

Unit Title : **WORSHIPPING GOD**
Lesson 4b : **WORSHIP - INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE**
Bible Story : JESUS AND THE HYPOCRITES
Lesson Scripture : Matthew 6:1-7

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 private worship;
2. acknowledge private worship shows one's true worship;
3. differentiate public and private worship;
4. assess their worship in their private times;
5. assess their hearts to worship when no one is looking;
6. acknowledge public worship without private worship is hypocrisy;
7. recite the memory verse.

Words to Remember :

PRIVATE – belonging to or for the use of one particular person or group of people only.

PRIVATE WORSHIP – personal worship to God as we pray privately, read the Bible, sing a spiritual song, etc.

HYPOCRITES – a person who puts on a false appearance of virtue or religion.

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 two (2) pictures at a time showing public and private matters (e.g. schools, places, people, establishments, companies/institutions)

Lesson Proper :

Q: How do you know a person's true intentions, character or attitude?

MATTHEW 6:1-7 (DO IT PRIVATELY)

Jesus warns us of gaining human recognition to ourselves. The one who does righteousness to the Lord before men merely "to be seen of them" has "no reward" from the Father in heaven.

True worship results from the desire to serve God, not men, since pleasing God is far more important than pleasing men. Loss of reward is incurred by gaining the reward of human recognition as an end in itself.

Also Jesus mentioned "hypocrites" having their reward. Their reward is that they were seen by men, nothing more. God does not reward hypocrisy, but He does

punish it (Matt. 23:13-23). God sees everything we do, but more than that, He sees the reason why we did it.

Jesus did not boast about His power for His works and miracles, but become a servant to serve others. He could have been a king but rather chose to be a son of a carpenter. Unlike how the Pharisees and scribes, during His time on earth, live with their lives pretending they serve and worship God with their hearts and care for the needs of others.

There are times a person can hide his/her true colors when in front of the public or when there are others around. That's why private times do really show true intentions of the heart of such person for he/she shows what he/she really is.

In Matt. 23, Jesus condemns the Pharisees and teachers of the law for their hypocrisy and religious activities. They hide the true contents of their hearts towards the people, themselves and their relationship with God. They do not really live what they say and one thing to know about this is during their private times.

Life Application :

Just like Jesus' prayers, whether someone sees it or not, are consistent for His heart is right and true. He does what He says publicly and privately. Unlike people saying they love God with all their hearts but not obey His commandments. Though they may have obeyed and been seen by others for their obedience but their hearts show otherwise.

There are times you worship God just for compliance to His word or what the teacher has said but not sincere with your heart. Though you participate in corporate worship but during private times or times when you are alone or outside church, worshipping God has been neglected.

To worship God in public where others can see or hear is not wrong as long as your heart is sincere to worship. Sincerity is shown regardless of place or time. That means even in your private times, you must worship Him if you really love Him with all your heart. That's because true worship is both individual (private) and corporate (public).

Evaluation :

- 1. What do you mean by private worship?**
- 2. What's more important, public worship or private worship?**
- 3. How do we prove that we love God in specific terms?**
- 4. How do you know a person's true intentions, character or attitude?**
- 5. Do you worship God in your private times?**
- 6. Is your heart to worship sincere? How do you say so?**

