

Worship



Selection of Scriptures



Today's session focuses on the role of worship within our lives. We'll consider the definition of worship, explore the foundation role it plays in the life of the believer and expand our understanding of what it might look like in our everyday lives.

You will need:

- Worship Scripture handout
- Paper and pens
- Flipchart sheet and felt-tips
- Salvation Army songbooks



Beat

Say:

Today's Bassline session is all about worship. To start off our time together, we're going to watch a clip that pokes fun at the modern-day worship song. Hopefully the clip will make you smile, but take note of the points it makes about worship music today.

Leader's notes:

Watch the clip together and discuss the points made throughout the song. Do the young people think the issues raised in this song are valid? If so, in what way?

Watch:

'The Worship Song Song' by Random Action Verb Worship (3:39)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fWicNLXxtj4>



Bridge

Ask:

As we will discuss later, worship is not just about the music we sing. Having said that, if you were to write the perfect worship song, what would be the main theme and focus of the lyrics?

Amplify

Say:

- How would you define worship?
- Who is our worship for?
- In what ways do we forget that God is the central focus of our worship?
- What is your response to the following quote from worship leader Graham Kendrick?

‘Worship has been misunderstood as something that arises from a feeling which “comes upon you”, but it is vital that we understand that it is rooted in a conscious act of the will, to serve and obey the Lord Jesus Christ.’

- Graham Kendrick

Say:

One of the baselines of our faith is worshipping God. Throughout Scripture we are called to spend time in worship.

Leader’s notes:

Give out the Worship Scriptures handout. Share out the following Scripture references for the group to explore. Ask the group to give feedback on what they teach us about worship. During the feedback session the young people can jot down their thoughts on the handout.

The full Scriptures are shown below for the leader’s reference. The aim of the Scriptures is to prompt discussion about how worship is described in the Bible.

⁷ ‘everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.’

(Isaiah 43:7)

³¹ So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

(1 Corinthians 10:31)

² Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.

³ For the Lord is the great God,
the great King above all gods.

(Psalm 95:2-3)

⁷ My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart
you, God, will not despise.

(Psalm 51:17)

⁷ You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you:

⁸ ‘These people honour me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

⁹ They worship me in vain;
their teachings are merely human rules.’

(Matthew 15:7-9)

²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks.

(John 4:23)

³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’

(Mark 12:30)

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship.

Romans 12:1

³ You shall have no other gods before me.

Exodus 20:3

¹⁴ Do not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.

(Exodus 34:14)

²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.

(John 4:24)

⁶ Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;

⁷ for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.

(Psalm 95:6-7)

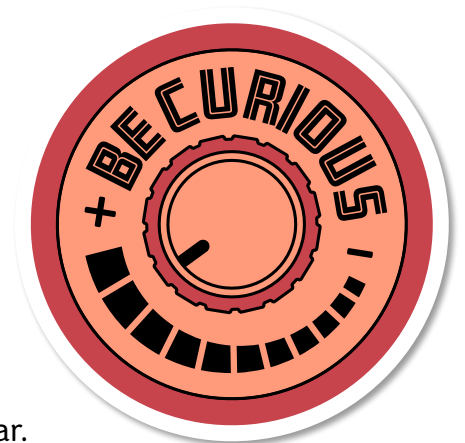
Leader’s notes:

The following clip ties together all the discussion points raised so far. Throughout the clip there will be references to the Scriptures the young people have already explored.

Watch:

What is the definition of worship? GotQuestions.org (stop at 4:20)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dY6ZQ2s9C4c>



Say:

Warren Wiersbe defines worship as follows:

‘Worship is the believer’s response of all that he is – mind, emotions, will, and body – to all that God is and says and does ... It is a loving response that is balanced by the fear of the Lord, and it is a deepening response as the believer comes to know God better.’

– Warren Wiersbe

Ask:

– In what way does Wiersbe’s definition expand our understanding of what worship might look like in our everyday lives?

Leader’s notes:

Working either individually or in small groups, ask the young people to reflect on what they have learned so far and write their own definition of worship.

 **Bridge****Ask:**

Leader’s notes: If the group would like to take a deeper dive into the definition of worship, then watch and discuss the clip together.

Watch:

What is Worship? Jonny Ardavanis (stop at 3:40)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=96yDBepUokg>

Alternatively, you can share the following quote from the clip and discuss it together.

‘Worship is far more than songs, it’s far more than music, even though it includes that. It’s a life dedicated to the glory of God through our conformity to Jesus and the proclamation of who Jesus is to a world that needs to know him.’

– Jonny Ardavanis

 **Sound Check****Say:**

In the Amplify section we have dived into Scripture to discover more about what worship is. The Bible suggests that worship is so much more than the songs we sing and the music we play on a Sunday morning. We’re going to take time to reflect on how we worship and if there are new ways we could honour God in our everyday lives.

Leader's notes:

The purpose of this activity is to expand the young people's understanding and expression of worship. Working in small teams, ask the group to come up with 30 acts of worship. The number is purposefully large so that the young people have to think of lots of possible ways to worship. There may be some disagreement about whether acts of service are the same as acts of worship, but encourage the group to explore these themes and dig deep into the meaning of worship. They may want to refer back to the Scripture readings from earlier in the session for ideas.

When the group has had sufficient discussion time, share the ideas together. Which ones would they like to explore further?

Ask each member of the group to jot down five ways to worship that they could try out over the coming weeks.

**Ask:**

As you take your own faith sound check, what place and significance does worship have in your daily life?

**Say:**

For our time of reflection today, we are going to look more deeply at some of the words that have formed the sung worship of The Salvation Army for generations. We have already shared that singing is only one part of our worship experience, but it is undeniable that music plays a significant role in the worship of The Salvation Army. Depending on your church, you may not be very familiar with these songs; but just like the psalms, we can appreciate the worship poetry in our song book.

Leader's notes:

Give each member of the group a copy of *The Song Book of The Salvation Army*. The aim of the activity is to read through the Praise and Adoration section (Songs 350-404). You may want to allocate a set of songs to individuals or small groups. Place a large sheet of flipchart paper in the centre of the group and ask them to write down any words or phrases that speak to them about the importance and purpose of worship.

When they have had the opportunity to read through and share the songs, discuss which words and phrases spoke to them the most. If there are any poets or musicians in the group, they may feel inspired to take these phrases away as a source of a new worship creation. Share in a moment of prayer together.

Coda

Say:

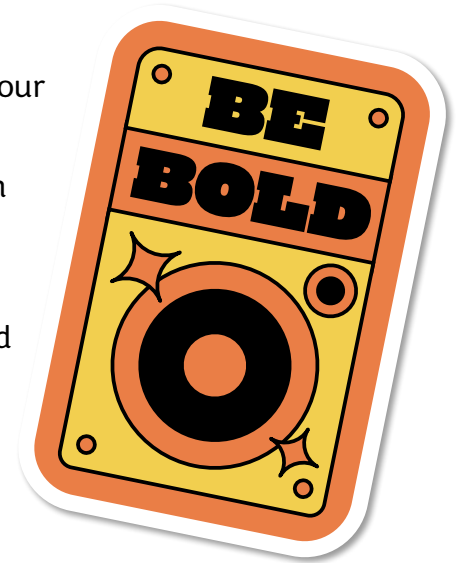
In a piece of music, the coda brings the different aspects of the melody, harmonies and bassline to a conclusion. It pulls together the different themes and often, but not always, brings resolution to a piece of music.

Ask:

- As you reflect on everything you have learned today, what is your coda?
- What is the one thing you will take away from this session from all the different aspects of worship we have explored?

Leader's notes:

Give the young people a moment to think about your question and briefly share their coda with the group before the session comes to an end.





ISAIAH 43:7

MARK 12:30

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31

ROMANS 12:1

PSALM 95:2-3

EXODUS 20:3

PSALM 51:17

EXODUS 34:14

MATTHEW 15:7-9

JOHN 4:24

JOHN 4:23

PSALM 95:6-7

