Level 1, Quarter 6

Additional Activities

1. True Worship

Noah's Ark Snack (5-10 minutes)

This snack reflects on the experience of being on the ark. **Supplies:** preserved foods such as dried fruit, fruit leather, jerky, freeze dried food, etc.

Ask children if they've been on a long camping trip or other experience where they couldn't get fresh food like milk or bread every day. Ask for their ideas about what Noah and his family might have eaten on the ark. Explain you don't know what they had, but it probably got kind of boring and maybe didn't taste good after hundreds of days of the same things. Pass around the snack you brought and encourage kids to try it, then to thank God for the variety of foods they have.

Name of God Mural (10 minutes)

This group craft highlights the name of God in a meaningful way. **Supplies:** markers or crayons, butcher paper

Before class, make large block letters spelling out YAHWEH on the butcher paper. Lay it on the floor or mount at child height on the wall so children can color in the letters and decorate the rest of the paper. Talk about how Bible-times people knew God as Yahweh. That was the name of the God they worshiped. They knew it was a very sacred, special name, and belonged only to the one true God. It also meant that He is who He is without needing anyone or anything else. Humans need God, other people, and things like air and water to live, but Yahweh created everything for our needs, not His. Today we use "the LORD" instead of using the name Yahweh.

Guest Worship Leader (10-15 minutes)

This activity allows a worship leader in your church to interact with the children about how to worship God.

In advance of class, invite a worship leader from the church to make a short visit. Introduce the visitor and explain the visitor's role in the church. Have the visitor explain how worship is done in the church and why it's done that way. The guest can lead the children in some simple worship, such as singing a worshipful song or praying.

All Day Worship (10+ in minutes)

This song shows children they can worship God anywhere and anytime. **Supplies:** CD player, music for the song, "Love Him in the Morning"

At Worship With God

Play the song through a couple of times. If you desire, let children draw pictures to illustrate the song as you play it the first time. After two repetitions, stop the music and ask children to share their ideas of where and when they can worship God with their hearts and minds. Break it down by morning, night and "in-between". Also, help children understand the difference of just singing a song like "Row, row, Row Your Boat" and singing to God with true offerings of worship. He is the audience that is listening.

Heart of Worship (10-15 minutes)

This craft allows children to personalize and apply the memory verse. **Supplies:** red felt, white glue, card stock, blue, brown, black beads, pencils or markers, scissors, white board.

Have children draw a picture of themselves on the card stock, making their picture to take up most of the paper (no microscopic people!). Ask the children how God wants us to worship. Clarify that He wants us to honor Him with our hearts and spirits, not just act out worship with our bodies or voices. Have the children cut out a heart from red felt and glue to their self-portrait, then glue two beads onto their eyes and use glitter or dimensional colored glue to highlight their mouths. Write on the board: ______ (child's name) worships God in spirit and in truth. If desired, play worshipful music in the background as children work.

2. False Worship

INSPIRE ACTION—God Is More Important (10 minutes) This craft illustrates that a person's greatest love should be for God. Supplies: markers or crayon, large sheets of paper

Draw a pyramid shape on the board and have children copy it on their paper, making it as large as possible. Have them draw pictures of their favorite things and place them on the pyramid, based on how important they are. Ask who should be at the top, getting the most of their love and attention. They can draw their idea of God or write God Almighty at the top, then fill in below with drawings of other favorite or important things and people.

At Worship With God/

Manasseh's Crown Snack (5-10 minutes)

This craft reinforces the Bible story while letting children be creative. **Supplies:** Fruit by the Foot candy (one per two children), Lucky Charms or Alpha-bits cereal, cream cheese, knives, paper towels.

Children can roll out the fruit candy and cut it in half, giving one half to another child. Each child can make a crown shape with the fruit tape and attach "jewels" and letters from the cereal, using cream cheese as adhesive. Have children display their crowns to others before eating them. Talk about how having lots of things makes it hard to remember God sometimes. Ask children how they can remember to worship only the true God.

Knocking Down False Altars (10+ minutes)

This activity gets children moving in dramatizing part of the Bible story. **Supplies:** large building blocks or empty boxes (such as used in lesson 1), bean bags

When people built an altar for God it was in love for God alone. When an altar was built to worship a false god this was displeasing to God. He wanted the altars built for the false gods to be destroyed.

Let children build some altars and pretend they are the altars to false gods that Manasseh allowed in his kingdom. Have children explain why these were wrong. With shouts that proclaim only God is the true God, they can stand behind a line and knock down the altars with beanbags. They may want to repeat this activity. Be sure the children verbalize what was wrong with Manasseh's actions and how he changed and what God did when he humbled himself.

Worship Bookmarks (10 minutes)

This craft lets children create a reminder of today's learning. **Supplies:** 2" x 6" strips of heavy card stock, markers, glitter glue, stickers, ribbon or twine.

Have children create a bookmark that will encourage them to worship only God. They can write "Worship only God" on it, or draw pictures and symbols that show their intent to remain true to God in worship.

3. Personal Worship

Desert Snacks (5 minutes)

This snack reminds children about David's experiences in the desert. **Supplies:** graham cracker crumbs, pudding cups or bowl of pudding spooned into paper cups, spoons, large serving spoon, gummy worms

After providing each child with a pudding cup, sprinkle a spoonful of "sand" (graham cracker crumbs) on top of each serving and add a gummy "snake." Talk about what life is like in the desert, such as the kinds of animals that live there, how little it rains, that the wind can blow sand in huge storms.

4. Family Worship

Stick Figures Snack (5 minutes)

This snack allows the children to play with their food and make stick figures before they eat. **Supplies:** licorice sticks, large and small marshmallows

Let children create stick figures using licorice sticks and add marshmallows for features and personalization. Challenge kids to make stick figures that show different ways to worship God.

Invite a Guest (10-15 minutes)

This special guest sparks children to relate to actual Jewish practices.

Invite a Messianic Jew to come and share about Jewish culture and practices. Your guest can talk about and show different items related to the Bible lesson: The Shema, the prayer shawl, the Mezuzah and Phylacteries. This guest can also teach your students the Shema in Hebrew (see the activity "Learn the Shema"). If you have no guests to invite in your area, consider showing a short video on Jewish culture instead.

Learn the Shema (15-20 minutes)

This memorization activity gives kids a cultural appreciation of Deuteronomy 6:4.

To the Jews, Deuteronomy 6:4 is simply known as the Shema, because Shema (Hear) is the first word in the verse. Jews sing it every morning in prayer across the world. This verse is also inside the box that the Jews put on their doorposts. Teach these six Hebrew words to your students and you will give them a rich cultural gift.

The Hebrew for this verse is: "Shema Yisrael, Adonai

Eloheinu, Adonai echad." Literally, Hear (Shema), O Israel (Yisrael), LORD (YWHW or Adonai) our God (Eloheinu), LORD (YHWH or Adonai) is one (echad). If you are musically inclined, sing it in a simple minor-keyed melody.

Invite Moms and Dads (10 minutes)

This group activity provides families with time to worship together.

Invite parents to attend class today, or to join you for the last few minutes. When they arrive, have the children open to page 15 of their Disciple Guides. Review today's lesson, and encourage the parents to initiate worship activities at home.

Doorway Scripture (10+ minutes)

This group craft reminds children of Moses' command to write God's Words on the doorposts of the Hebrews' homes. **Supplies:** butcher paper cut in long, 6" wide lengths, markers or crayons, tape, a mezuzah (optional)

Pair up children to work on a length of paper. Each group will write a Scripture verse (all or part) on their paper. Use the memory verse and other verses from Deuteronomy 6 if possible. Have children write their verse in large print; they can decorate their paper if desired. Have them help you mount their strips along the sides and top of the classroom's door(s). Bring a real mezuzah to class if possible, so children can compare it to the craft they are doing. Encourage children to show their work to parents at the end of class.

5. Group Worship

Hezekiah's Overhaul (10-15 minutes)

This Bible story review cements the Scripture passage in kids' memories as they enact it. **Supplies:** props from Explore Scripture

Lay out on the table or the floor the props you used to illustrate the Bible story (dirty bowl, soap, trash bags, stuffed animal, musical instruments). Divide the children into groups so that each group has one or more of the props. Ask each group to remember how the object related to in the story and then create a slow-motion mime of that part of the story. Let children decide, if possible, what parts to play (Hezekiah, the Levites, the priests, the people). After several minutes of preparation, with your assistance as needed, each group can perform their skit while others watch. Enact the silent skits in correct story order.

At Worship With God/

Praise Band (15-20 minutes)

This musical activity reveals how to make and praise God with instruments. **Supplies:** (drums) three-pound coffee cans with both ends cut out, plastic lid; (bells) jingle bells, chenille wire; (harps) boxes, rubber bands

Have each student make one of the following instruments:

Drums: Cover the end of a coffee can with a plastic lid. Children can use their hands to beat on the plastic.

Bells: String five or six bells on chenille wire. Bend the chenille wire into a circle and secure so the bells cannot fall off.

Harps: Wrap several rubber bands around various-sized boxes without lids. Rubber bands of different sizes will give different tones.

Add the worship shakers from Lesson One: True Worship for a greater range of instruments. Once everyone has an instrument, sing a praise song that your class knows. Have them play, move, or pound their instruments to the beat of the song. Remind students that God tells us to make a "joyful" noise and have fun worshiping Him. Save these items for other worship times throughout the quarter.

Forming a Group (5 minutes)

This game demonstrates one way to choose people to be on your team.

Have students stand up. I want everyone who has green on their clothing to go to that wall. Point to the wall on your left. Allow time for children to move around. I want everyone who has black hair to go to the back wall. Point to the back wall. Allow time for children to move around. I want everyone who has brown eyes to go to that wall. Point to the wall on your right. Allow time for children to move. I want everyone who is wearing clothing to come up front here with me. Allow children to move to where you are. Congratulate them on their listening skills. Have them all go back to their seats and play again. This time, have those with blue pants go to the left wall, brown hair go to the back wall, blue eyes go to the right wall, and then those with a face come up front to be with you. Play a third time, asking those who like to fish go to the left wall, those who like to sew or do crafts go to the back wall, those who like to go shopping go to the right wall, and those who are in Sunday school today come up front to be with you. There are many ways to form groups of people. The most important thing we have in common is our faith in God. When believers enjoy being together in one group, that is called "fellowship."

6. Altar Worship

Cross Crackers (5 minutes)

This snack reminds the children of the significance of the cross. **Supplies:** round crackers, spray cheese

Let children create cross shapes on their crackers with spray cheese. As they decorate and eat, talk to the children about why Jesus died for us (His love, the Father's love, our need that we couldn't fix on our own).

Forgiven (5-10 minutes)

This drawing activity helps children understand that God forgives them when they sin. **Supplies:** paper, markers or pencils, paper shredder, black inkpad

Ask children what it means to forgive. After they respond, clarify so they know that forgiving means to excuse what someone has done because they're sorry. We can forgive others when they do something wrong against us because God has first of all forgiven us of our sins. He forgives us because Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins.

Have children draw a picture of something that is wrong, whether small or big. Tell them you can't forgive their sins, but when they tell God what they've done and tell Him they are truly sorry, He will always forgive them. Invite children to pray silently to God about something they have done wrong. As each child is finished, have him or her bring the drawing to you. Put the paper through the paper shredder and say, "Forgiven!"

The Altar and the Cross (15 minutes)

This craft reinforces how the altar and the cross are both related to the forgiveness of sin. **Supplies:** cookie-sized smooth river stones, white paint or whiteout

Let each child choose a river stone and then spend time painting a cross on the stone. While they work, explain that the stone represents the altars that God's people made in Old Testament days. Help the children learn how to explain that the altar was a Bible-times way of asking forgiveness, but the cross reminds us that now we can have forgiveness of our sins because of what Jesus did. Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sin, and after three days He rose from the grave and He lives in heaven now. It is Jesus who forgives us when we are truly sorry. Spend a few minutes explaining salvation, tell children during the prayer time they can pray to ask Jesus to forgive their sins if they're ready to do that.

At Worship With God/

Altar Building Relay (10 minutes)

This game highlights the theme of altar worship. **Supplies:** cardboard building blocks or empty boxes, enough for each group to have 12 or more.

Divide into two or more teams. If you have an especially small class, you can do this with one team if necessary. Have each team line up, facing front to back. Place a stack of blocks or boxes behind each group. At your signal, the last person in each line takes one block and passes it up the line to the person in front. Then the next block gets passed up and stacked on the first. The team member stacking the blocks must build a semblance of an altar with the blocks. The first team to successfully build an altar wins. You can vary the way the blocks are passed up the line, such as between players' leg, over the head, using elbows instead of hands.

7. Tabernacle Worship

Silver and Gold Snacks (5 minutes)

This snack brings in parts of the Scripture lesson. Supplies: oyster crackers, baby carrots cut in small circles, dried cranberries and/or pineapple pieces

Ask the children to tell you about the precious metals and other valuable things the people gave to be used in the tabernacle. Give volunteers jobs of handing out the snacks and tell them the oyster crackers are like silver, the carrots are like gold, and the cranberries and pineapple are like jewels. Have them tell you about their most valuable things and relate how those items are like the things the people gave to help build God's place of worship.

Tabernacle Sing-Song (10 minutes)

This rhythm activity introduces the taberncacle.

Instruct your children to repeat after you. Establish a beat with your voice that the class can maintain as they repeat. To help keep them together, when it's your turn to speak, point to yourself, and when it's the students' turn, point to them.

Teacher: Tabernacle, what's a tabernacle? Class: Tabernacle, what's a tabernacle? Teacher: I'll tell you about the tabernacle. Class: I'll tell you about the tabernacle.

Teacher: It's a tent. Class: It's a tent.

Teacher: It's a beau-ti-ful tent.
Class: It's a beau-ti-ful tent.
Teacher: It's a "worship God" tent.
Class: It's a "worship God" tent.
Teacher: It's made of gold and silver
Class: It's made of gold and silver
Teacher: And linen and jewels
Class: And linen and jewels

Teacher: And red and purple and blue! *Class:* And red and purple and blue!

Precious Riddles (10 minutes)

This guessing game stimulates curiosity and introduces the topic of the tabernacle. **Supplies:** three objects of real gold, silver and/or precious gems, three opaque cups or bowls

Before children come in, place each object under a separate bowl or cup on the table. To do the activity, tell the children they get to guess what is under each cup after listening to a riddle. Read the riddle for the first object and let children guess. When someone guesses correctly, reveal the object and explain what it is and why it's precious as the children pass it around. Repeat for the other two objects. After all three have been revealed explain that these objects are made of valuable metals and jewels like the objects were made from in the tabernacle in Bible times. There was lots of gold, silver, and jewels in the things people made to honor God in the tabernacle.

- Riddles: (for gold) Yellow, shiny, and bright—fire makes it pure (or clean).
- Riddles: (for silver) A miner might find it, and it is the same color as a dime.
- Riddles: (for gems) This sparkles and glitters and comes from rocks. It comes in many different colors.

At Worship With God

Embroidered Angels (15 minutes)

This craft focuses on part of the decorative work done in the tabernacle. **Supplies:** cardstock—plain or laminated, red, blue, and purple yarn, hole punch, tape

Before class, reproduce the angel pattern found at the end of this file or create your own. Transfer the pattern onto cardstock and laminate the cards for greater durability. Hole punch the outline. Cut the yarn into pieces about three times longer than the outline of the angel, and create enough pieces for everyone in the class to have one of each color.

During class, pass out the yarn and show children how to tape the ends so they will not fray. Children can now thread their angels, using the different colors. Explain that the end result is similar to how God's people embroidered the curtains of the tabernacle.

Sizing up the Tabernacle (15 minutes)

This object lesson helps children grasp the actual size of the tabernacle. **Supplies:** 150 feet or yarn or string, space markers (rocks, bricks, cones, etc.)

If you have a gym or large open outdoor space, make the size of the tabernacle real for the children by measuring it off. Mark a starting place with a rock marker and have children help stretch the 150-foot string its length, then add another marker. Fold the string in half and use it to measure the width of the tabernacle. Once you have the four corners marked off, you can have children walk it and count their steps or play a game in the space.

8. Temple Worship

Celebration Snack (5 minutes)

This snack reminds children of the celebration the people had when the temple was dedicated. **Supplies:** frosted party cake or cupcakes

Ask children what they eat at parties and celebrations. Tell them that the Israelites celebrated for 7 days when the temple was dedicated, but they probably didn't eat things like we do. Serve the cake or cupcakes and have children share about important celebrations they've had, such as birthdays, baptisms, family reunions, etc.

Archeological Dig (10 minutes)

This hands-on activity mimics the excavation of old buildings and artifacts. **Supplies:** large box, sand, small spoons, tooth-brushes or paintbrushes, blocks, rocks, ceramic tiles

Before class fill a large box with sand and bury small items (rocks, blocks, ceramic tiles). Tell children that scientists called archeologists dig into the ground to find buildings and things people used a long time ago. That's how they have found buildings from Bible times, including parts of King Solomon's Temple! Explain that digging up old things takes lots of care and patience. Let them practice by only using the small spoons to dig through the sand (no hands!). As they unearth items, they can use the toothbrushes or paintbrushes to clean away the sand. Conclude by reminding children to take care of their own bodies, because they are all a temple for the Holy Spirit.

Wonders of the World (5-10 minutes)

This group discussion prompts kids to see God in His creation. **Supplies:** a picture book of natural wonders or beautiful sights in your area

Solomon prayed that people from all over the world would come and worship God at the Temple. We can pray that foreigners who come to our country would see God's handiwork in His creation, for this is one way He manifests His glory in our world today. Talk to your class about the internationals who visit your country and pray that they might see God's glory in nature. (Incidentally, the seven natural wonders of the world are the Northern Lights, the Grand Canyon in Arizona, the Paricutin Volcano in Mexico, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, Mount Everest in Nepal, Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe, and the harbor in Rio de Janiero, Brazil.)

At Worship With God/

9. Holiday Worship

Celebration Snack (5 minutes)

This snack elaborates on the holiday theme. **Supplies:** snack that fits the holiday closest to the current date.

Bring in a snack that fits a holiday you celebrate closest to the current date, such as Christmas cookies if near Christmas, red, white and blue candies if near July 4, etc. Or you can bring a cake or cupcakes and candles and have an all-inclusive birthday party. Give children a chance to talk about their favorite holidays.

Sunday Rest (15 minutes)

This game highlights that God set apart a day of rest.

Explain that this game is like statues. You'll call out day of the week, and the kids make motions or do actions that show what they might do that day (write, run, play piano, kick a soccer ball, eat, play with a pet, etc.) When you call out Sunday, everyone has to kneel down with praying hands. Those who kneel on the wrong day are out.

Holiday Scramble (10 minutes)

This game reinforces the Jewish holidays the children have heard about.

This game is based on "Fruit Basket Upset" where children sitting in a circle jump up and change places with others with the same name. Choose two or more of the Jewish holidays studied today. Decide how many to use based on class size. Have children create a circle with their chairs and sit down. Go around the room and assign each child one of the Jewish holidays you've chosen. To play, call out one of the holidays. Kids with that holiday leave their chairs and find another vacated one. No one can sit in the chair they just vacated. If a child is left without a new chair, he or she is out and the empty chair is removed before continuing play. After several rounds, you can change holidays to make it more fun.

10. Synagogue Worship

Kosher Snack (5 minutes)

This snack activity shares more about the Jewish culture with children. **Supplies:** matzo crackers, kosher grape juice, other kosher snacks

Serve the crackers and juice and tell children about kosher foods. Explain that the matzo crackers are made without yeast, and remind the Jewish people about their escape from Egypt. Grapes were also a very important food in Bible times.

Synagogue Guessing Game (10 minutes)

This game show-type activity introduces the topic of the Jewish synagogue. **Supplies:** 4 poster board or white cardboard signs, markers

Before class prepare four signs, one for each of these "definitions" of synagogue.

- A shopping mall
- A special room in a house
- A place where Jewish people worship
- An outdoor park

Ask for four volunteers. Have them stand in front of the class. Give each a definition poster, reading them as you hand them out.

Write "synagogue" on the board and tell kids they get to vote for what they think is the right meaning of the word. You can choose how you want kids to vote: by standing up, raising a hand, etc.

Let children vote. Then have the three poster-holders with the wrong definitions sit down. Read the correct definition again. Ask kid if they can guess why a Jewish place of worship isn't called a church. Tell them they'll learn more about synagogues in *Explore Scripture*.

A Bold Invitation (10-15 minutes)

This craft creates a way for students to invite others to meet the Messiah. Supplies: cardstock

Have students create an invitation to church or Sunday school with a worship/activity schedule included. Have them decorate their invitations and choose one particular friend or relative they would like to invite. Encourage them to boldly share about Jesus with their invitation.

At Worship With God/

Review the Shema (10 minutes)

The Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4) is read or recited at every synagogue worship service even today. Teach or review the Hebrew language version (see Lesson 4: Family Worship in this file).

Jewish Guest (15 minutes)

Invite a Jewish guest to your class to tell about the synagogue. Give the guest specific questions to address, such as what the synagogue looks like and what a worship service is like.

11. Church Worship

Body Snacks (5 minutes)

This snack encourages children to play with their food. **Supplies:** pretzel sticks, marshmallows

Give each child a handful of pretzel sticks and a marshmallow. Have them arrange the pretzels in the shape of a body, using a marshmallow for the head. As children eat their "body parts," talk about how why each part of the body is important.

Discovery Walk (15+ minutes)

This exploration activity helps children become more aware of their church and how everyone plays a part in it.

Before class day, make arrangements for the class to walk through different areas of the church. Decide on a "travel plan" ahead of time so you can prepare kids for the experience and help them use appropriate behavior as needed. If possible, visit the sanctuary, the platform, or preaching area, rooms where supplies like choir robes, music materials, communion supplies, etc. are stored, the church office, prayer room, library, etc. Name each room/area as you pass through. When you return to the classroom, explain what happens in the different areas. Let children ask questions. Talk about who's in charge the church, such as pastors, elders or lay leaders, and above all those, Jesus, the Head of the Church.

Meet the Pastor (5-15 minutes)

This interactive event gives children a chance to meet and talk to their pastor or other church staff.

Invite the pastor or another church leader to visit your class for a short time. Ask the visitor to talk about how communion is handled or why the church observes communion. An alternative is for the visitor to talk about what his or her role is and how they contribute to the worship service.

Finger Play (5 minutes)

This classic game reinforces that the church is the people, not the building.

Your kids are probably familiar with the finger play, "Here's the church" (hands clasped with fingers inside), "here's the steeple" (index fingers pointing up to form a steeple), "open the doors" (open your hands up). To illustrate a point in this lesson, on this last phrase instead of saying "and see all the people," change it to say, "the Church is the people" (wiggle your fingers).

Prepare for Worship (10-15 minutes)

This activity prepares the class to participate in the worship service.

Plan ahead for this activity by asking for the class to be included in the service by singing a song or sharing a couple of memory verses. Before the assigned time, have the class practice what they'll sing or say. Also teach the children how to enter and leave and what behavior is expected during this experience.

12. Heavenly Worship

Heavenly Banquet (5-10 minutes)

This snack builds on the theme of heavenly worship. **Supplies:** fancy tablecloth, nice napkins, candles (optional), fancy snack on plates (cream cheese on bread cut in shapes or fruit and cheese cubes on toothpicks, etc.)

Expand on the heaven theme by telling children Jesus has a banquet planned for us all in heaven, and He wants us all to be there. Read about it in Revelation 19:9 and then let them help you set up and serve the special snack.

At Worship With God/

Serving Others Brainstorm (5 minutes)

This interactive activity sparks children's ideas about serving this week.

This can be done as a whole class or in smaller groups. Have a helper work with each group if breaking into more than one. First have children call out people in their daily lives whom they could serve. Make a column for each. (For smaller groups, assign each group one person to work on: mom, dad, brother or sister, neighbor, teacher, etc.) Then choose one person and have kids call out realistic ways to serve that individual. Move on to the next one. When the brainstorming is done, talk about why we serve others. Then ask children to choose one person and way to serve and make a promise to do that this week. Close by asking children how they will serve Jesus in heaven.

Revise Heaven Pictures (10 minutes)

This follow-up activity allows children to add to their ideas about heaven. **Supplies:** pictures drawn in "Heaven Is..." activity.

If you chose the "Heaven Is..." activity during *Spark Interest*, give the children their heaven pictures back and let them add to the pictures. Or they can draw a new picture, based on the Bible lesson they have now heard.

