

Unit Title : **WORSHIPPING GOD**
Lesson 4a : **WORSHIP - INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE**
Bible Story : **FELLOWSHIP OF THE BELIEVERS (CHURCH)**
Lesson Scripture : Acts 2:41-47

Main Emphasis : **True worship is both individual (private) and in assemblies (public).**

Objectives : By the end of this session, the students should be able to:

1. define corporate worship;
2. acknowledge involvement in church gatherings is vital to corporate worship;
3. determine the reasons to attend church services;
4. assess their involvement in church gatherings;
5. assess their purpose in church gatherings;
6. acknowledge involvement in church shows support and love for God;
7. recite the memory verse.

Words to Remember:

CORPORATE WORSHIP – a church gathering where people with the same faith gather together to worship.

PUBLIC – ordinary people in general; the community; existing in open view.

FELLOWSHIP – joint participation or sharing something in common.

CHURCH – an assembly or called-out ones.

Memory Verse:

Psalm 100

¹ *Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.*

² *Worship and serve the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.*

³ *Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.*

⁴ *Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.*

Pre-Session Activity: Present videos of lively Christian corporate worship in different countries.

Lesson Proper :

Recap: What is the greatest commandment? How do we show such love?

The word “church”, when used to reference all believers everywhere, is synonymous with the term Body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22–23).

ACTS 2:41-47 (The First Church)

So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the **fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, **attending the temple together** and

breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, **PRAISING GOD** and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

One thing to show our love is to be involved in church gatherings and participate in the worship service.

Why should Christians attend church and participate in corporate worship?

First of all, attendance at corporate gatherings is a biblical mandate. **Hebrews 10:24-25** tells us not to give up meeting together. In the Bible, the word “church” indicates plurality: we are a body, a flock, a building, and a holy nation.

Another reason for corporate worship is the public statement it makes. If we’re regular church attendees, we publicly demonstrate our obedience to the command to love God. To say we love Christ yet does not regularly attend is hypocrisy. Regular church attendance also shows support for the work of God in the world—that we are for Jesus rather than against Him (*Matthew 12:30*).

To gather with other believers for the purpose of teaching, fellowship, worship, prayer and to build one another up in the faith can substantially help to the individual’s spiritual growth.

Life Application :

If a so-called Christian neglects church gatherings, such person is prone to backsliding. There is no backslider who faithfully attends church services and participates in corporate worship. Just like how you say you love God but not obey His commandments. Love is expressed through following His word, particularly by faithfully participating in gatherings and corporate worship with other believers.

Still there are instances that you attend gatherings yet neglect corporate worship. These are the times you do not participate during praise and worship service. It could be that you’re shy or conscious to what others may say and think. Another is pride that you need to look good and act cool so you will be respected. But worshipping God is not about oneself or others. It is about God that He is the King of kings and Lord of lords; His mercies, grace and blessings; His power; and His promises and His Word.

One cannot grow spiritually if corporate worship is neglected. To participate in such shows our love and obedience to God in public provided that one has no wrong motives. That is why true worship is shown in assemblies.

Evaluation :

- 1. What do you mean by corporate worship?**
- 2. What can you say about the first church? (particularly their traits and practices)**
- 3. How do we prove that we love God in specific terms?**
- 4. Do church gatherings help you grow spiritually?**
- 5. Do you faithfully attend and participate in church services?**
- 6. What is/are your purpose(s) for attending church? What should be the purpose**

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Reminders:

1. **Pre-Session activity:** Video clips of Christian corporate worship in different countries. (Pick the best and the lively ones; the last clip should be ours-conferences, crusades or regular services)
2. **Background lesson for Teachers:** Should not be included in the discussion of the lesson, but for the teacher's knowledge and thorough study about the story. Also, this part is to be discussed if a student ask the same.
3. **Discussion flow** (story): Begin the story from the day of Pentecost. Many topics/subjects are involved so focus or give more emphasis to corporate worship.
4. **Post-Session Activities:** Knowing the story is brief, please conduct crafts, worksheets or games after the memory verse. No activities conducted when there is still time shows the teachers' unpreparedness.
5. Please hit the specific **Objectives** in the discussion based on your students capacity - Intermediate/Junior High & Primary.
6. If you have any suggestion or input, please do tell.
7. Discussion to the students depends on the age-level of the class. Just simplify the lesson to maximize time and be creative in teaching.
8. Assistants in charge will do the pre-session activity and memory verse.
9. Be sensitive with the time in order not to miss out any activity.

Programme: Opening prayer/Greetings (3min) ->
Pre-Session (8min) -> Lesson (15-20min) ->
Snacks/Memory Verse (10min) -> Post-Session (5-8min)

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