe out slowly, we will pray quietly in our minds, "Jesus take my distractions."**

Topic Introduction

This W.E. topic is Community.

What is Community? Take answers - and feel free to give your own.

There are lots of different answers to that question - it's a TV show, it's a group of people, it's a group of living things. But today when we talk about community, we are specifically using this word to mean a group of people being together.

Did you know that when God was making things, he would see how good it was - until Genesis 2:18 where he said, it was NOT GOOD for people to be alone! You and I were made to live with other people. We were made to live in community.

Let's play a worship game. It's a version of "Let's Go on a Picnic". We will go in a circle and each person has to come up with a "community" or group of people they are a part of. You'll say, "God, thanks for my _____ community". Depending on who you have, adjust your competitive spirit - worship can be fun! Keep going until you run out of ideas - it's ok to group think these too. Celebrate creativity! Class, church, Bellingham, family, are all communities or groups of people your child could be thankful for.

All of these communities God wants us to bring Jesus into.

Before we get too far into that, lets jump into celebrating God:

(Do them in order or jump to the one you like)

- 1st. For making us - each of us as one of a kind individual unique.**
- 2nd. For community with God.**
- 3rd. For community with others.**
- 4th. How awesome God is!**

First Worship Activity

Community is really important, but it is not just about what we get from those around us. When we are in community, we bring ourselves and all we have to offer too. Since each one of us is one of a kind, we are needed! Let's thank God for the unique ways God made each of us.

Options:

1. Pick a "recorder" to write down all of your answers. **Write Family on a piece of paper. Under that, write one person's name to start. (Everyone will have a turn.)** When your name is written, you will

be asked, "What do you think you offer to this community that is special?" When they have trouble coming up with more ideas, everyone else can help out. Shoot for 5-10 per person. Then write the next person name, etc. Once everyone has done family, pick a new community (School, church, etc.) and repeat the process. Parents, allow your kids to speak into your specialness too! When you are done, have one person pray and say, "Wow! God, you made each one of us special! Thank you for making us each different so we can help others in our community."

2. If you have butcher or other large paper, trace everyone's body onto paper. **Now that you have traced everyone, have them write out what they have to offer community or what is special about them. After a few minutes or when most people are done writing - switch and move around to write on other people's outlines about what special ways God made them that they can offer to communities.** At the end pray over the outlines, thanking God for how he made each person special.
3. Sit in a circle with a ball (any ball will do). **Whoever has the ball gets to talk, they are going to say, I see (say their name). Thank you, God, for making them special by _____. Then they will roll the ball to that person who will repeat the process.**
4. Look up Psalm 139:13-16. Read it out loud together. Wait 30 seconds, and read it again. Take a couple of minutes to let the truth sink in and then respond to God by thanking him for making you special. Have one person pray to close the time.
5. Through Singing:
For younger kids (1st Grade and younger) God Made Me - Lyrics
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pEYz4i2SL2k>
God Made Me - with Motions <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAF-vHeTKhl>
For Older Kids: Everything Glorious - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jlHqG00xCLA>
It's a great song! If you've never heard it - play it and just listen together.

God made each of us one of a kind. That means we have something special to give to every community we are a part of. God is so GOOD!

Second Worship Activity

Symbols are simple representations of much bigger things. Let's play a quick game!

Can you match the symbols below correctly?

McDonalds



Starbucks



Pepsi



Nike



Avengers



What other symbols can you think of?

There are many symbols that are used in church, but one of the most recognized symbols is the cross. When we see the cross, many people think of Jesus. Christians often use the cross to show we are part of the COMMUNITY of Jesus followers. It is a very important symbol. What other symbols can you think of that might identify a community of Jesus followers?

The cross does many things as a symbol, reminding us about what Jesus did, how much God loves us, and how God can take bad things and work good out of them. But we are going to use it today to remind us about two communities we are called to love. A cross is made of two parts - an up and down vertical beam, and a horizontal beam. In this section we will look at the up and down beam and in the next section we will look at the horizontal beam.

The up and down “beam” reminds us we are to be in community with God. When Jesus was asked what the most important thing was, in Matthew 22 Jesus said to love God first and foremost. (Matthew 22:37-38). Another way of saying that is, be in community with God. Let’s never forget that only way we can be in community with God is because of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross (another way the cross is a reminder). In Jesus, there are many ways the Bible expresses how we can be in community with God.

Let’s worship God:

Options

1. **Let’s make a list of all the ways we can think of being in a community with God. (Father, Lord, Savior, King, Friend, etc.) Now that we have our list, let’s tell God why that matters to us.** (Thank you, God, for being my King and showing me the right way to live, etc.). For Younger kids, help them by making a list of how each roll God plays for us is different and beneficial for us.
2. Color the cross that is attached in the references section. Color the up and down, vertical beam and talk about how much God loved us, and take turns telling each other how God shows his love toward us and how we can show we love him. A great conversation to have could be, “What is most precious to you? What would you trade it for?”
3. **Being in community with God means we both talk to and listen to God. It’s a two-way street. It is up AND down. We are going to split up, find a place to be with God for 5 minutes (or if you’re in your car, just sit quietly). While you are there, tell God how you are feeling. What is happening in your life, after 2 minutes ask him what he has to say to you. Make sure to listen.** When time is up, come back together, ask if anyone heard God speak. If no one did, that’s ok, but encourage kids to share what they think God might have said. We’ve done this listening prayer in Base camp and kids do hear from God!
4. Read Revelation 3:20 - **If Jesus knocked on our door right now, what would you do? What would you ask him in? What would you show him? Anything you would hide? Would you feed him? If so, what would you feed him? What would you tell him? Would you ask him anything? What do you think Jesus would say? What would he want to do?** Have some fun exploring this scenario. Dive in and use your imaginations. Be real. At the end: **Jesus, thank you for wanting to be in community with us. Help us live in community with you.**
5. Through singing-
Younger kids – Behold, behold, I stand at the door and knock:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FyVnuZsy4Vc>
Older Kids - These are the Names of God: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u00eRCbSl-k>

The up and down “beam” reminds us to be in community with God first. But in Matthew 22, Jesus follows up the greatest commandment, with a second: to love the people around us. Let’s see how we can worship God by loving those around us.

Third Worship Activity

The cross reminds us with the horizontal beam that we are to live in community loving those people to our left and right. Let's worship God through celebrating those to our left and right. Not just right here, but in the communities in which we live.

1. Use a list you've already made, or make a new one. **Let's make a list of all the communities God has given us. Using this list, let's take turns celebrating how these communities help us be the special people God made us to be, and how they help us love God more. What communities are we missing right now, because we can't be a part of them due to Covid?** What are you looking forward to when you get to go back? OR How might God use this time away to grow your appreciation for this community?
2. Color in the horizontal beam on the cross below and discuss what you like most about the people you get to hang out with. How can you show them you appreciate them? Take time to tell God what good things the people to your left and right do to help you.
3. **Pick a time to sign up to bring snacks to the Light House Mission, then sign up! Take some time to talk about what it means to serve other people, watching the online videos.** Go to kids.ctlk.church and follow the links under Service Opportunity for kids with Light House Mission. It is rather simple and is a GREAT way to worship and serve!!
4. **Let's choose one community as a family that is important to us. Why is it important? Let's ask God to care for the people in this group. Is there any way to tangible support this community?** If so, and you can, do that!
5. Read Matthew 25:31-40. **Worship is our response to God. Jesus was very clear, time and again, saying that if we wanted to show we loved him, we were to obey him. This means using the special abilities we have to care for the people to our right and left. When we do, as this passage says, we actually take care of Jesus!**

Remember, Jesus forgives us because he loves us. We don't have to do anything to earn his forgiveness. Tell God how thankful you are and take a few minutes planning one way you can show God you love him, by loving the people around you this week. Optional discussion: If you were given \$10 how might you respond? \$100? \$1000? \$1 Billion? If Jesus forgives us for free, and it's a gift better than all the money in the world, how should we respond?

6. Through Singing

Younger Kids - Little Light of Mine <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yRhDi2aK5ac>

Little Light of Mine – Adult Version- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0qAYq1GVec>

Older Kids - Christ in Me - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VgGP3g1rjA8>

God calls us to be in community with him, and with others, which helps us, while we get to help each other. God is so amazing!

Fourth Worship Activity

Part of the mystery and beauty of who our God is, is that even God is in a community. God's community is complete and perfect between God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. He is three, and yet God is one. Get it? Neither do we. The fact God can't be explained and we can't know everything about God is a good thing. It means we don't have to be in control, we can let God be in charge of our lives. It also causes us to be filled with wonder and awe. Awe is that overwhelming feeling you get when something is so cool, but too big to understand. And awe is a great way to worship God.

Options:

1. **What's one time you were in awe of something?** Let each person answer. **We are going to go around and say something we don't understand about God - something that fills us with awe. After someone shares what fills them with Awe, we will say together, "God WOW!"**
2. Take a walk outside, or move to a window. **What do you see that causes you to feel awe? What is marvelous about how God has made the world?**
3. Read Psalm 98:1-9 – Option 1: Shout, **as loud as you can**, what you appreciate about God. Option 2: Sing a song you make up about how marvelous God is.
4. **If heaven is about being in a place where we are in perfect community with God and with other people, what do you think heaven will be like?**
5. Worship through Song:
Younger Kids: Super Wonderful - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RsZvuqPwHQo>
Older kids: I Can Only Imagine - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_lrrq_opng

Conclusion

God, thank you for making community for us.

Thank you for the ways you made each of us special.

Thank you for wanting and making it possible for us to have community with you.

Thank you for the communities that help us out, and that we get to love in your name.

Thank you that you are marvelous!

We love you, Amen.

References

Psalm 139:13-16

- ¹³ For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
- ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
- ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.

Revelation 3:20

- ²⁰ Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

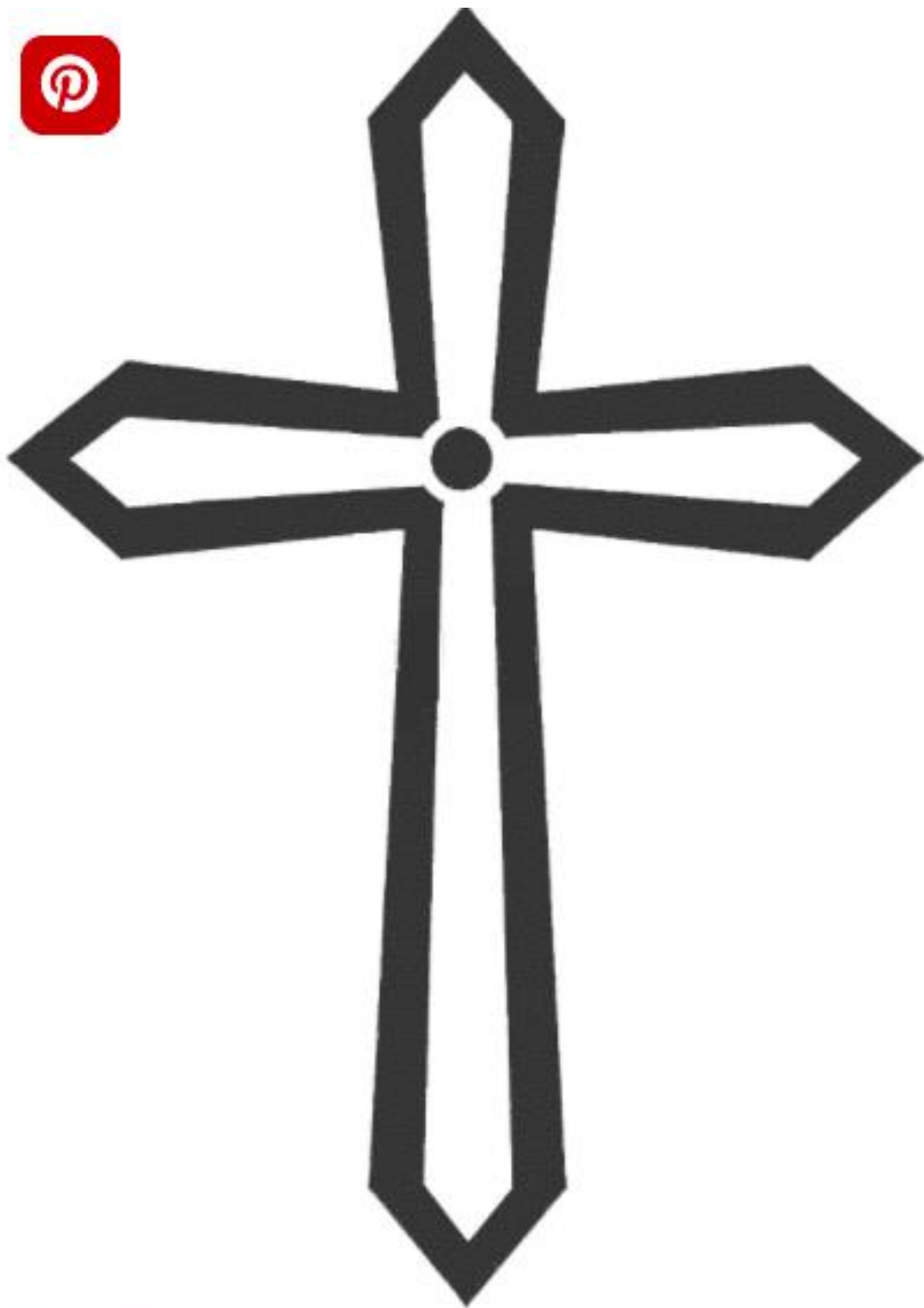
Mathew 25:31-40

- ³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.
- ³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'
- ³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'
- ⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Psalm 98

- ¹ Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things;
his right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.
- ² The LORD has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.
- ³ He has remembered his love
and his faithfulness to Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
- ⁴ Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;

- ⁵ make music to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing,
⁶ with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—
shout for joy before the LORD, the King.
- ⁷ Let the sea resound, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.
- ⁸ Let the rivers clap their hands,
let the mountains sing together for joy;
⁹ let them sing before the LORD,
for he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples with equity.



Celtic Cross Coloring Pages