



## MIDDLE SCHOOL RESOURCE

### Gospel-Centered Life: Session 13

#### Worship

Key Statement: Worship 1) is an expression of the worth and value of God, 2) includes our exalting of God in all of life, and 3) should be done with other believers in anticipation of seeing God.

::CONNECT::

#### Activity 1: Scavenger Hunt

- For this option, your students will need access to the internet, or perhaps access to a lot of magazines and newspapers (if you can gather a bunch of them up).
- Instruct them to find pictures or stories of people delighting in something (anything), preferably in groups. You could find fan sites, pictures of people tailgating, people at concerts, discussion boards about movies or shows, anything along those lines. Pictures are best, but anything is okay. You might give them points for finding the most unusual thing people get excited about, or the newest, or the oldest, or the largest, or the smallest (to try to make it interesting).
- Give them time to find their pictures/stories, then let them share them.
- Ask what commonalities you see. What differences?
- Explain that, in a sense, these are depictions of people worshiping. They are expressing the worth and value of something, just like we should God (point 1 from the lesson). They are coming together to share their delight with one another, just like we should (point 3 from the lesson). And their delight is bleeding over into all different areas of their life, just like ours should (point 2 from the lesson).
- Have the students go back to whatever event/love they found. Have them hypothesize on how those same loves (a musician, a game, a film) can become a means of exalting God (point 2 from the lesson). Have them share their ideas with the group, and allow the group to give any additional ideas for how to use that element to honor God.

#### Activity 2: Would you like worship with that?

- Together with the students, come up with a list of things they do or places they go in the course of their normal lives. Write that list out on the whiteboard, and number it. Examples might include washing and folding laundry, playing a sport, riding in the car.
- Split them into small groups (3-4 each). Randomly assign each group a number.
- Their job: to put on a skit depicting whatever activity or place corresponds to the number they were given. Give them time to prepare the skit and then to show it (they may think this is a bit odd or overly easy at this point).

- When they have all finished showing their skits, instruct them to re-do the skit. Same situation, same people. This time, however, they must incorporate Point 2 from the lesson into it: that God would be exalted in their bodies in this situation. In other words, they have to show this same situation or event, but it has to be done in an act of worship this time.
- Give them time to consider what it would look like, then to prepare their skits, then to show them.
- Talk about what looked different and what didn't. The changes may not have been significant. Worship is a state of the heart, so the attitude may have been the only thing that changed. Hopefully the conversations were sprinkled with the salt of the gospel (warn them against show-boating or inserting religious language unnecessarily. The common theme is that these situations should be used as opportunities to savor Jesus).
- Debrief by reminding the students of the centrality of the Holy Spirit and how much of what we've discussed over the past several weeks is another aspect of worship.

#### ::CONVEY::

If you are pressed for time this week, consider spending the majority of your Convey time by focusing on points one and two of the session.

Remember, this is merely a suggested outline adaptation for a middle school group. If you decide to incorporate one or more option into your group time, you will likely have to be very selective on the material you decide to teach through. Keep in mind that each class is different, and as the leader guide suggests, personalize the lesson content for your class by determining what elements are most applicable. Don't feel pressured to teach through all of the content in a single meeting, but instead help middle school students to see the main overall point and big picture the lesson is conveying.

#### ::COLLIDE::

See Leader Guide