

**MODEL UNIT  
BAND C  
LEVEL 3**

**WORSHIP**

**LIFE CONCEPT: GOD GATHERS CHRISTIANS TO WORSHIP HIM**

YEAR:.....SUGGESTED DURATION: 5 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**

List the features of worship at different times in history. (1a,2c)

Discuss and record the importance of worship in the lives of God's people. (2a)

Compare traditional and non-traditional worship. (3a)



**ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES**

work sample

observation

observation of group discussion

**UNIT SUMMARY**

Students develop their own questions about Christian worship and go on to explore the origin of many worship traditions. To do this they investigate worship at different times in history: in the Old Testament, the early Christian church and today. They explore where, how and why people worship and compare the features of worship in various periods of history.

## UNIT NOTES

Students gather information about worship at different periods in history to develop an awareness of the origin of many Christian worship traditions. You may explore all three historical periods (*Old Testament, Early Christian Church, Today*) or tailor the unit to the time available.

Choose one of the following options for presenting the information about worship:

- a set of wall panels of illustrations and information, one for each period in history;
- a written description of worship at each period in history through the eyes of a young person participating in the worship;
- a series of dioramas with information about worship at different periods in history.

Develop a 'words to know' chart or book during the unit.

## INTRODUCTION

### 1. QUESTIONS ABOUT WORSHIP

Students work in groups and have five minutes to brainstorm what they know about Christian worship. Groups share and discuss their lists.

To assist students to develop a list of questions they have about worship, attend a school worship service or view a video of the local Christian congregation's worship service and have students list questions about the worship service. Give students the question-beginnings of 'Where . . .', 'How . . .' and 'Why . . .'

Visit the local church and sit in the worship area. Provide time for students to write further questions about the physical surroundings of the worship area. Sketches of things in question may be useful.

Students work in groups to compile their questions. Display the questions and refer to them throughout the unit. Tell students that they will search through history to explore the origin of these things. (You may need to alter some aspects of the unit to make sure you deal with students' questions.)

## DEVELOPMENT

Students investigate worship at different periods of history. In each period, they explore three major questions:

- Where did people worship?
- How did they worship?
- What is worship?

## 2. WORSHIP IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

See Teacher Resource Sheet (TRS) C3/1 for teacher information to guide the investigation.

Use the following options to help students gather and present information about worship in the Old Testament.

### WHERE?

- Make available a range of illustrations of Old Testament worship places from children's Bibles, such as Selina Hastings' *Illustrated Children's Bible* or books, such as the *Lion Handbook to the Bible*. Students make their own sketches or dioramas to show the place of worship.
- Investigate God's instructions about worship:

Tabernacle	Exodus 25 – 27, 36–38
Temple	1 Kings 5 – 6
Sacrifices	Leviticus 1 – 7

Discuss the details of God's instructions and what this reveals about the importance of worship to God.

### HOW?

- Students use Bible encyclopedias, handbooks and non-fiction texts such as *Masterplan* to investigate and record how people worshiped in Old Testament times. The *Lion Encyclopedia to the Bible* has an excellent section on tabernacles, temples and priests and sacrifices.
- Students read the following Bible stories to explore and record information about how people worshipped in Bible times.
 

Noah	Genesis 7 – 8
Abraham	Genesis 12:1–9
Solomon	1 Kings 8:1–66

 Psalm 40, 100, 149,
- As a class read
 

Exodus 20:1–6	Exodus 29:42–46;
Psalm 95	Psalm 150.

 Discuss and record the importance of worship in the lives of the Israelites.

### WHAT?

Students record what they have learnt about the worship of God's people in the Old Testament as a wall panel, written description or diorama.

Review students' questions and note any that have been answered.

### 3. WORSHIP IN THE EARLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

See TRS C3/1 for teacher information.

Use the following options to help students gather information and present information about worship in the early Christian church.

#### WHERE?

- Investigate the following readings to explore where the first Christians worshipped:  
Acts 2:43–47      Acts 14:1–4  
Acts 13:13–52      Acts 16:11–15  
Acts 16:25      Philemon 2.
- Use Bible encyclopedias and handbooks to investigate places of worship in the early Christian church.

#### HOW?

- Investigate the early Christian creeds:  
Philippians 2:6–11    1 Corinthians 12:3  
1 Timothy 3:16.
- Students read Bible verses to explore worship in the early Christian church:  
Acts 2:40–47      Acts 4:24–37  
1 Corinthians 11:17–34  
1 Corinthians 14:26–40  
1 Corinthians 16:1–4    1 Timothy 2:1–10.  
Students record the important aspects of worship in the early Christian church.
- Read Hebrews 8 – 10. Study in Bible handbooks information related to these verses about the way in which Jesus changed worship forever.
- Students explore ways the early Christian communities worshipped by the way they lived (Acts 4:32–37; Romans 12:1–21).

#### WHAT?

Students record what they have learnt about the worship of early Christians as a wall panel, written description or diorama.

Discuss the similarities and differences between Old Testament and early Christian worship.

Review students' questions and note any that have been answered.

### 4. WORSHIP TODAY

See TRS C3/1 for teacher information.

Use the following options to help students gather and present information about Christian worship today. The asterisked options must be done to achieve the unit outcomes.

#### WHERE?

- View different church buildings in the local community. Students take photos or sketch the church buildings. Discuss: Does the place of worship affect the worship?

- Interview a pastor or Christian teacher who can share ways in which they worship privately, such as with daily devotions or Bible readings and prayer.
- Arrange to have a guided tour of the worship area of a local congregation (or several churches). Encourage the pastor or other tour guide to explain the names and use of different things in the worship centre, eg the baptismal font, altar, lectern. Students record the significance of features in the interior of the church.

#### HOW?

- \* Study a range of liturgies used in traditional and non-traditional worship. Groups identify the elements of worship in each liturgy. Develop a list of the common elements, eg confession, Bible readings, the Lord's supper, prayers. Groups choose one element of the liturgy and investigate how it is conducted in traditional and non-traditional worship.
- Interview Christian members of staff or older Christian students who share about worshipping God in their everyday lives.
- Use TRS C3/2 to explore the biblical basis for the different elements of Christian worship. Students investigate the elements in Bible handbooks and encyclopedias and texts such as *Growing as God's People*.
- \* View a video of a traditional and non-traditional worship service. (These can be taped from television. The ABC broadcasts worship services.) Alternatively, interview Christians of different age-groups to explore the features of traditional and contemporary worship. Discuss: What are the benefits of having a variety of worship styles?

#### WHAT?

Students record what they have learnt about Christian worship today as a wall panel, written description or diorama.

Discuss the similarities and differences between worship today and Old Testament and early Christian worship.

Review students' questions, note any that have been answered and make arrangements to find answers to any remaining questions.

## RESPONSE

### 5. REFLECTING ON WORSHIP

Each student reflects on what they have learnt, using TRS C3/3 . Discuss their reflections.

Display students' wall panels, written descriptions, or dioramas in the school library or worship centre.

## YOU WILL NEED

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> copies of liturgies used in worship (The pastor may have copies of liturgies commonly used in the local congregation. The Lutheran Hymnal and <i>Sing to Jesus</i> contain liturgies.)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Bible handbooks and encyclopedias</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> possibly to arrange a guided tour of a local Christian church</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> non-fiction texts with information about Christian worship. <i>The Lion Handbook of Christianity</i>, <i>Growing as God's People</i> and <i>Masterplan</i> are excellent resources</li></ul> |
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## 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.

**SOCIETY AND ENVIRONMENT:** *Investigation, Communication, Participation:* Formulate questions, reflect on knowledge and understanding. Identify information sources. Gather, organise and interpret information using diagrams. Identify similar data. Draw conclusions. Identify, analyse and clarify values.

From the National Statements and Profiles

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## UNIT EVALUATION

Which activities worked well in this unit?

Which resources were useful in the implementation of this unit?

How did I respond to the range of students' prior knowledge of Christian worship and worship terminology?

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

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?

# TEACHER INFORMATION FOR WORSHIP

The following information is for the teacher and provides direction for students' research. Ensure that students explore the concepts listed.

## **WORSHIP IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

- In the Old Testament worship was a vital part of the Israelites' relationship with God. Through worship the Israelites witnessed to God their Creator and Saviour.
- Worship often revolved around sacred places where God had revealed himself, such as Mount Sinai, the tabernacle, the temple. God's people would often dedicate places to God after they encountered God, experienced God's goodness and wanted to thank God (Noah, Jacob).
- In the books of Exodus and 1 Kings God gives quite detailed instructions to the Israelites about worship and the place of worship. Worship is important to God and a means through which he speaks to his people and they respond.
- Priests were dedicated to God and responsible for worship. They would offer the sacrifices to cover the sins of God's people. Leviticus contains details about the sacrifices for different purposes.
- The book of Psalms contains many of the prayers, songs and praises of the Israelites. Psalm 95:1–7, for example, expresses the relationship between God and Israel.

## **WORSHIP IN THE EARLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

- Jesus experienced worship as described in the Old Testament. The gospel of Luke contains the story of Jesus' visit to the temple. The New Testament also records that Jesus read the Scriptures in the synagogue.
- Jesus was to change worship forever. God is now present and reveals his glory in the person of Jesus Christ, rather than in a building. Jesus' followers started the Christian church at Pentecost. If needed, briefly review the Pentecost story, Acts 2:1–13. Hebrews 8 – 10 describes the changes Jesus brought to traditional Israelite worship.
- The earliest Christians were Jewish. They continued to meet in the synagogue daily and then gather in their homes to share a meal.
- The Lord's supper was the highlight of the early Christian worship. It came to replace the Passover and offering of sacrifices.
- The early Christian worship was also influenced by synagogue worship. The worship service included Bible readings, prayer and a sermon.
- Worship was on the first day of the week, as this was the day of Jesus' resurrection. Sunday was not made a 'day of rest' until the reign of Constantine in AD 321.

## **WORSHIP TODAY**

- Worship is God revealing himself in word and sacrament and people responding.
- There is diversity in the way in which Christians worship today, ranging from the traditional to contemporary styles of worship.
- All Christian worship has common elements such as Bible reading, prayer, singing of hymns and songs and a sermon or address.
- Jesus is the centre of Christian worship. He comes to people in the Bible readings and the Lord's supper.
- All Christians are priests who are called to live as God's chosen people (1 Peter 2:9) and offer their bodies as 'living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1).

# ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP

There are common elements in all Christian worship. Skim through different worship orders to identify at least five common elements.

The elements of worship are related to the Bible’s teaching about people’s relationship with God. The elements are listed in the chart below together with Bible references.

Element	Bible references
Invocation	Matthew 28:16–20
Confession of sins (preparation for the Lord’s supper)	Psalm 51 1 Corinthians 11:23–29 1 John 1:8,9
Glory to God in the highest	Luke 2:14
Greeting	Ruth 2:4 2 Thessalonians 3:16 2 Timothy 4:22
<b>Bible readings</b>  Old Testament New Testament Epistles Gospel	Psalm 119:89, 105 Colossians 3:16
Prayers	Matthew 6:9–13 Ephesians 6:18 1 Timothy 2:1–8
Sharing the peace of the Lord	Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:26; 1 Peter 5:14
Lamb of God	John 1:29 1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 1:18,19
Lord’s supper	Matthew 26:26–30 1 Corinthians 11:23–32 1 John 1:7
Song of Simeon	Luke 2:29–32
Blessing	Numbers 6:24–26 2 Corinthians 13:14

# REFLECTIONS ON WORSHIP

What was the most interesting thing you learnt about:

- ◆ Old Testament worship? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ◆ worship in the early Christian church? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ◆ worship today? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What aspects of worship do you think have not changed? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What aspects of worship have changed the most? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What practices of worship in other times would you like to see in worship today? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How important do you think worship is to the lives of Christians? Explain your answer. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What would you change about worship today, if you could? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Summarise in a sentence what you think worship is. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# REFLECTIONS ON WORSHIP