

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



WORSHIP

Daniel 2:17-23

These verses in Daniel are just a short snippet but they show us that Daniel was a passionate worshipper. His communication with God sustained him in Babylon and was a constant source of strength. Worship is not about which songs we choose to sing; it is an attitude we choose to adopt. We see a clear example of this in the life of Daniel and his exploits in captivity. We see Daniel declaring who God is and celebrating what he has done. This is real worship, coming from Daniel's heart, thanking God for intervening and revealing the meaning of Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

There is a massive difference in the way we worship when we are really thankful for something, rather than just joining in because it is expected of us or part of a church service. In this session we explore with the children what worship is, and how we can worship Jesus throughout the week. We explore different types of worship – not just songs of worship, but art, poetry, dance ... and how our whole lives can be an act of worship.

Each child will need:

- The worship handout
- Pens/pencils and paper

You will need:

- To write different way of worshipping on pieces of paper (based on the handout) and a container – see handout for worshipping ideas
- Large strips of paper with 'Worship is' written at one end – see Action It section

Start It

Play a game of Worship Charades. In this session a handout is provided giving lots of examples of ways we can worship. Fold up the pieces of paper with the worshipping ideas and put them in a container. Ask the children to take turns to act out whatever is on the piece of paper they pick up and see if the rest of the group can guess their action.

- **Say:** In our starter today, we have seen lots of examples of ways that we can worship God. Try and remember some of them as they will come in handy later.

Sing It

- **Say:** Today we are thinking about worship and how everything we do gives us an opportunity to show God how much we love him. We have used this song in sessions before so you might remember it.

'Every move I make' by CJ and friends (3 mins 18 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPvnZILn6EY>

Tell It

Ask: Last week we discovered that King Nebuchadnezzar had a bad dream.

Ask: Can you remember how this bad night's sleep led to a scary situation for Daniel and his friends?

Recap the story together.

Video (Optional)

If the children are struggling to remember the story, then watch the clip below for a recap.

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream - Daniel 2 by Sharefaith Kids (3 mins 58 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csWfhOlgNcU>

🗨 **Say:** When Daniel found out that he and his friends were in trouble, he immediately turned to God in prayer.

Read Daniel 2:17-19 (*ICB*).

'So Daniel went to his house. He explained the whole story to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. Daniel asked his friends to pray to the God of Heaven. Daniel asked them to pray that God would show them mercy and help them understand this secret. Then Daniel and his friends would not be put to death with the other wise men of Babylon.'

'During the night God explained the secret to Daniel in a vision.'

🗨 **Say:** God revealed to Daniel the meaning of the king's dream.

Ask: What do you think Daniel did next?

- a) Run to the king, tell him the meaning of the dream, and boast about how clever he was for working it out?
- b) Keep the news to himself and escape from Babylon with his friends?
- c) Immediately stop what he was doing to praise and worship God?

🗨 **Say:** Let's read Daniel 2:19b-23 (*ICB*) to find out what Daniel did.

'Then Daniel praised the God of Heaven. Daniel said:

"Praise God for ever and ever.

He has wisdom and power.

He changes the times and seasons of the year.

He takes away the power of kings.

And he gives their power to new kings.

He gives wisdom to people so they become wise.

And he helps people learn and know things.

He makes known secrets that are deep and hidden.

**He knows what is hidden in darkness,
and light lives with him.**

I thank you and praise you, God of my ancestors.

You have given me wisdom and power.

You told me what we asked of you.

You told us about the king's dream."

🗨 **Say:** As soon as God answered Daniel's prayer he began to worship.

Ask:

- Why do you think he did that?
- What did Daniel thank God for?
- What do you do when God answers your prayers? Do you take the time to thank God? If not why not?
- What can you thank God for today?

🗨️ **Say:** Daniel recognised that God was his only source of strength, and it was because of God that he was able to understand the king's dream. Although Daniel worshipped God through his words, there were lots of other ways that he honoured God. He refused to eat food that God had forbidden, and he refused to worship the gods of Babylon. Daniel's heart was filled with worship for God alone.

Action It

Ask: How would you finish this sentence? 'Worship is ...'

🗨️ **Say:** Daniel's heart worshipped the Lord in everything he did. When we worship God, we show our love for him in our actions. Singing is definitely part of worship but there is so much more to worshipping God.

Ask: What kind of acts of worship can you remember from our starter activity?

Poem

Explain to the group that they are going to create a 'Worship is ...' poem. On the handout there are lots of different activities that can be transformed into worship. Using large strips of paper write down one 'Worship is' statement (examples below) on each. When you have thought of 8-10 as a group, lay them on the floor and decide what order you would like them. Read out your 'Worship is ...' poem together.

Here are some ideas to get you started:

- ➔ Worship is memorising a Scripture verse to carry in your heart,
- ➔ Worship is dancing to a praise song when no one is watching,
- ➔ Worship is walking in the hilltops amazed at God's creation,
- ➔ Worship is serving at the food bank looking after those in need,
- ➔ Worship is singing on a Sunday with your friends and family,
- ➔ Worship is watching a sunset and feeling its warmth,
- ➔ Worship is sharing in a meal with friends and giving thanks to God.

The children can take home the handouts as this will help them to play one of the *Explore It Together* activities at home.

Pray It

🗨️ **Say:** Daniel regularly took the time to stop and give thanks to God in prayer. In today's story Daniel was facing a challenging situation. He prayed to God and God answered his prayer. Daniel took time to worship God and thank him for all he had done. Sometimes when God answers our prayers, we rush on to the next problem that we are facing and ask God for his help. We don't always take the time to reflect on God's faithfulness.

Ask: Why do you think it's important to take time to praise God and thank him for answered prayer?

Spend time praying with the group and ask them to share all the ways that God has been with them this week. Encourage the children to take time to pray throughout their week, just like Daniel did.

Explore It

Remember to send home the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.