

Unit 5: Into the Wilderness

Unit Description: Through a series of miracles, God had delivered His people from bondage in Egypt. The Israelites headed into the wilderness on their way to the land of promise. Their journey, however, was not just to move them from one place to another; it was also to be a time when their hearts were to be moved in worship for their God, their true Rescuer.

Big Picture Question: What is worship? Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.



SESSION 1: God Provided Manna

Exodus 16–17



SESSION 2: God Gave the Ten Commandments

Exodus 19–20



SESSION 3: The People Worshipped a Golden Calf

Exodus 32–34



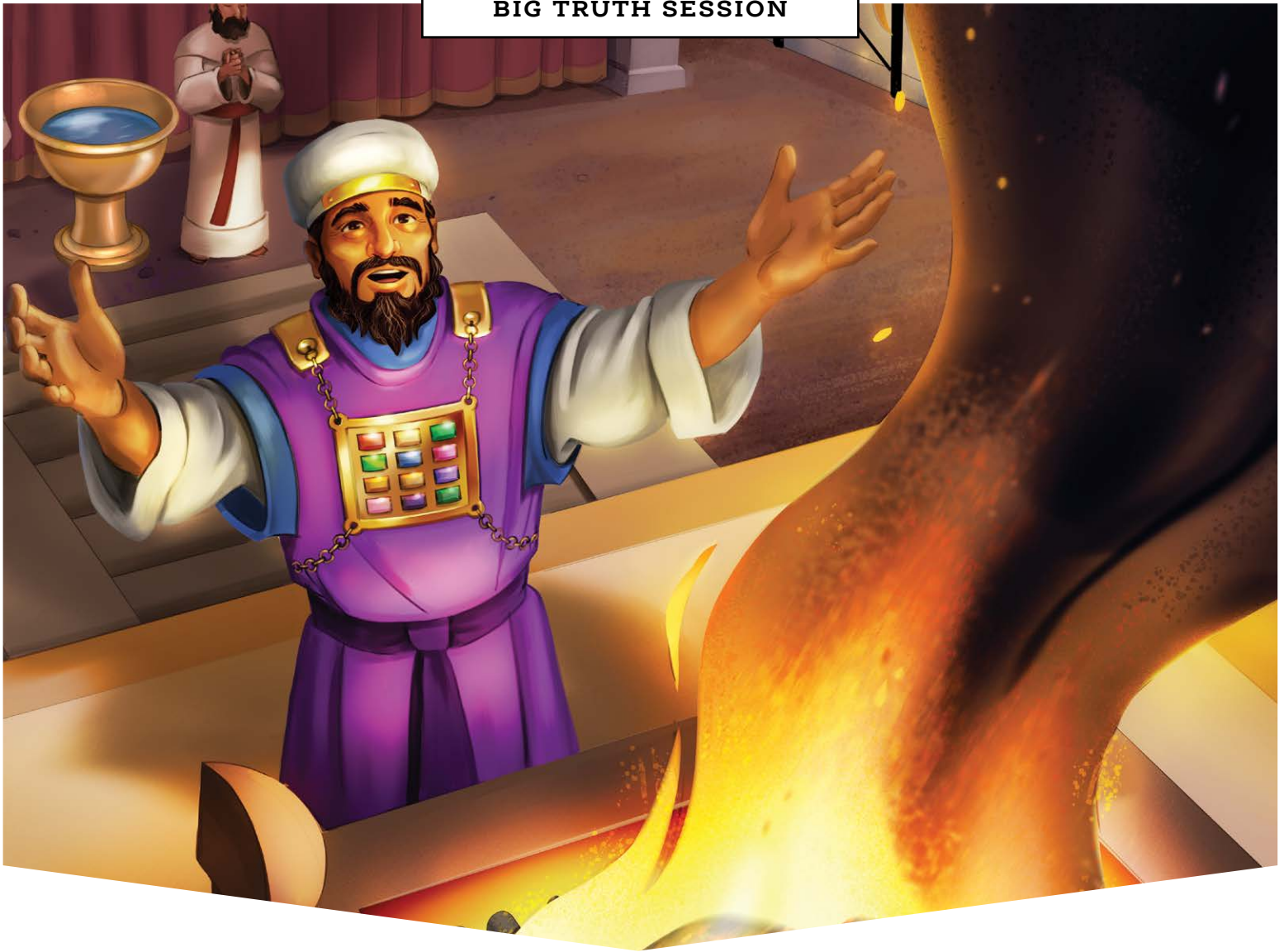
SESSION 4: The People Built the Tabernacle

Exodus 35–40



SESSION 5: God Deserves Our Worship

Leviticus 1–4



UNIT 5 | SESSION 5

GOD DESERVES OUR WORSHIP

LEVITICUS 1–4

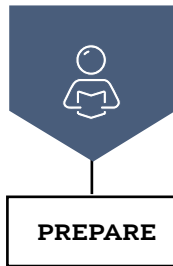
KEY PASSAGE: Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care. Psalm 95:6-7 NIV

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is worship? Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

God deserves our worship. He created us to be in a relationship with Him, and He has provided salvation from sin through His Son, Jesus. We can worship God by loving and obeying Him as we live to give Him glory.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

Think back to Eden. When Adam and Eve rebelled against God, their eyes were opened and they realized their nakedness. What was once no problem in their innocence had become shameful in their sinfulness. So the couple took leaves to try to cover their bodies and their shame. But what did God do just before expelling the couple from Eden to face a fallen world on their own? He made clothing for them out of animal skins. (See Gen. 3:21)

Why? God may have had a practical reason; leaves would not last very long as clothing. But there is likely a deeper, spiritual reason for what He did. In order to clothe Adam and Eve with animal skins, animals would have to die. God had told Adam and Eve that death would result from the Fall, and this was a way to affirm God's word. As Adam and Eve exited the garden, then, they wore on their bodies an ever-present reminder that sin leads to death—perhaps not immediately, perhaps indirectly, but always.

Fast forward to Leviticus. By this time, we have seen animal sacrifices offered to God (e.g., by Abel, Noah, Abram, and the Israelites during the Passover). But now, God was taking the next step and sharing His requirements of how sacrifices were to be made. Leviticus gives great detail of what specific sacrifices were to be offered for

what purposes. Some of the sacrifices were voluntary, but some were not. Blood must be shed because of sin, as God had promised would happen.

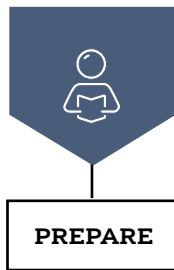
But, we have to be careful not to go too far with these animal sacrifices. These sacrifices themselves could not save anyone. (See Heb. 10:4.) So what did they do? Why were they needed then? When God commanded His people to perform these sacrifices, He was calling them to act upon their faith in Him. This faith was anchored to the awareness that their sins had separated them from a holy God and that God's word is true: death was required because of sin.

God had promised that a Person—a descendant of Eve—would be the snake crusher. This is the faith that Israel's sacrifices pointed to: a future once-and-for-all death of a Savior, a sacrifice that was made by Christ Jesus.

SACRIFICES

Voluntary offerings: burnt (for propitiation for sin and commitment to God), grain (for thanksgiving), fellowship (for fellowship with God)

Mandatory offerings: sin (for unintentional sin or uncleanness), guilt (for purification)



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- ☐ “Wilderness Review” activity page



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video

Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ “God Deserves Our Worship” video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids

- ☐ “Unit 5, Session 5” questions from kids video

Missions Moment

- ☐ large sheet of paper

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ “Come, Let’s Worship (Psalm 95:6-7)” song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set
- ☐ world map



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

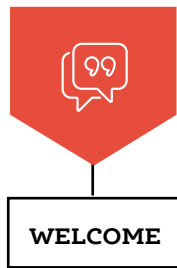
- ☐ play food
- ☐ paper plates
- ☐ painter’s tape

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Journal and Prayer

- ☐ Journal Page
- ☐ “Worthy of Worship” activity page



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “When your parents or teachers give you a direction to follow and you do it, how do they usually respond? Why do you think your obedience makes them happy?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Wilderness Review” on the activity page.

SAY “God has always been faithful to His people. He provided everything they needed and gave them instructions on how to live best. He forgave them when they sinned and dwelt with them. He is the only One Who deserves our worship.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: MAY I?



Direct kids to stand shoulder to shoulder at one end of the room. Stand at the other end of the room. Call out one kid's name and give him directions on how to move across the room. For example, “Everett, take two giant steps forward.”

Kids must remember to ask, “May I?” before they carefully follow your directions, or they must return to the start.

Change the directions you give to each kid. Direct them to hop, skip, crawl, walk slowly, dance, and so on, moving forward or backward.

SAY “In order to play the game well, you had to listen carefully and follow the directions I gave. Today we will learn that one of the ways we can worship God is by obeying all that He says.”

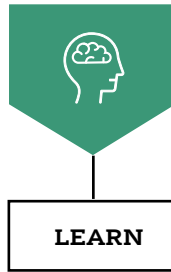
☐ OPTION 2: WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU

Distribute washable markers and paper. Instruct each kid to write her name at the top. Lead kids to arrange their papers around a table. Then encourage kids to move around the table and write something they admire or like about each kid on her sheet of paper.

Provide enough time so that most kids have written on one another's papers. Then allow kids to collect their papers and read the words their friends used to describe them.

SAY “How did it make you feel to read nice things about yourself? Today we will discuss how God is worthy of our worship. One of the ways we can worship God is to tell Him all that we love about Him.”





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (2 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “Hi, everyone! I’m [your name]. I am so glad you’re here! Do you have your Bible with you? [Provide Bibles for kids who need one.] The Bible is the Word of God. Through His Word, God tells us about Himself. He wants to reveal Himself to us; He created us to know Him—for His glory and our joy. Isn’t that amazing?”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

SAY “We have been thinking about the big picture question, **What is worship?** Does anyone remember the answer? [Allow kids to respond.] **Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.**

Let’s say the big picture question and answer together: **What is worship? Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.** God is worthy of all worship because of who He is and what He has done.”

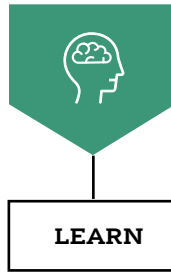
3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (2 minutes)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “Through a series of miracles, God had delivered His people from captivity in Egypt. The Israelites headed into the wilderness on their way to the promised land. Their journey, however, was not just to move them from one place to another; it was also a time when their hearts were to be moved in worship for their God, their true Rescuer.

We have talked quite a bit about worship so far, haven’t we? That’s an important big truth of the Bible that we see here and will continue to see as we move throughout the Old and New Testaments.

Today, we will spend more time talking about worship and why God deserves all our worship. To help us do that, we are going to look at the first few chapters in the Book of Leviticus.”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Leviticus 1–4. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “God Deserves Our Worship.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

GOD DESERVES OUR WORSHIP

“God gave Moses many laws to show His people what holy living looks like. God is holy and He wants to be with His people, but the Israelites could not keep God’s laws perfectly. **God gave His people rules about how to live, how to worship, and what to do when they sinned.**

One day, **God met with Moses at the tabernacle.** The tabernacle was a place where God met with His people and where they worshiped Him.

God told Moses, “Speak to the Israelites and tell them what to do when they bring an offering to Me.” Then God gave Moses rules about offerings. Offerings are gifts people give to God, such as money, grain, or animals. **Different types of offerings were needed at different times.**

God also gave rules about the priests. **Priests made the sacrifices that God commanded.** The priests took care of the tabernacle, and they taught the people God’s rules for holy living. Aaron and his sons served as the priests. **God gave them rules about how to offer sacrifices.**

When people wanted to praise God, they gave burnt offerings. God deserves our praise. The Israelites praised God for bringing them out of Egypt.

When people wanted to thank God, they gave grain offerings. God deserves our thanks. The Israelites thanked God for providing everything they needed.

When people wanted to celebrate God, they gave fellowship offerings. God deserves to be celebrated. The Israelites celebrated God for dwelling with them, and they honored Him as their King.

When people wanted to say they were sorry for sin, they gave a sin offering. God is honored when people turn away from their sin and turn back to Him. The Israelites needed to make their relationship with God right again. **The priest gave an offering so the people could be forgiven.**

Christ Connection: God deserves our worship. He created us to be in a relationship with Him, and He has provided salvation from sin through His Son, Jesus. We can worship God by loving and obeying Him as we live to give Him glory. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Show visual aids:
Provide pictures of what the tabernacle might have looked like as well as pictures of the garments the priests would have worn during this time.

Call for active listening:
Challenge kids to listen for words like *celebrate*, *praise*, and *worship* while you tell the story to help direct their focus to the theme of today’s story. Each time they hear these words, they should lift their hands.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Open your Bible to Leviticus 1. In the first chapters of the Book of Leviticus, God instructed the people how to give offerings for different purposes. Look at Leviticus 1:4 . **[Choose a volunteer to read the verse aloud.]** Giving offerings was a way the people worshiped, praised, and thanked God; it was also a way to ask God for forgiveness of their sins. People would offer a burnt offering as a way to pay for their sins.

Later, God provided Jesus, the perfect Lamb of God, as the final sacrifice for sins. His death would take care of sin once and for all. People would no longer need to offer burnt offerings for their sin because Jesus conquered sin and death. (Hebrews 10:11-14)

God is worthy of all worship because of who He is and what He has done. One of the reasons we praise God is because He provided salvation through Jesus. Do we still give offerings like the ones mentioned in Leviticus? **[Allow kids to respond.]** No, we don't. We can praise God and worship Him for sending Jesus to save us from our sins. One of the best ways to show our thanks is to love and trust Him and to follow Him closely by obeying what He says. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ God deserves our worship. He created us to be in a relationship with Him, and He has provided salvation from sin through His Son, Jesus. We can worship God by loving and obeying Him as we live to give Him glory. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 5, Session 5” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Why did the Israelites have to kill animals for sacrifices?
2. How do you feel when you think about Jesus taking the punishment you deserve for your sin?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

SAY “ Today, we learned that only God deserves worship. Even when we face difficult or scary circumstances, we are to worship God. In New Orleans, where Bobby and LeKeisha Williams are church planters, hurricanes are a regular part of life. Since 1851, the state of Louisiana has been hit by at least 49 hurricanes! In 2020, Hurricane Laura struck Louisiana. Missionaries and volunteers served around 400,000 meals to people who had been affected by the hurricane. ”

Attach a large sheet of paper to the wall. Lead the kids in brainstorming things that people who have been through a disaster like a hurricane might need. Help them think through



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

needs that may arise when there is no electricity or clean water. List their ideas on the paper.

SAY “Missionaries and volunteers respond to disasters. We can help too by praying and giving. Maybe one day some of you will volunteer to help and show Jesus’ love to people who have been through a disaster.”

Ask a volunteer to pray for people who have faced or will face disasters this year. Pray also for any missionaries your church supports.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Psalm 95:6-7 together.

SAY “God desires to have a relationship with us. Let’s continue memorizing Psalm 95:6-7 that reminds us that we are His and He cares for us.”

Direct the kids to line up and take them to an outdoor paved area, like a sidewalk or driveway if weather allows. Challenge kids to use sidewalk chalk to write out the key passage from memory. Suggest they decorate the area to encourage anyone who walks by. If no outdoor space is available, use a large sheet of paper and markers. Encourage kids to be creative and draw pictures that remind them of the message of Psalm 95:6-7.

Lead kids to sing “Come, Let’s Worship (Psalm 95:6-7).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

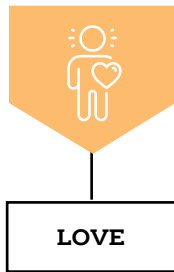
7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning from **LEARN** to **LOVE**.

SAY “God, You are worthy of all worship. Thank You for the salvation and forgiveness we can have through Jesus. We pray that our lives will bring You honor and glory. Amen.”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Leviticus 1. Remind kids that in Leviticus, the Israelites were near Mount Sinai (19). God gave instructions about worship and sacrifices; He gave instructions for priests and those serving in the tabernacle. God also gave the Israelites laws for holy living.

Consider comparing the Old Testament Mediterranean Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where these stories took place. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around northeastern Egypt.) Choose a volunteer to read aloud Leviticus 1:1-2.

SAY “God met with Moses and instructed him to tell the people how they should bring their offerings and when they should give their offerings. God is holy, and He deserves all worship. The Israelites would give offerings to worship and praise God or to thank Him or celebrate who God is. Other times, they would give offerings because they had sinned.

Because God is holy, He does not allow sin to go unpunished. In the Book of Leviticus, God showed the people what to do if they sinned against Him and broke the law He gave them. Through Jesus, God provided the way for sin to be paid for once and for all.”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “What does it mean that God is holy?”

Help kids understand that God being holy means that He is perfect and totally set apart from sin. Our sin separates us from Him. God had a plan to rescue people from sin by sending His Son, Jesus, to be the payment for sin. God wants us to live in holiness as His children.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Eph. 1:4-7.)

SAY “How can you tell God you are sorry for your sin?”

Lead kids to understand that while we no longer need to offer a sacrifice for our sins, we do need to come to God to deal with our sin. The first step is to trust Jesus as Savior, but Christians will still mess up. It is important for Christians to confess our sins to God, admit that we were wrong, and then turn from that sin. We can pray and confess sin with other believers, and we can seek forgiveness when we have wronged others.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 32:5.)

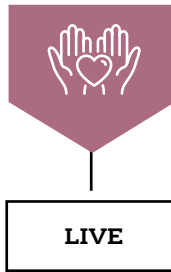
SAY “What are some ways you can give an offering to God?”

Let kids brainstorm ideas for how they can give an offering to God. While we no longer give grain or fellowship offerings, the best way we can worship God is by surrendering our lives to Him, allowing Him to use our lives as He wants.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 12:1.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: PLATE RACE



Mark a start line across the floor with painter's tape. Form two teams of kids. Give each team a plate of play food. Challenge each kid to carry a plate of food to the other side of the room and touch the wall. Kids will then bring back the plates and pass them to the next teammates in line. If a kid drops any food, she should pick it up and start again.

SAY “God alone deserves all our worship. Did you know that anything we do can be an act of worship if we do it with a joyful heart, full of love for God? One way missionaries worship God is by serving people in their communities—especially in times of crisis, like after a hurricane, tornado, earthquake, fire, or other natural disaster. What might you say to someone who has just been through a disaster?”

Encourage the kids to do or say something kind and encouraging for someone this week.

☐ OPTION 2: WRITE A WORSHIP SONG



Form groups of three or four kids. Provide poster board and markers for each group. Challenge kids to think of some of the songs they sing at church or at home to worship God. Consider providing hymnals or lyric sheets to spark ideas.

Share the following prompts and guide kids to respond by writing on their posters. When kids finish, invite them to share.

- How would you describe God?
- How do you feel about God and what He has done?
- What do you love about God?
- What could you tell a friend about who God is?
- What are you thankful to God for?

SAY “I love your ideas! The stories we have heard all pointed to one truth: God is worthy of our worship! Let's live lives that honor and glorify Him.”

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, thanking God that He desires a relationship with us and praising Him for the salvation we can have through Jesus. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Worthy of Worship” on the activity page.



JOURNAL PAGE

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?



Unit 5 • Session 5

GOD DESERVES OUR WORSHIP

Leviticus 1-4

WHAT IS WORSHIP? WORSHIP IS CELEBRATING THE GREATNESS OF GOD.

God gave laws to show His people what holy living looks like. God gave His people rules about how to live, how to worship, and what to do when they sinned.

God met with Moses at the tabernacle. God told Moses, "Speak to the Israelites and tell them what to do when they bring an offering to Me." Different types of offerings were needed at different times.

Priests made the sacrifices that God commanded. God gave them rules about how to offer sacrifices.

When people wanted to praise God, they gave burnt offerings. God deserves our praise. The Israelites praised God for bringing them out of Egypt.

When people wanted to thank God, they gave grain offerings. God deserves our thanks. The Israelites thanked God for providing everything they needed.

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Wilderness Review

Find and circle the words in the word search.

B I T A B E R N A C L E
 H S U C I T I V E L U C
 E R H O N O R C F T G I
 X A O K D J L N K O N F
 C E L E B R A T E S I I
 P L Y T O M W H X T R R
 R I M O S E S J K S E C
 A T H A N K S O B E F A
 I E X O D U S D F I F S
 S S S E N E V I G R O F
 E W O R S H I P E P C D

celebrate

Exodus

forgiveness

holy

honor

Israelites

laws

Leviticus

Moses

offering

praise

priests

sacrifice

tabernacle

thanks

worship

PRAISING GOD

THANKING GOD

CELEBRATING GOD

ASKING GOD FOR FORGIVENESS

Worthy of Worship

For each category, list reasons you have to worship God.



NAME: _____



the **GOSPEL** PROJECT

God Deserves Our Worship

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- God gave His people instructions for how to make different offerings to worship Him and cover sin.
- The fair payment of sin is death, so the people had to sacrifice animals to be forgiven of sin.
- God is our Creator and King, and He deserves worship because of who He is and what He has done.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

God deserves our worship. He created us to be in a relationship with Him, and He has provided salvation from sin through His Son, Jesus. We can worship God by loving and obeying Him as we live to give Him glory.

KEY PASSAGE: Psalm 95:6-7

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is worship? Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.

