

# Children's Worship Training

Christ Covenant Church  
Matthews, NC

But Jesus called them to Him,  
Saying "Let the children come to  
Me,  
And do not hinder them,  
For to such belongs the kingdom  
of God."

Luke 18:16

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## Methodology of instruction

The teacher will note the class time is based upon a foundation of “questions.” Understanding and application ride on the back of good questions. Questions invite the listener to participate while statements require little from the listener.

Each week, the lesson will introduce and explain one main point. Each lesson builds upon the prior one so that once the content has been fully taught the listener will have received a well-rounded education on the all-important topic of Christian worship.

The weekly teaching time will revolve around four questions each taking 2-3 minutes:

**Opening** question

**Explaining** question

**Training** question

**Applying** question

## Content of instruction

Week 1: What is worship?

Week 2: Why do we worship?

Week 3: When do we worship?

Week 4: How are we to worship?

Week 5: What is part of our worship?

Week 6: Order of worship

Week 7: Call to worship

Week 8: Prayers of invocation

Week 9: Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs

Week 10: Affirmation of faith: confessions and Creeds

Week 11: Corporate confessions of sin

Week 12: Assurance of Pardon

Week 13: Pastoral prayer

Week 14: Reading of Scripture

Week 15: Preaching

Week 16: Baptism: covenant children

Week 17: Baptism: believers

Week 18: Lord’s Supper

Week 19: Tithes and offerings

Week 20: Prayers of Benediction

## Children's Worship Time: Week 1.

Element of Worship: "What is worship?"

### 1. Opening question:

- What is "corporate worship"?  
(1) God's children (2) together (3) giving to God what He deserves (4) by honor, praise, thanksgiving (5) and obedience

### 2. Explaining question:

- What does this mean?
  - (1) "God's children": those who confess to believe and follow Jesus Christ
  - (2) "Together": with each other in a local church on Sunday mornings and evenings.
  - (3) "Giving to God what He deserves": the focus is on who God is and what He has done as our Creator and our Redeemer
  - (4) "By honor, praise, thanksgiving": we are humble before Him (honor), we speak very well of who He is and what He's done (praise) and we thank Him for these things (thanksgiving)
  - (5) "And obedience": when we leave, we do what He commands us to do

### 3. Training questions:

- Where is it in the Bible?

Texts:

Revelation 14:7, "And he [flying angel] said with a loud voice, 'Fear God and give Him glory'"

Romans 12:1, “By the mercies of God to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable, which is your spiritual *service*”<sup>1</sup>

1 Peter 2:5, 9, “You yourselves like living stones are being build up as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ....that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light”

Example: Solomon’s temple dedication: 1 Kings 8:12-15, 62-65

4. Applying question:

- What does God want from us?

To **remember** worship is about giving Him what He deserves not trying to get something for ourselves

To **give** Him honor, praise, thanksgiving and obedience

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<sup>1</sup> “Service” is how this word is often translated. It better captures the actions involved.

## Children's Worship Time: Week 2.

Element of Worship: "Why do we worship?"

1. Opening question:

- "Why do we worship"?

We are saved by God to see that He is great and is our great Creator and Redeemer; it is **why** we are saved

2. Explaining question:

- What does this mean?

God saves us from our sins so that we can:

(1) Know His character (Psalm 34:8)

(2) Know that He is the author of the great acts of creation (Genesis 1-2) and redemption (Ephesians 2).

(3) Honor, praise, and thank Him for these things and obey what He says

3. Training questions:

- Where is it in the Bible?

Texts:

John 4:23, "But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him."

Exodus 7:16, "Let My people go, that they may serve<sup>2</sup> me in the wilderness."

Psalm 29:1-2, "Ascribe to the LORD O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness."

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<sup>2</sup> See footnote #1; "serve" is one way to translate the word that is also translated "worship."

Psalm 95<sup>3</sup>, Acts 17:24-25

Example: Disciples on the road to Emmaus: Luke 24:13-27

4. Applying question:

- What does God want from us?

To **remember** that God saves people from their sins so that they can worship Him above all other things

To **study** His great acts of creation and redemption

To **repent of our sins** and ask God to help us honor, praise, thank and obey Him

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<sup>3</sup> This psalm contains a wonderful song of praise based on God's works of creation and redemption.

## Children’s Worship Time: Week 3.

Element of Worship: “When do we worship?”

### 1. Opening question:

- When do we worship God?

God has given us one day a week to focus completely on Him to worship Him together; it is called the “Lord’s Day” or the Christian Sabbath day.

### 2. Explaining question:

- What does this mean?

(1) God worked on 6 days and rested on 1 day; He made us in His image so we also work on 6 days and rest on 1.

(2) This day of “rest” is our day of worship. We rest from **our** work so that we can focus on Him and worship Him. Our work days are usually from morning until night and so our Lord’s Day focus and worship is from morning until night.

(3) From creation to the resurrection of Jesus, God commanded this day of rest and worship was on the Sabbath day, or the *last* day of the week (Saturday).

(4) After the resurrection, Jesus changed the day to the first day, Sunday, now called the “Lord’s Day” or the Christian Sabbath.

(5) What about *every other* day? Our Lord’s Day worship fills us with strength to give Him honor in all things we do every day (1 Corinthians 10:31).

### 3. Training questions:

- Where is it in the Bible?<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Our Reformed confessions are abundantly rich with instruction on this issue. You are urged to consult the Westminster Confession of Faith, article 21, section 7.



Texts:

Sabbath rooted in Creation: Genesis 2:2-3; Exodus 20:8-11<sup>5</sup>

Sabbath informed now by salvation: Deuteronomy 5:12, 15<sup>6</sup>

Jesus changing our understanding of Law and Sabbath: Matthew 5:17, 28-30

Changing the day to the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week: Matthew 28:1-2; Revelation 1:10, 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, Acts 20:7

Example: Jesus' appearance: John 20:19, Paul's sermon: Acts 20:7

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<sup>5</sup> Since it is rooted in Creation, it is a perpetual command. It means part of our worship must always be about His work of creation.

<sup>6</sup> This means the Lord's Day is when we worship God for **also** saving His people.

4. Applying question:

- What does God want from us?

To **treat** His day the way He says it should be treated: rest from our normal activities and focus on Him.

To **come** to worship ready to honor, praise and give God thanks.

To **prepare** to rest and worship on the Lord's Day on Saturday.

## Children’s Worship Time: Week 4.

Element of Worship: “How are we to worship?”

1. Opening question:

- How are we to worship?

We are to worship God “in spirit and in truth.”

2. Explaining question:

- What does this mean?<sup>7</sup>

(1) “In spirit.”

In the Holy Spirit’s power. This means that only people who believe and follow the Lord Jesus – those with the Spirit – can worship. Only believers worship God.

With our whole person. God wants us to use all of our energy, our joy, and our strength to worship Him.

He wants us to **sing** loudly, **pray** seriously, **listen** closely, and **respond** heartily!

(2) “In truth.” According to what the Bible tells us about God and commands us to do in response

3. Training questions:

- Where is it in the Bible?

Texts:

John 4:24, “God is spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth”

In Spirit: Holy Spirit: 1 Corinthians 12:3; Philippians 3:3

In spirit: committed, reverent hearts: Matthew 15:8; Ephesians 5:19; Hebrews 12:28; Pss 2:11, 27:8, 63:1-8

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<sup>7</sup> See Johnson, *Reformed Worship*, chs. 2-3.

In Truth: see *next* lesson.

Example: David before the ark: 2 Samuel 6:12-15

4. Applying question:

- What does God want from us?

To **worship** (honor, praise and thank) Him on Sunday's with energy, excitement, joy and hope.

To **obey** Him with all our strength each day in each thing with every person.

## Children's Worship Time: Week 5.

Element of Worship: "How are we to worship?"

### 1. Opening question:

- How are we to worship (part 2)?

God's people worship Him exactly as He tells us to in the Bible

### 2. Explaining question:

- What does this mean?

(1) Worship is *why* God made us and *why* He saves people; it is very important to Him

(2) Since He made us to worship and saves us to worship, He knows exactly how He wants us to do it

(3) The devil wants to stop us from giving honor to God so he tries to get Christians to not worship God or worship Him wrongly

(4) The way to worship God the right way is only in the Bible.

(5) If it not in the Bible, we can't do it in worship. If God wants us to do it, He'll tell us to do it.

### 3. Training questions:

- Where is it in the Bible?<sup>8</sup>

Texts:

John 4:22, "You [Samaritan's] worship what you do not know"

Exodus 20:4-6

Deuteronomy 4:2, 12:32, "You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it that you

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<sup>8</sup> Westminster Confession of Faith, article 21, section 1 is very helpful.

may keep the commandment of the LORD your God”  
(4:2)

Jeremiah 19:4-5, Mark 7:7, Colossians 2:22-23

Example: Nadab and Abihu: Leviticus 10:1-3

4. Applying question:

- What does God want from us?

To **remember** worship was God’s idea and only He truly knows how it is to be done.

To **remember** that we are sinful and that even if we have what seems like good ideas or intentions for worship, they might not be what God wants.

To **follow** the Bible’s instructions for our worship and not to make things up that sound good to us.

## Children's Worship Time: Week 6.

Element of Worship: "What is part of our worship?" **Order of Worship.**<sup>9</sup>

1. Opening question:

- What is an "order of worship"?

The order of worship (written down in our bulletin) arranges our time in worship in a way that is easy to understand, follow and participate in.

2. Explaining question:

- What does this mean?

(1) God is orderly (He isn't out of control or chaotic) and He wants our worship to make sense to us.

(2) Worship is for us to grow closer to God while we praise Him; each part of worship helps us grow and so we should know when to do each part so we can do it well and be blessed.

3. Training questions:

- Where is it in the Bible?

Texts:

Keeping things "decent and in order" (1 Corinthians 14:12b, 26b, 33, 40).

Example: Leviticus 6:9-13 (the specific way a burnt offering is handled); Leviticus 8:5-36

4. Applying question:

- What does God want from us?

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<sup>9</sup> See Hart and Muether, 86 and Westminster Confession of Faith, article 21, section 6 provides a very important piece of understanding the outworking of the regulative principle in areas that aren't specified in the Bible (e.g., meet at 10:30 or 11:30?).

To **pay attention** to the order of worship so that we will know what the leaders are doing and we can be prepared to participate

To **participate** in each element as it happens on the order and to ask questions of your parents about those elements that you don't understand.



## Children’s Worship Time: Week 7.

Element of Worship: “What is part of our worship?” **Call to worship.**

1. Opening question:

- What is a “call to worship”?

The call to worship is the invitation from God to the people assembled together to come and worship Him.

2. Explaining question:

- What does this mean?

(1) A call to worship is God welcoming us into His presence using His word. It is like a bell that rings to begin the worship service.<sup>10</sup>

(2) It is usually a passage from the Bible that the minister reads where God invites all the people in the room to worship Him.

(3) We spend 6 days a week working on the things of this world: school, work, or chores. On the Lord’s Day, God wants us to come away from our concerns and distractions. The “call” helps us to do that.

3. Training questions:

- Where is it in the Bible?

Texts (many examples):

Psalm 100 (classic)

Psalm 95:1-2, 105:1-3, 118:24

Example: 2 Chronicles 5:2-14

4. Applying question:

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<sup>10</sup> Roman Catholic churches use actual bells in the beginning of their service to signal its commencement.

- What does God want from us?

To **pay attention** to the call to worship so that when the minister reads the Scripture that tells us it is time to worship we are ready.

To **pray** that God would help us focus our minds on how good He is and the great things He has done

## Children's Worship Time: Week 8.

Element of Worship: "What is part of our worship?" **Prayer of Invocation.**

1. Opening question:

- What is a prayer of "invocation"?

The prayer of invocation is the prayer of *acceptance* of God's call to worship and *request* that He fills them with His Spirit.

2. Explaining question:

- What does this mean?

(1) The prayer of invocation is where the minister, on behalf of the congregation, accepts God's call to worship and pleads with Him to fill the congregation with His presence.

(2) It's a prayer that:

- a. Exalts the **Father's** goodness, mercy and power
- b. Praises the **Son's** work to save His people from their sins
- c. Pleads for the **Spirit's** presence to comfort and convict the people

3. Training questions:

- Where is it in the Bible?

Texts:

Numbers 10:35-36

Example: Moses' prayer

4. Applying question:

- What does God want from us?

To **pray with the minister** as he praises the Father and the Son

To **ask alongside the minister** for the Holy Spirit to be with all the worshippers so it can be worship in spirit and truth

## Children’s Worship Time: Week 9.

Element of Worship: “What is part of our worship?” **Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.**

1. Opening question:

- What are these “psalms, hymns and spiritual songs”?<sup>11</sup>  
These are different types of singing for our use in worshipping God.

2. Explaining question:

- What does this mean?

(1) The Bible commands us to sing: Psalm 47:6-7,

*Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!*

(2) Psalms: this book of the Bible was the only Christian worship song book for over a 1000 years; all the greatest hymns are based on Bible texts like these

(3) Hymns and spiritual songs: these are “sung praise to God for all that He is and for all that He has done in creation and salvation”<sup>12</sup>

3. Training questions:

- Where is it in the Bible?

Texts (many examples):

Psalm 47:6-7; 105:1-3; Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16

Psalm 149

Example: Moses’ and Miriam’s song in Exodus 15

4. Applying question:

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<sup>11</sup> Please consult Rayburn, ch. 8.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., 227. See also Paul S. Jones article, “Hymnody in a Post-Hymnody World” in Ryken, Thomas and Duncan, 222-256.

- What does God want from us?

To **sing** the song that the leader is leading with all our hearts

To **memorize** the great historic hymns like:

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (E. Perronet)*

*Crown Him with Many Crowns (M. Bridges)*

*Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken (J. Newton)*

*How Firm a Foundation (R. Keene)*

*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (Bernard of Clairvaux)*

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (I. Watts)*

*A Mighty Fortress is Our God (M. Luther)*

*O, for a thousand Tongues to Sing (C. Wesley)*

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past (I. Watts)*

## Children's Worship Time: Week 10.

Element of Worship: "What is part of our worship?" **Affirmation of our faith in confessions and creeds.**

1. Opening question:

- What is an "affirmation of our faith"?

These are confessions and creeds where together we confess the basics of what we all believe as Christians.

2. Explaining question:

- What does this mean?

(1) God's people have recited these together for many years.<sup>13</sup>

(2) Through these, we are reminded of what we believe, of those who are persecuted who believe the same things, testify to each other our common convictions and commitments and humble ourselves before the Lord.

3. Training questions:

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<sup>13</sup> Nicene Creed, c. 325 AD; Apostles' Creed, c. 700 AD; Westminster Standards, c. 1645 AD, etc. Of course, biblical texts for many years prior!

- Where is it in the Bible?

Texts (many examples):

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

Apostles' Creed

Example: 1 Timothy 3:16

#### 4. Applying question:

- What does God want from us?

To **memorize** the great passages of Scripture to recite together: the *Shema* (above), the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments

To **memorize** the great historic Apostles' Creed that the church has recited for hundreds of years

To **learn** about the other great creeds of our Reformed faith: Westminster Standards, Heidelberg Catechism, Scots Confession or the Canons of Dordt.

## Children's Worship Time: Week 11.

Element of Worship: "What is part of our worship?" **Corporate confessions of sin.**

1. Opening question:

- What are "corporate confessions of sin"?

Two things:

- (1) A time for **each person** in the congregation to silently confess his sins to God
- (2) A time when the **whole congregation** speaks as one body before her one Lord to confess our sins to Him.

2. Explaining question:

- What does this mean?
  - (1) In worship, we are entering into God's very holy presence. Though believers are protected from God's wrath by Christ's blood, each of us still must admit and repent of the ways that we break God's laws.
  - (2) The Bible calls the church a "body" meaning one person. When we confess our sins out loud with each other, we are acting as Christ's Bride: one people.
  - (3) When all of the people are confessing together, it reminds everyone that no one is perfect and all people need the Lord's grace and mercy.

3. Training questions:

- Where is it in the Bible?

Texts (many examples):

Psalm 51

Psalm 32



4. Applying question:

- What does God want from us?

To **confess** your sins to God when the minister tells you to do so quietly:

- (1) *Admit* you haven't done what God say or you've done what you shouldn't have
- (2) *Agree* that those things are bad
- (3) *Ask* God to forgive you, "Father, please forgive me for..."

To **read** and **repeat** the corporate confession of sin during the service.

## Children’s Worship Time: Week 12.

Element of Worship: “What is part of our worship?” **Assurance of Pardon.**

1. Opening question:

- What is the “assurance of pardon”?

After the minister leads us to confess our sins, he reads a passage from the Bible that tells us that God forgives us!

2. Explaining question:

- What does this mean?

(1) When we confess our sins to God, God usually doesn’t answer us directly and say, “Johnny, I forgive you” or “Katie, I forgive you.” So, sometimes we aren’t sure what God thinks.

(2) The minister reads the words of the Bible (these are God’s *very* words<sup>14</sup>) that tells us God forgives us because of His Son Jesus.

(3) All of the people get to hear God say to them, “I forgive you.”

3. Training questions:

- Where is it in the Bible?

Texts (many examples):

1 John 1:9

Psalm 32:1-5; 85:1; 86:4; 103:1-3

Example: Nineveh’s response to Jonah, Jonah 3:1-10

4. Applying question:

- What does God want from us?

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<sup>14</sup> 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Also, see Westminster Confession of Faith, chapter 1.

To **listen** to the minister as he reads the Bible verse that tells you that if you believe in Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

To **believe** that God can forgive you if you believe in Jesus Christ!

## Children’s Worship Time: Week 13.

Element of Worship: “What is part of our worship?” **Pastoral Prayer.**

1. Opening question:

- What is the “pastoral prayer”?

This prayer is where the minister prays to God on our behalf (for us).

2. Explaining question:

- What does this mean?

(1) The minister prays for several things:

- a. He exalts the character and nature of God and His works of creation and redemption.
- b. He gives thanks to God for all His many gifts and blessings to His people.
- c. He asks God to forgive our sins as a congregation: neglecting each other, having a poor witness with outsiders, not worshipping as we should, etc.
- d. He prays that God would help those who are sick, who are dying, who are in trouble, who have no job, etc.
- e. He prays for our leaders that they would be godly and lead well.
- f. He prays for those around the world who are suffering because they are faithfully following Christ.

(2) He won’t pray for all of these things all of the time.

3. Training questions:

- Where is it in the Bible?

Text:

Ephesians 1:15-23

Exodus 32:11-14

Example: Jesus' prayer for us while on the cross: Luke 23:34

4. Applying question:

- What does God want from us?

To **listen** to the minister as he prays.

To also **ask God** to hear the minister and answer his prayers according to God's wisdom and the church's good.

## Children’s Worship Time: Week 14.

Element of Worship: “What is part of our worship?” **Reading of Scripture.**

1. Opening question:

- What is the “reading of Scripture”?

When God directly addresses the congregation as the minister reads from the Bible which is God’s word.

2. Explaining question:

- What does this mean?

(1) God creates and strengthens faith through the reading of His word.<sup>15 16</sup>

(2) The minister reads a portion of the Old or New Testaments so that God may speak to His people from that text.

(3) God’s Holy Spirit uses the word to convict, comfort, confront and challenge His people.

(4) This is also so that the congregation can become familiar with different parts of the Bible and what it calls us to know and to do. Sometimes, people would never know a portion of the Bible on their own!

3. Training questions:

- Where is it in the Bible?

Texts (many examples):

Isaiah 55:10-11

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<sup>15</sup> Heidelberg Catechism, Q/A. 65.

<sup>16</sup> “And as it hath pleased God, by the preaching of the gospel, to begin this work of grace in us, so He preserves, continues and perfects it by the hearing and reading of His Word, by meditating thereon and by the exhortations, threatening, and promised thereof as well as by the use of the sacraments.” Canon of Dort, Head V, Article 14.

1 Timothy 4:13

Psalm 119; Acts 15:21; Colossians 4:16; 1

Thessalonians 5:27; Revelation 1:3

Example: Jesus reading from the Prophets in Luke 4:16-17

4. Applying question:

- What does God want from us?

To **listen** to the minister as he reads the Bible passage

To **pray** that God would use His word to change you

To **remember** that God is directly speaking to us as the minister reads the Bible

To **work hard** to remember the words the minister read

## Children's Worship Time: Week 15.

Element of Worship: "What is part of our worship?" **Preaching.**

1. Opening question:

- What is the "preaching" or the "sermon"?

The minister proclaiming the authoritative word of God.

2. Explaining question:

- What does this mean?

(1) It is a "proclamation" that is, an announcement.

(2) It is "authoritative" that is, it tells us what to believe and what to do; we can't ignore the proclamation.

(3) Because, it is the "word of God" that is, His words directly to us.

(4) The sermon is one of the main ways God shows Himself, explains Himself, tells us what He's done for us and tells us what He wants us to do.

(5) Similarly to the reading of the Word, God's Spirit uses the preaching to create and strengthen faith in believers.

(6) The sermon is one of the ways God lavishes upon us the benefits of our salvation.<sup>17</sup>

3. Training questions:

- Where is it in the Bible?

Texts (many examples):

Romans 10:13-15

Acts 2:42

2 Timothy 4:2

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<sup>17</sup> WSC, Q/A. 88.



Mark 1:15, 16:20; 1 Corinthians 1:17-18, 21; Acts  
20:27

Example: Jesus preaching in Mark 1:21-28

4. Applying question:

- What does God want from us?

To **listen** to the minister as he reads preaches

To **take notes** from the sermon as the minister preaches

## Children's Worship Time: Week 16.

Element of Worship: "What is part of our worship?" **Baptisms: covenant children.**

### 1. Opening question:

- What is "covenant baptism" or "infant baptism"?<sup>18</sup>

It is bringing a covenant child into the fellowship of God and the visible church.

### 2. Explaining question:

- What does this mean?

(1) It is a sign of the washing away of our sins by Christ's blood and marking of the baptized person as belonging to God (Acts 22:16; 1 Corinthians 6:11).

(2) It is a seal or a promise by God to save the child from his sins when he turns from them by faith to God.

(3) It gives the child the rights to all the blessings of being in a Christian family and Christian church: prayer, Bible lessons, sermons, and fellowship; it is a seal.

(4) It is only for "covenant" children meaning only for children where at least one parent is a believer: 1 Corinthians 7:14.

(5) It uses water which was Jesus' choice: Matthew 28:19 (it used to be circumcision: Genesis 17).

### 3. Training questions:

- Where is it in the Bible?

Texts:

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<sup>18</sup> The Shorter Catechism says: "The sacrament of baptism is a washing with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, which is a sign and seal that we are joined to Christ, that we receive the benefits of the covenant of grace, and that we are engaged to be the Lord's."

Acts 2:38-39; 10:47-48

Acts 16:15, 30-33

Example: Lydia's household: Acts 16:15

4. Applying question:

- What does God want from us?

To **watch** the minister baptize the child

To **remember** that if you've been baptized, God promises to save you if you believe in Him

To **remember** that because you were baptized, you belong to God

## Children's Worship Time: Week 17.

Element of Worship: "What is part of our worship?" **Baptisms: believers.**

### 1. Opening question:

- What is "believer's baptism"?

It is bringing a confessing adult into the full fellowship of God and the church.

### 2. Explaining question:

- What does this mean?

(1) For someone who has turned from their sins and trusted in Christ to save him, it is a sign that his sins have been washed away by Christ's blood and that he has been adopted as God's child.

(2) It is also proof of God's promise to save the confessing person from his sins. It says, "I have been saved by Christ and the water is proof."

(3) It uses water which was Jesus' choice: Matthew 28:19 (it used to be circumcision: Genesis 17).

### 3. Training questions:

- Where is it in the Bible?

Texts (many examples):

Acts 2:41

Acts 16:15, 30-33

Example: Lydia's household: Acts 16:15

### 4. Applying question:

- What does God want from us?

To **watch** the minister baptize the one who has confessed

To **remember** that if you believe in Him, your baptism is proof that God is with you, will be with you and that He wants you to live for Him.

## Children’s Worship Time: Week 18.

Element of Worship: “What is part of our worship?” **Lord’s Supper.**

1. Opening question:

- What is the “Lord’s Supper” or “Communion”?

It is a meal hosted by God where He gives believers grace for living.

2. Explaining question:

- What does this mean?

(1) Using the bread and the cup, God gives us strengthening grace that we can actually feel with our senses. We need this because we are weak and forget that God is real.

(2) The bread isn’t really His body, but it *represents* His body that He said is the “bread of life.” The cup of juice isn’t really His blood, but is *represents* His blood that was shed for our sins.

(3) The minister uses a specific format:

- The Invitation to the Meal and “Fencing” the Table<sup>19</sup>
- Prayer of consecration: asking God to use the common elements in a sacred way
- Words of Institution: provide the divine authorization and the promise of God’s blessing
- Distribution of the “Elements”
- Eating together as one body
- Prayer of thanks

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<sup>19</sup> “Fencing” is where the minister, heeding the words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:27-28, warns people to only approach the table if a) a person is converted, b) he is a member of a Bible believing church and c) he is not at odds with another in the community.

- Mercy offering

(4) Eating communion doesn't save anyone from his sins. Eating the bread and drinking the cup is a way God supplies people who have already believed in and trust Christ with His grace so they can live for Him.

(5) It uses bread and wine which were Jesus' choice: Matthew 26:26-29 (it used to be the Passover: Exodus 12).

### 3. Training questions:

- Where is it in the Bible?

Texts (many examples):

John 6:35; Hebrews 9:11-14

Matthew 26:28; Luke 22:19

Example: Matthew 26:26-29

### 4. Applying question:

- What does God want from us?

To **watch** and **listen** to the minister as he goes through each step

To **remember** that if you believe in Him, you can also receive the Supper and be strengthened in your faith and your life.

## Children's Worship Time: Week 19.

Element of Worship: "What is part of our worship?" **Tithes and offerings.**

1. Opening question:

- What are "tithes" and "offerings"?

It is giving money to God.

2. Explaining question:

- What does this mean?

(1) A "tithe" is 10% of our money that belongs to God but He gives to us. He commands us to give it back; it is a sin if we do not.

Q: "If it is His, why does He give it to us? Why doesn't He keep it?"

A: He wants us to show Him that we love Him and trust Him (see, e.g., Judges 2:22)

(2) An "offering" is different. It is giving to God money that belongs to us so that He can use it for His glory. It is our choice.

(3) We give the tithe to the local church where we worship. We can give offerings to the church and to other places.

3. Training questions:

- Where is it in the Bible?

Texts (many examples):

Malachi 3:6-10

Matthew 6:19-21; 23

Genesis 14:20; 2 Corinthians 9:6-12

Example: Acts 4:32-37 and Acts 5:1-6



4. Applying question:

- What does God want from us?

To **give** 10% of our money to Him, to the local church

To **give** more if you can.

To **thank** God for giving Jesus Christ, the greatest gift!

## Children's Worship Time: Week 20.

### Element of Worship: "What is part of our worship?" **Prayers of Benediction.**

#### 1. Opening question:

- What is a prayer of "benediction"?

It is God's final act of placing His name upon His people as they go into the world.

#### 2. Explaining question:

- What does this mean?

(1) It is God giving His people His blessing; it is Him saying, "I love and am with you as live out My calling in your life."

(2) It is God's promise of blessing for the tasks that He calls His people to do.

(3) It uses water which was Jesus' choice: Matthew 28:19 (it used to be circumcision: Genesis 17).

#### 3. Training questions:

- Where is it in the Bible?

Texts (many examples):

Aaronic: Numbers 6:24-26

Apostolic: 2 Corinthians 13:14

Others: Romans 15:13, 33; 1 Corinthians 15:58, 16:23;

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17, 18

Example: Solomon's benediction: 1 Kings 8:54-61

#### 4. Applying question:

- What does God want from us?

To **stand** with your parents and let the minister give you God's blessing

You can bow with your eyes closed or you can reach out your hands

To **listen** to God as He tells you that He loves you and is with you

### Resources for further study

“Directory for the Worship of God,” the *Book of Church Order of the Presbyterian Church in America*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition.

Bryan Chapell, *Christ-Centered Worship*, Baker Book House, 2009.

D. G. Hart and John R. Muether, *With Reverence and Awe*, Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 2002.

Joel R. Beeke and Sinclair Ferguson, *Reformed Confessions: Harmonized*, Baker Book House, 1999.

Philip G. Ryken, Derek W.H. Thomas, J. Ligon Duncan, *Give Praise to God*, Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 2003.

Robert G. Rayburn, *O Come, Let Us Worship*, Westminster Publishing House, 1980.

Terry L. Johnson, *Reformed Worship*, Reformed Academic Press, 2000.

