



# Primary Teacher

Winter Quarter, 2017-2018

## *Examples of Worship, Prayer and Stewardship*

**Quarterly Objective:** The learner will give biblical examples of acceptable worship, prayer and stewardship.

Unit 1  
**Worshiping the  
True and  
Living God**

Unit 2  
**Praying to the  
True and  
Living God**

Unit 3  
**Serving the True  
and Living God**

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**Teachers:** Lesson 3 can be used for Christmas.  
You may switch Lessons 3 and 4.

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# Unit 1

Lessons 1-4

## Worshiping the True and Living God

The heart attitude of worship results in acceptable actions to honor the true and living God.

### Unit Objective

Biblical examples that teach how to worship God.

Bible stories and learning experiences help children discover and offer real worship to Almighty God.

Boys and girls will know that worship is a response of our spirit in adoration of God.

Learners will feel motivated by love to voluntarily worship God in reverence.

Everyone will personally honor God in attitudes and actions.

### This Unit and Your Learners

The goal of worship is man communing with God. Third- and fourth-graders who learn to offer God true worship will enjoy a precious relationship with Him that transforms them to become more like the Son of God.

In real worship we discover anew that God's thoughts and ways far exceed our own. Worship is the nucleus of church activities. Everything the church believes, does and tries to achieve revolves around its responsiveness to God's greatness in worship.

Children who learn to meet God in His Word discover new meaning in prayer, singing, preaching and giving. God becomes more real and the Bible more exciting as we interrupt daily routines to lift our hearts in worship to God. Our motives must be to please God and glorify Him alone.

Boys and girls can understand the difference between the emptiness of routine formality and the vibrant and personal involvement of the mind, emotions and will to adore the eternal God. Worship leads to obedient actions that glorify God. It should lead to personal enrichment and spiritual strength to help the believer carry the burdens and fight the battles of life. We do not worship God for what we can get out of it, but we worship because He is worthy of worship.

True worship transforms our lives. Emphasizing the glory of God instead of our own

spiritual conditions opens our spirits to the power of His Spirit. We reveal an increasing glory that causes others to see Christ and honor Him.

### Overview of Bible Lessons

**Singing Is Acceptable Worship**—Moses led the children of Israel to sing praises in response to God's deliverance from the Egyptian army at the Red Sea.

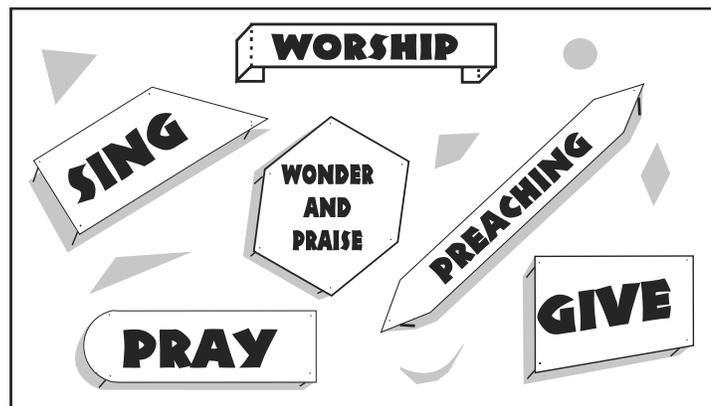
**Praying Is Acceptable Worship**—Solomon's prayer at the consecration of the Temple was genuine worship of the living God.

**Giving Is Acceptable Worship**—The wise men traveled a thousand miles or so to worship the Son of God and bring Him gifts.

**Preaching Is Acceptable Worship**—Peter's preaching of God's Word was an act of worship. It revealed the greatness of Almighty God.

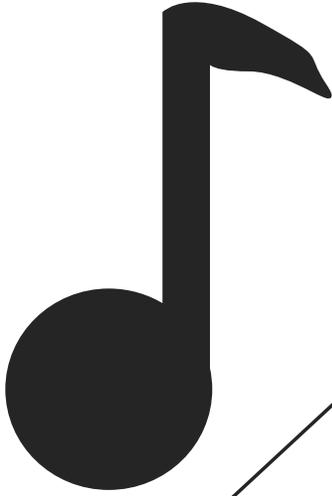


### Bulletin Board



**Materials Needed:** white paper, colorful poster board, construction paper, markers, straight pins, *We Worship God, A Color and Sticker Storybook*

Real worship results in actions to glorify the living God. Use a white background for colorful poster board or construction paper word cards as shown. Write WORSHIP with a wide point marker. Fold and attach WORSHIP to extend away from the board. Attach the irregular shapes for worship actions with straight pins stuck at a right angle into the board. Pull cards to the head of the pins. Cut smaller varied paper shapes of bright colors to intersperse among the word cards. Place *We Worship God, A Color and Sticker Storybook*, near the display for learners to use.



**SING**

**GIVE**

**WONDER  
AND  
PRAISE**

**PRAY**

**PREACHING**

# Singing Is Acceptable Worship

Lesson  
December 3, 2017

1

Exodus 15:1-21

*Moses led Israel to praise  
God for His mighty  
acts.*



## ◆ Lesson Objective:

Music is an expression of one's heart to God in acceptable worship.

## ★ Bible Insight:

"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."

Ephesians 5:19



## ◆ Life Application:

I understand that music is an expression of one's heart to his god. I will only participate in music and sing those songs which will honor the true and living God.



## Music at the Red Sea

Exodus 15:1-21

The Israelites received Pharaoh's permission to leave Egypt as free people after God sent ten horrendous plagues to trouble the Egyptians. Then, Pharaoh realized the impact the loss of slave labor would have on his programs. He quickly assembled his army of horsemen and chariots to overtake the Israelites and bring them back. God made a miraculous path across the Red Sea for His people to cross safely. When the army tried to follow them, God closed the water again drowning the entire army. The Israelites saw the great work which the Lord did upon the Egyptians and responded with real worship.

## KNOW GOD'S WORD

Music was a significant art in ancient biblical times with the Bible story for this lesson being the first time vocal music appears as a religious ceremony. The marvelous way God protected His people from Pharaoh's army filled the Israelites with a sense of awe and gratitude. Read Exodus 14 to refresh your memory with the details of how God demonstrated His power for Israel.

"Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses" (Exodus 14:31).

Moses recognized the spontaneous worship opportunity and led the children of Israel in singing an original praise song to the Lord.

"I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him" (Exodus 15:1, 2).

The song continues with descriptive phrases about the victory they experienced. Then, Miriam, Moses' and Aaron's sister, led the women in a victory celebration as they played timbrels. "Sing ye to the LORD," she sang, "for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea" (Exodus 15:21).

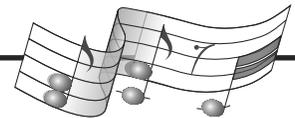
Music is one of God's gifts to humans. Used as worship, it expresses the emotions of our hearts to our powerful, loving, wise and eternal God. Music instructs the mind by the message in the words of a song. It inspires the emotions as our spirit responds to the Holy Spirit who ministers to us when we sing words to honor the Lord. Music challenges the will to submit to God in adoration and reverence. Singing reaches both the mind and the heart as a wonderful tool in the hands of the Spirit.

Music educates as we hear the words, so the theology must be true to Bible principles for music to honor God. If the words teach heresy, even a beautiful melody cannot be used in worship. Without the Word in the song, the Spirit cannot fill the worship. If there is no message in the song, or if the message does not fit biblical doctrine, there is no place for it in Christian worship even if it stirs the emotions dramatically.

"I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also," Paul declared in 1 Corinthians 14:15. The biblical message in the song must be understandable and the presentation easily understood.

The language of songs we use to worship God should express the doctrine we believe the Bible to teach. If it does not, it is not a Christian song. How can the Spirit of God use a song that ignores or contradicts what He wrote in the Bible? God blesses His Word, not just the talents of a gifted singer.

"All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing to thy name" (Psalm 66:4).



## Prepare Your Room

- Materials Needed:** Create the "Sing unto the LORD" poster and music notes, brightly colored paper, *We Worship God*, *A Color and Sticker Storybook*, Attendance Chart, Item 1, Bible Micro-Mini stickers

Cut music notes (pattern on Unit 1 Pattern Page) from brightly colored paper. Attach them to a wall with a miniposter lettered with "Sing unto the LORD," Psalm 96:1.

*We Worship God*, *A Color and Sticker Storybook* from Bogard Press provides learning ideas about worship. It features a boy and girl worshiping God and has a thought and Scripture for each of the sixteen pictures. It makes an excellent teaching aid for this unit about worship. Provide one for each learner if possible. It is a useful resource for teaching that worship is a heart attitude in response to God.

Place the Attendance Chart, Item 1, in the visuals, on the wall. Use a Bible Micro-Mini sticker to record the attendance of each child whose name you have written in one of the name spaces.

Any seasonal decorations in your room should lead learners to worship God who came to earth as a baby. Jehovah, the Creator and Sustainer of all life, humbled Himself to become a man that He might provide the payment for our sin penalty. Encourage boys and girls to honor Christ through all their choices for the holidays.



## VOCABULARY WORDS

worship—the heart’s response of wonder and awe in thinking of God; a mixture of gratitude, adoration, reverence, fear and love  
music—combining the elements of tone, rhythm, melody and harmony in expressive compositions; in worship, music uses these qualities to praise God



## EARLY TIME ACTIVITIES

- Materials Needed:** thin paper plate, dry beans, stapler, markers, 18" lengths of brightly colored crepe paper streamers or ribbon, jingle bells, stapler

The joyous worship celebration of God’s deliverance at the Red Sea included using timbrels much like our modern-day tambourines. Boys and girls will enjoy making paper tambourines and using them to create a new song of praise.

For each child have a thin paper plate, a tablespoon of dry beans, three 18" lengths of brightly colored crepe paper streamers or ribbons and two or three jingle bells. Have a stapler and a sample tambourine to show learners what they will make.

Fold a paper plate in half and add the dry beans. Staple the plate edges together to make a closed pocket. Fold streamers or ribbon in half width wise and staple them to the rim of the tambourine. Add two or three jingle bells by threading a ribbon through each bell loop and tying a knot. Staple the ribbon to the paper plate rim.

Shake your tambourine. **Say:** People in Bible times used timbrels as musical instruments to worship God. It pleases God when people use music to praise Him. Psalm 150 tells God’s people to praise Him with many different instruments. Find the reference in your Bible.

Let volunteers read the verses aloud. The timbrel of verse 4 was similar to the tambourine of today. Students may ask about praising the Lord with dance. Have an answer to their questions if they ask.

The Jewish dance performed by males and females separately was the rhythmic movement of the



## Lesson Set

- Materials Needed:** verse written on newsprint

Learners share ideas about singing to praise God, then make up a new song of praise.

Have the following verse written on a piece of newsprint:

Sing unto the LORD a new song.

Sing unto the LORD, all the earth. (Psalm 96:1)

Invite learners to get their tambourines again and gather in a circle.

**Ask:** Who likes to sing? Where do you sing? Have you ever made up a song?

**Say:** Somebody has made up every song we sing. People in Bible times made up songs to praise God. What book in our Bible has many songs in it? The people of Israel sang many of the poems in the book of Psalms in their worship times.

(Display the verse written on newsprint. Have all the girls say the first half of the verse. Then ask the boys to say the second half and reference. Switch roles and repeat the verse.)

Who can think of a tune for this Bible verse? Use your tambourines and sing the words. (Allow a minute for children to sing with tambourines.)

We know some praise songs. What is your favorite? (Jot down the songs named. Then vote to choose a favorite praise song. Sing a verse of it together while playing tambourines to keep time.)

Now we will make up a praise song of our own. To the tune of “London Bridge” sing these words:

We will praise You, God on high,

For your love; for your grace.

We will praise You, Father above,

Lift your hearts to praise Him.

Invite learners to use tunes of familiar songs such as “Farmer in the Dell” or other children’s choruses to make up new words to sing a new song to God. Try singing the words of the Bible Insight verse.

**Ask:** How do you think God feels when He hears our songs of praise? How do you feel when you praise God? Why is it important to praise God by singing?

**Say:** We can praise God with songs we already know, but we can also praise God with brand-new songs as we sing praises to Him.

Moses and the people of Israel were happy that God delivered them from the enemy. They sang a new song to celebrate God’s power in helping them.

feet or body to music as a part of their worship on special occasions. Their solemn processions included choirs of young men and maidens who moved in time with music. The joyful “religious dances” had no similarity to modern amusements so much a part of the worldly entertainment scene today. Instead, they were processions in which all who took part marched in time with the hymns which they sang.

Give a brief demonstration of how to make the paper plate tambourine and invite learners to make their own. Allow them to help each other as needed.

When everyone has an instrument, read Psalm 150 again. Explain that God’s people used many of the psalms as their songs in worship assemblies. Maybe the people used this psalm along with the instruments mentioned.

Read it again with the learners responding with sounds of musical instruments named. Everyone read verses 1 and 2 in unison. Then, you read the other verses with a pause after each named instrument for the children to make the sounds of

trumpets, harps, stringed instruments and flutes. Have them clap their hands for the cymbals and shake their tambourines for the timbrels. Conclude with a joyous reading of verse 6.

Provide a marker for each child to identify his tambourine with his initials and lay them aside for now.

## WORSHIP TIME DEVOTIONAL

### *Grace in Your Heart, Colossians 3:15, 16*

**Materials Needed:** flash card—PEACE and GRACE, Christian stickers, marker board or chalkboard

*(Make a flash card with PEACE on one side and GRACE on the other or write the words on the board when mentioned. Have Christian-oriented stickers. Some leftover attendance stickers would also work well. Give each child a sticker to put on his or her forehead. Wait for everyone to get the sticker in place.)*

There! Now I can tell that each of you belongs in this class. If I saw you in a store or at school, I would know you are one of us. Would you like to wear this identifying sticker all the time?

What if we designed an identifying mark for Christians? You could tell who are Christians just by looking at them. What about a uniform for Christians to wear every day? *(Let children discuss the pros and cons of the idea.)* Well, maybe that is not a good idea.

Could we choose a Christian hairstyle for everyone who follows the Lord? There is not one style that looks good on everyone, is there?

We can wear Christian stickers on the forehead. What do you think? Everyone who likes the idea raise your hand! *(Look sad and give a sigh of disappointment when learners show little support of the idea.)*

This idea may not go over either! That is all right. The Bible says a Christian already has something special that sets him apart from the world.

*(Hold up the flash card with the PEACE side showing or write it on the board.)*

God's Holy Spirit who lives within each Christian gives him peace. What is peace? *(Let volunteers tell their ideas.)* Peace is the absence of fear. It is confidence that everything is all right. Every Christian has a wonderful sense of security that God is in charge and will make everything work together for his good.

Listen to what Paul stated in Colossians 3:15: "Let the peace of God rule in your hearts, . . . and be ye thankful." When a person makes Jesus the Lord of his life, he can experience peace in whatever situation that comes. God's children can thank Him for everything because they know He has a perfect plan for their lives.

Paul said to the Christians at Colossae, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Colossians 3:16).

The Word of God in a Christian's heart makes him want to sing praises to his Lord. God's grace makes it possible. *(Show the GRACE side of the flash card or write it on the board.)*

Grace is God's free, undeserved love and favor. What is something that God's grace provides because of His great love for us? Salvation is the greatest gift of God's grace. How many songs do you know that talk about God's love, His grace and salvation? A bunch! Many of our worship songs talk about these.

Grace in a person's heart will prompt him to sing to the Lord. This is another identifying mark of a Christian. A Christian does not need these stickers to identify him as one who loves God. People can tell he loves Jesus by his lifestyle. He will have God's peace and grace inside his spirit to help him live for God.

Close with a brief prayer, then allow each one to remove his sticker.

## BIBLE STORY

**Materials Needed:** Tri-fold Visual 1-1—1-3

*(Prepare the Tri-fold Visual as directed in the visuals instruction sheet. Set scene 1-1 before viewers when called for in the story.)*



Exodus 15 records the first time that people in Bible times used vocal music as worship.

*(When everyone has found it, let a volunteer read the first verse.)*

**Ask:** Who remembers the story about Pharaoh's army coming after the Israelites at the Red Sea and what happened to them?

*(Invite someone to share a summary of the story. Then, show visual 1-1.)*

God's people, the Israelites, had been in slavery in Egypt for hundreds of years. God worked through Moses to free them from bondage. When they came to the Red Sea, however, they felt trapped. They could see Pharaoh's army coming behind them. There were mountains on both sides of the Israelites. There was no way to escape.

"Do not be afraid," Moses told them. "Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD."

Sure enough, God provided a way for them to cross the sea on a dry path that opened between walls of water. All the people walked safely to the other side. But Pharaoh's army was close behind them by now. They drove their chariots and

horses right into the dry path the people of Israel used to walk across. Did they make it?

*(Turn visual over so that section 1-2 faces the learners.)*

God caused the walls of water in the sea to come together again. Water covered the chariots, the horses and all the army of Pharaoh. Not one escaped. That was reason for Israel to celebrate.

And celebrate they did! *(Change visual to scene 1-3.)* They sang praises to glorify God. This is what we find in Exodus 15. Probably the people sang the praise as an antiphon—a song that is sung in responsive, alternating parts like an echo. Moses might have sung a phrase and waited for the people to sing it after him. Try it with me.

**Leader:** *(sing to a simple tune)* I will sing unto the Lord.

**Learners:** *(copying leader's tune)* I will sing unto the Lord.

**Leader:** For he hath triumphed gloriously.

**Learners:** *(using the same notes)* For he hath triumphed gloriously.

**Leader:** The horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

**Learners:** *(repeat leader's words and tone)*

**Leader:** The Lord is my strength and song.

**Learners:** *(sing same words)*

**Leader:** And He is become my salvation.

**Learners:** *(follow leader's pattern)*

The song continues to praise God for His deliverance from their enemy with details of what happened. We will just read some of the song. *(Ask different volunteers to read verses 4-13.)* Can you imagine what a glorious praise service they had? Read verse 18 with me.

“The LORD shall reign for ever and ever.”

Because the Lord delivered them from the enemy, the children of Israel worshiped Him in song. Verse 20 tells about the timbrels they used to praise God. *(Point to them in visual scene 1-3.)* The women played and sang about the victory God gave over their enemy.

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Singing is worshiping God when we praise Him with the words and music. Find Psalm 33:1-3. *(Call on volunteers to read the verses aloud.)* Find Psalm 92:1-5. *(Let other learners read these verses aloud.)* Other praise verses: Psalms 66:4; 95:1; 96:1, 2; 100:2; 149:1; Ephesians 5:19 and Hebrews 2:12.

Because we want to praise God, we sing about His greatness. Many times musicians set Bible verses to music to worship and praise the Lord. Singing expresses our joy in God's goodness. Singing is the result of our heartfelt thankfulness and reverence for a holy God who loves us.

We prepare our hearts to sing by thinking of God's greatness and love. “My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise” (Psalm 57:7). Prepare your heart by thinking loving thoughts toward God as you worship Him with singing.

For singing to be acceptable worship, it must honor and worship the Lord instead of bringing glory to the singer. Music combines the elements of tone, rhythm, melody and harmony in expressive compositions to praise God. If there is

disharmony, as in rock music, it does not worship the Lord. If the lyrics or words are not true to God's Word, the music will not express honor to the true and living God.

*(Sing a praise chorus such as “I will praise thee, O God” to allow the learners to respond to God in acceptable worship.)*

## BIBLE INSIGHT

“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:19).

Challenge learners to sing the words of the memory verse with a partner. Have each team find Ephesians 5:19 in the Bible, think quietly of a melody and the timing needed to make all the words fit, and sing the words to each other. Ask them to decide on the tune they will sing to the class after a minute or two. They will remember the words easier and longer when they put them to music.

Their composition need not be a musical masterpiece to accomplish the goal. After hearing each pair sing the verse, say the words in unison with a slightly rhythmic chant.

“Speaking to one another” is the meaning of “speaking to yourselves.” Maybe one person would sing one hymn, then another would sing a different song. Even in social gatherings—fellowship times—music to praise the Lord uplifts the spirit of those assembled. It is right to express joyful feelings through songs celebrating the praises of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Musical service must come from a heart that is in a state of worship for it to have acceptance before the Lord. “Singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord” should spring from your spirit.

## Learner's Manual

**Materials Needed:** hymnal, pencils, learners' manuals

Give each child the perforated pages for this lesson if learners do not take the book home to do the activities ahead of time. The book design allows for easy removal of weekly lessons.

Have the children write their names on the Bible Insight memory verse record on page 2 of their books. Encourage enthusiasm for learning the Bible verse each week by displaying the pages on the wall and giving miniature stickers for learners to record their achievements when they can say the verse from memory.

Ask learners to study the picture on the first page with the Bible story. **Ask:** What is one story detail you see? *(Moses and the people of Israel singing a praise song; the Egyptian army drowned in the Red Sea; Miriam and the women using timbrels to worship and praise the Lord.)* Invite learners who like to read aloud to take turns reading sections of the Bible story printed in the learner's manual.

The worship activity on the second page will motivate learners to think worship thoughts toward God. Let them

work in teams of two or three to brainstorm ideas for reasons to praise God. Challenge them to list as many thoughts as they can gather from each other. Then, ask groups to share their lists by taking turns naming a reason to praise God. After all teams have shared one reason, go around again if they have different things listed.

Have you personally experienced moments of spontaneous worship? Share them with joy so that boys and girls understand they can worship God any day of the week. Explain how your heart fills with praise, wonder and awe for God. A beautiful sunset or sunrise, a snowfall, frost patterns, glorious music, a Scripture, answered prayers—all these can prompt feelings of wonder and awe as we remember the greatness of our God. Gratitude, adoration, reverence, fear and love for Almighty God enrich life every day. Our worship of God makes an abundant, wonderful life.

Plans for worshiping the Lord today may include singing, praying, giving and hearing preaching. Creative children may include ideas such as drawing a picture, writing a poem or story, seeing a special Christmas program or reading something. Have everyone read together the definition of worship.

Use the Bible Insight activity page to help learners understand the importance of singing as worship. To both the Ephesian and Colossian churches, Paul encouraged singing as worship. (See *devotional and Bible Insight Scriptures*.) Because the New Testament is our guide, the Lord's churches today practice scriptural singing as worship.

Learners should fill in the first set of blanks after the Bible verse with *psalms, hymns, spiritual songs*. The next two blanks should have *singing* and *making melody* written in them.

Individuals may have varying answers for a favorite song, but help them analyze the message of the songs chosen. (*Bring a hymnal to class for reference*.) The message should correlate with what God's Word teaches.

Are some songs or choruses used because they are "cute" or have a catchy rhythm? If there is no message to convey a truth, avoid singing it.

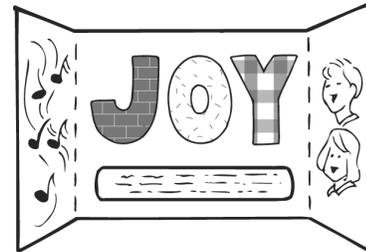
The last page of Lesson 1 material encourages learners to use creative thinking to write new words for a familiar song to make another verse. Third- and fourth-graders have talents to use in God's service. Some may already "play skillfully" on musical instruments. Challenge them to channel their abilities to worship God.

If anyone has trouble thinking of words to complete the assignment, work together as a group or in teams of two or three. Composing with others sometimes makes ideas come more freely.

## Make and Take

### Materials Needed: scissors

Lesson reminders that allow learners to participate in making something help to make learning more permanent. The make and take books correlated with this curriculum provide ready-to-use projects with colorful stickers for most. They are more than busywork because no effective teacher needs something only to fill the time in class. Each activity relates directly to the Bible principle of the lesson.



Project 1 is a stand-up worship reminder to prompt learners to sing to the Lord with joy. God deserves our worship, and the psalms emphasize singing as acceptable worship.

Provide scissors for learners to cut around the margins of the folder. Have them remove the stickers for J, O, Y and Psalm 95:1, 3 from the sticker page. Add the stickers over the printed spaces for them in the middle of the folder.

Fold the side panels forward and set the reminder on a flat surface for it to stand. As you go to worship, challenge each child to sing with joy to the Lord.

### Saying Good-bye

Ask everyone to join in singing this doxology to conclude your class time.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Challenge each learner to honor the Lord in the music he chooses. Whether listening to radio or recorded music, playing an instrument or singing, do all for the glory of God.

## Looking Ahead

Giving Is Acceptable Worship, Lesson 3, calls for collecting nonperishable grocery items to share with a needy family. We give to God by giving to those in need. Send a holiday greeting to each child with a reminder note about giving to Jesus by giving food for a needy family. (See Matthew 25:34-40.) Consult with the pastor about the choice of a family or individuals to receive the project. Keep their identity confidential so that children do not say something that might embarrass or offend if the people attend your church.