

**MODEL UNIT
BAND C
LEVEL 2**

LET'S CELEBRATE

LIFE CONCEPT: GOD GATHERS CHRISTIANS TO WORSHIP HIM

YEAR: SUGGESTED DURATION: 6 weeks (135 minutes per week)

DATE OF USE: FAITH STATEMENTS: ① ② ③

UNIT-SPECIFIC GOALS (highlighted)

1. IN CHRISTIAN WORSHIP GOD COMES TO HIS PEOPLE IN WORD AND SACRAMENT AND THEY RESPOND

- 1a investigate the biblical basis for Christian worship
- 1b explore Christian worship as God revealing his worth to people and people responding

2. CHRISTIANS WORSHIP REGULARLY AND ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS

- 2a explore the impact of regular worship on the relationship Christians have with God and with each other
- 2b investigate events in Christians' lives that are celebrated in worship, eg wedding, baptism, funeral, confirmation
- 2c explore ways Christians worship God in all that they do

3. CHRISTIANS WORSHIP IN A VARIETY OF WAYS

- 3a compare the features of non-traditional and traditional Christian worship
- 3b explore ways Christians use their creative abilities as an expression of worship
- 3c investigate private and public forms of Christian worship

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

ASSESSABLE STUDENT OUTCOMES

ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES

Record ways people in the Bible celebrate their relationship with God, privately and individually. (1a,1b,3c)	⇒ TRS C2/1/2
Identify the benefits of regular worship for Christians. (2a)	⇒ work sample from group
Sort and classify the elements of a worship order with communion into those that are actions of God and those that are people's response to God's actions. (1a,1b)	⇒ work sample
Record the reasons Christians celebrate marriages, baptisms, confirmations and funerals. (1a,2b,1b)	⇒ work sample

UNIT SUMMARY

Students explore worship as a celebration of God and what he has done and still does for people, eg God's protection, forgiveness etc. They investigate stories of celebration in the Bible, Christians' celebrations and what God celebrates. Students will have the opportunity to use the information in planning their own class worship celebration (possibly end of primary school).

UNIT NOTES

Worship can be viewed as a celebration of God and what he has done and continues to do. This challenges teachers to help students to view worship as a celebration, not something mundane and 'boring'.

INTRODUCTION

1. LET'S CELEBRATE

Choose either option A or B to help students understand that celebrations are in response to an event or happening, and that people can celebrate in many ways.

A. Throw a surprise celebration for students. Organise to have balloons, party foods and music. If students ask: 'What's the party for?', encourage them to enjoy the celebration and tell them you'll talk about it with them later. After the celebration discuss:

- What was the party for? (Accept reasonable answers and don't share the reason yet.)
- Do people always need a reason to celebrate? Why or why not?
- What was the best celebration you have been involved in? Why was it a great celebration?

Tell students that the celebration was to start them thinking about celebrations.

B. Students brainstorm events that people celebrate, eg birthdays, marriages, New Year.

Each group chooses an event and writes it in the centre of a poster. They surround the name of the event with words or pictures of ways

people celebrate the event, eg balloons, special food, gather family together. Discuss:

- What is a celebration? (Find definitions in dictionaries.)
- Why do people celebrate events?
- What impact do the celebrations have on people's lives?

After either A or B Introduce the concept of solemn celebrations by discussing:

- Are all celebrations happy and exciting events?
- How would you describe Anzac Day celebrations?

Introduce the investigation of Christian worship as a celebration of what God has done and continues to do.

Distribute and discuss Teacher Resource Sheet (TRS) C2/1.

DEVELOPMENT

2. OLD TESTAMENT CELEBRATION

Students investigate Bible stories to explore the way in which worship was the Israelites' celebration of an event.

Using TRS C2/2 students

- read the stories of the Passover and Esther in the Bible or a Bible story book;
- investigate the festivals of Passover and Purim in Bible encyclopedias;
- record responses to questions about public celebrations.

Still using TRS C2/2, students

- read the stories of Jacob and Naaman in the Bible or a Bible story book;
- reflect on the form and benefits of private, individual worship.

Discuss as a class:

- What led people to worship or celebrate?
- How did they celebrate?

Students consider what they have learnt about worship as a celebration and make notes of anything that will help them prepare a class worship celebration.

3. CELEBRATING WITH JESUS

Students investigate celebrations in Jesus' life. They work in groups. Each group chooses one of the stories on TRS C2/3 to present as a story strip. Students record the details of the celebration and how the people in the story celebrate.

Discuss as a class:

- What led the people to worship or celebrate?
- How did they celebrate?

Students note anything from this section that will help them prepare a class worship celebration.

4. REGULAR WORSHIP IS A CELEBRATION

Discuss with students what they know about the regular worship of Christians today.

In groups students study a service order (contemporary and/or traditional style) for worship with communion and list the elements of worship, eg introit, confession, the readings. Discuss the meaning of key words and unfamiliar words such as introit (see the Macquarie Dictionary).

Use this section to highlight and discuss the joyful and the more solemn aspects of worship celebrations. Sombre recognition and confession of their sinfulness leads Christians to appreciate and really celebrate the wonder of God's love and forgiveness.

Students work in groups to sort and classify the elements into those that are actions of God and those that are people's celebration of God's action. They record responses to:

- What actions of God do Christians celebrate in the worship celebration?
- What actions of God actually take place in the worship service?
- How do people respond to these actions of God in their worship celebrations?
- Is there always a joyous celebration of God's action? Why or why not?
- Why do you think quiet, meditative responses are included in worship?
- What benefits do you believe Christians gain from regularly celebrating God's actions?

Students note any elements of worship that they wish to include in their class worship celebration.

Read TRS C2/4 as a class and discuss students' questions about the worship service.

Students work in groups to review God's actions celebrated in the worship order. They list ways they might make each part of the worship service a better and more meaningful celebration. (They may consider the value of things like liturgical dance, dramas, music which they have experienced in school worship.) They record their suggestions for the class worship celebration.

5. CELEBRATING SPECIAL TIMES

Students bring photos of themselves celebrating special events in their lives, eg birthday, first day at school. They share their photos in groups and discuss how and why they celebrated this event.

Work with students to list special events which Christians celebrate: baptism, confirmation, marriage, admission to holy communion, dedication of a church, school, etc, installation of workers, ordination of pastors, funeral.

Students explore at least one special celebration and record responses to these key question:

- What are they celebrating?
- Why are they celebrating with worship?

- What rituals do they use as part of the celebration?

Choose one of these options for exploring:

- View a video of the worship celebration.
- Work in groups to study a service order (see the LCA book *Church Rites*) for the celebration. Encourage students to read Bible verses listed.
- Read songs and hymns for the celebration.
- Interview someone who has been involved in the celebration, eg a recently married couple, parents who have recently had their baby baptised and a student who was recently confirmed.

Note: You may choose to look specifically at Christian funerals as celebration.

The death of a loved one is a sad time, but Christians believe that funerals are also something to celebrate joyfully — thinking of the life of the person who has died and the assurance that they as Christians live eternally with Jesus. Be sensitive to students who may have suffered the loss of a loved one.

Students read the following Bible passages to explore why Christians celebrate at funerals.

John 11:20–27 Romans 8:31–39
 2 Timothy 1:10 1 Corinthians 15:51–55
 1 Timothy 5:13–15 1 Thessalonians 4:13,14,18

Invite a local pastor or interview a member of staff who is willing to share their Christian beliefs about attending a funeral or about the death of a loved one.

6. GOD CELEBRATES

Discuss with students the question: When do you think God might celebrate joyfully?

Tell students that Jesus told three stories to explain what is important to God and what causes him to celebrate:

The lost sheep	Luke 15:1–7
The lost coin	Luke 15:8–10
The lost son	Luke 15:11–32

As a class read each story and discuss:

- What causes God to hold joyful celebrations?

RESPONSE

7. CLASS WORSHIP CELEBRATION

Students plan a worship celebration, eg for the end of their primary schooling or end of term, using the knowledge they have gained about worship in the unit. Alternatively, students could work in groups and prepare a worship celebration for the class.

YOU WILL NEED

- copies of worship orders of service with communion
- worship orders for weddings, baptisms, confirmation. The LCA book *Church Rites* has useful information and service orders

- possibly to arrange an interview with a Christian married couple, Christian parents who have had a child baptised, young person who has been confirmed.
- copies of TRS C2/1/2/3

INTEGRATING INTO OTHER CURRICULUM AREAS

ENGLISH: *Literature:* Explain and justify own opinions about texts. Find and cite elements of a text to support a point of view. *Everyday Texts:* Consider needs of audience when speaking. Develop discussion and problem-solving skills. Use strategies for gathering, recording and reporting data. Report findings in speech and writing.

THE ARTS *Dance:* Begin to choreograph short sequences by improvising, problem-solving. Develop performance skills and confidence.

SOCIETY AND ENVIRONMENT: *Investigation, Communication, Participation:* Formulate questions, reflect on knowledge and understanding. Identify similar data. Draw conclusions. Identify, analyse and clarify values. Cooperation skills.

from the National Statements and Profiles

UNIT EVALUATION

Which activities worked well in this unit?

Which resources were used in the implementation of this unit?

How did I respond to the range of students' experience with worship celebrations?

How did I respond to the range of students' attitudes towards worship as a celebration?

What would I do differently if I was teaching this unit again?

How will I use and build on knowledge, understandings, skills, attitudes, and values students have developed in this unit?



Christians believe that Christian worship is a celebration of God and what he has done and still does for people.

You are about to explore ways in which people from the Bible and people today celebrate what God does.

Keep a folder or record information in your book as the unit progresses.

The information you gather will be used to plan a class worship celebration for the end of the year.

We will be investigating:

- * People in the Bible celebrating
- * Celebrating with Jesus
- * Worship as a celebration
- * Celebrations for special times in Christians' lives
- * God's celebration

At the end of each section record any information, celebration suggestions or Bible verses which you would like to incorporate into the celebration.

Use these questions to guide your investigation:

- * What are the people celebrating?
- * How are they celebrating?

Celebrate = to observe (a day) or commemorate (an event) with ceremonies or festivities. (The Macquarie Dictionary, 1991)



PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE CELEBRATE

The Bible has many stories of people celebrating.

Read the following stories of people celebrating publicly: Use these questions to reflect on each story:

- What were the Israelites celebrating?
- How did the Israelites celebrate?
- What ongoing celebration arose from this event?

The story of the Passover Exodus 12:1–28

The story of Esther Esther 1 – 10
(Read the story in a children's Bible, such as Selina Hastings' *Illustrated Children's Bible*, or in a Bible story book.)

What do you think would be the benefit of publicly celebrating this event?

Read the following Bible stories in which people privately respond in celebration to what God had done. Use these questions to reflect on each story:

- What led the person to worship or celebrate?
- How did the person celebrate?

Jacob **Genesis 28:10–22**

Naaman **2 Kings 5:1–27**

After reading these stories, do you think people can celebrate privately? Explain your answer.



CELEBRATE WITH JESUS

Work in a group. Each person chooses one of these stories to read and illustrate in a story strip.

Angels celebrate **Luke 2:1–20**

A man cured of leprosy celebrates **Luke 17:11–19**

A man cured of paralysis celebrates **Luke 5:17–26**

A man given sight celebrates **Luke 18:35–43**

Men who see a miracle celebrate **Matthew 14:22–33**

The people of Jerusalem celebrate **John 12:12–19**

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Share your strip with the group. And report your answer to these two questions:

- What led the people to worship or celebrate?
- How did the people celebrate?

As a group read **Matthew 28:1–10**.

Describe in your own words what had happened

Draw what you think the people looked like as they celebrated what Jesus had done.

Jesus introduced a celebration to help his followers remember what he did for them in his life, death and resurrection. Read **Matthew 26:26–30**

What does Jesus say the celebration is for? _____

How did the disciples celebrate with Jesus?

This event is celebrated by Christians regularly in worship. It is called 'holy communion' or the 'Lord's supper'. You will explore later in the unit how Christians today celebrate the Lord's supper.



WORSHIP IS A CELEBRATION

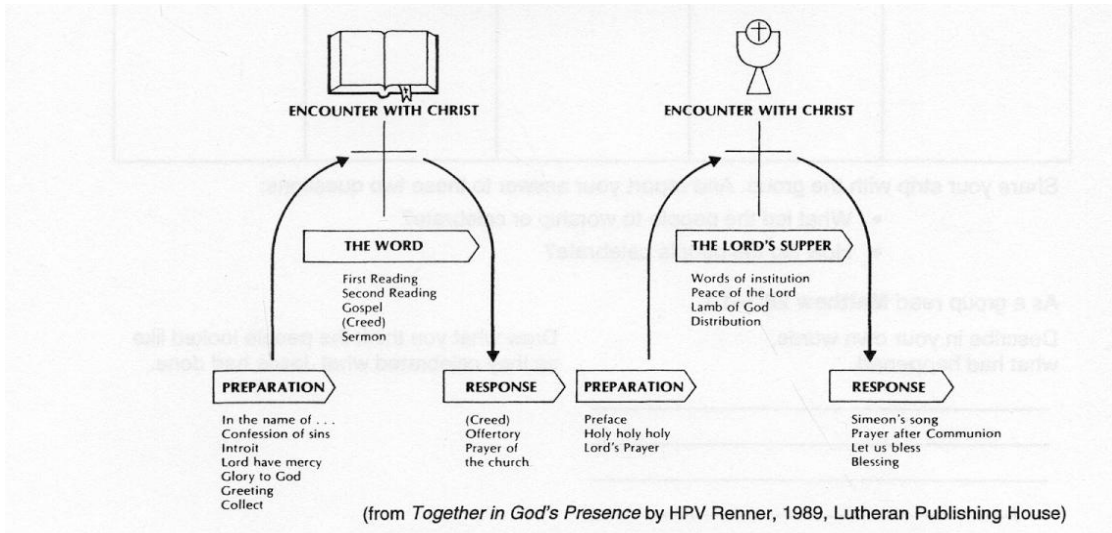
Christians believe that every regular Sunday worship service is a celebration of what God has done and still does for people.

Lutherans believe that in a worship service God comes to people in two ways:

- * through the word (reading of the Bible, preaching)
- * and through the Lord's supper.

These are the key events in each worship service and everything else either prepares people for the event or is people's response to what God does in these events.

A DIAGRAM OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP



In what ways do you think Christians could highlight these two events in the worship service?

The worship order provides words (eg prayers and the words of songs) to help people respond to what God does for them in these two events. Can you think of other ways people might show how they feel about what God does?
