

HIGH SCHOOL GUIDE 5

THE CHURCH IS A WORSHIPING PEOPLE

YEAR: UNITE / FOCUS: LIVING IN COMMUNITY
SERIES: GOD'S PEOPLE ARE THE CHURCH

BIG TRUTH: THE CHURCH IS A WORSHIPING PEOPLE

Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:16-17; 1 Corinthians 10:31; John 4:24; Philippians 3:3; Revelation 22:8-9

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 12:1

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

BIG IDEAS

- The church can worship rightly because they are set free from sin.
- Worship is more than a song; it is a life of submission and sacrifice to Jesus.
- Worship can happen wherever we are, and in whatever we do.

BIBLE PASSAGE: ROMANS 12:1-2

UNITE: LIVING IN COMMUNITY

The Unite year is an exploration of what it means to be united in Christ as the family of God (Romans 12:5). When we are saved, we are brought into the family of God- seen throughout the Old Testament as "God's People" and in the New Testament and today as the church (Exodus 6:7; Colossians 1:18). We are set free from our sin to walk in freedom in Christ (Galatians 5:1) and use our influence to call others to do the same.

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know...

- God has always been making and keeping a people for Himself
- In this age, the church is God's people
- Being a part of God's people should inform every aspect of our lives



Every student should strive to...

- Study the connections between God's people in the Old Testament
- and the church in the New Testament
- Memorize the Bible verse each week
- Invite others into God's people, the church



Every student should feel...

- Love for God and the people of God
- Accountable to God and to the church to pursue holiness
- Responsible to use their influence to make much of God alone



Every student should want...

- Be marked by their faith
- Talk about God every day, in every setting and circle of influence
- Live as a faithful member of their local church

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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171 Promise Land Dr. Gray, TN 37615

THE CHURCH IS A WORSHIPING PEOPLE

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 12:1

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

God redeems a people for Himself.

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God..."

- Paul writes to the Roman Christians of their role and position with God. In this verse, he reminds them of the mercies of God shown to them through God's gift of His Son, Jesus. It is because God has redeemed them through the blood of Jesus made possible because He is a merciful God that he is even writing to them.
- God redeems His people to Himself for Himself. Paul wrote to the New Testament believers of their position in Christ reminding them that they were redeemed for God to be used for His glory. God redeems us for Himself. He calls us to Himself as His sons and daughters to be joined to Himself and His family. We are no longer our own but belong to God's family.

God's redeemed people exist as living sacrifices for His glory.

"...to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God..."

- It is by God's mercy that people are redeemed and reconciled to Him. His grace is poured out upon the earth through Jesus Christ and a person can be set free from the sin debt owed. This freedom allows us to live lives for God.
- We are redeemed to pour our lives out in a sacrificial way for Jesus. We do this by living for God's glory and not for our own. This means that we live in a way that is satisfying to God and not our flesh natures. When we seek to obey God's commands and live for Him, we will do what is best for ourselves and find the most joy.

Redeemed people worship God daily.

"...to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

- God's people pour out their lives in worship to Him because they have been redeemed by Him. Redeemed people understand that they have been saved and set free. They know that they have been forgiven and their response is worship.
- Redeemed people worship God daily, not just weekly or occasionally. God's people live fully for Him worshiping Him with their daily lives.

THE CHURCH IS A WORSHIPING PEOPLE

BIG IDEA #1: THE CHURCH CAN WORSHIP RIGHTLY BECAUSE THEY ARE SET FREE FROM SIN.¹

[THIS]

The church is made up of God's redeemed people. Those who have been reconciled to God through the blood of Jesus Christ are God's church. The church is redeemed to live for God and to fulfill His purpose for it. God's church is called to worship Him because His redeemed people are called to worship Him. In Romans 12:1-2 and Colossians 3:1-16, Paul writes of the worship that should be evident in the life of a local church. In Romans 12:1-2, Paul writes to Roman Christians of their calling to live sacrificial lives which is their spiritual worship. When a believer lives a sacrificial life, the local church will worship rightly. Because believers have been set free from the sin that previously enslaved them, they can worship God. Prior to the redemption of Christ, a person was enslaved by his or her sin and worshiped anything and anyone other than God. In Colossians 3:1-16, Paul explains to the Colossian believers what right worship looks like, describing worship that is free from a focus on the things of this world and is set on heavenly things. Because Christ has set believers free, the church can worship in this way.

[THEREFORE]

How does our freedom from sin make worship with other believers better?

1 Peter 4:10 reminds us that in Christ we can build one another up in Christ. Because we are free from sin, we are free to love like Christ and live like Christ. This means that we can bear the fruit of the Spirit because He lives in us.

[THIS]

Redeemed people are continually being renewed in their minds and spirits and can live new lives for Christ because their hearts are new. They are able to worship God in a way that is pleasing to Him because their hearts are not enslaved to the sin it once was. Galatians 5:1 and 13 show us that believers have been set free and should stand firm in this freedom. They can use this freedom to serve one another. As a body of believers, Christians can worship God by serving one another and loving one another. Sin makes a person selfish and focused on pleasing himself or herself. When we are set free from this bondage, we are able to put the needs of others above our own and this is worship to one another.

[THEREFORE]

How can selfishness keep people from loving others in the local body of believers?

Philippians 2:3-4 gives us a picture of how to love others more than ourselves. When we humble ourselves and count others as more important than ourselves, we present our bodies as living sacrifices to God. This is worshiping God by living our lives as Christ lived His life.

How have you experienced a right worship in your local church? How has this increased your faith in Christ?

Read Colossians 3:1-16. These verses help us understand how to worship with fellow believers and how to live with them in Christian harmony. When we do this, we worship God in a right way as the local body of believers. This can grow our faith and relationship with Christ and our fellow believers.

1. Galatians 2:20: Christ sets a believer free and this enables them to live for Him.

THE CHURCH IS A WORSHIPING PEOPLE

BIG IDEA #2: WORSHIP IS MORE THAN A SONG; IT IS A LIFE OF SUBMISSION AND SACRIFICE TO JESUS.²

[THIS]

Worship is often defined as singing songs and playing music. It's often described and thought of as gathering as a church in a building and singing worship songs. Because worship is often defined this way, we can often limit it to just this part of a Sunday morning gathering or anytime we sing religious songs. When we limit it to just singing, we miss what worship really is. We even begin to cheapen our time of singing praise songs together. Worship is singing songs together—songs that praise God for who He is and what He has done, but it is more than that. Worship is a daily act of placing our attention and affection on God. As Paul writes in Romans 12:1-2, it is daily sacrificing our lives to Him.

[THEREFORE]

How does a tendency to think of worship as the music portion of a Sunday service lead us to not worship God daily?

Colossians 3:1-14 teaches us that setting our minds on things above is a discipline that every believer should establish. When we think of worshiping God as just a set time during our Sunday morning gathering, we relieve ourselves of the responsibility of doing this.

[THIS]

Worship is more than a song or a set time during a Sunday morning gathering. It is a life that is lived in submission and sacrifice to Jesus. Romans 12:1-2 teaches us that living this life of sacrifice requires us to renew our minds. This renewal doesn't just happen one time a week. It happens as we daily sacrifice time and discipline ourselves to seek a knowledge and understanding of the Lord through a study of His Word. As we pray for discernment and seek to obey God's commands, we live a life of submission to Jesus. This is worshiping God with our lives. God has asked of His people that they give their lives to Him daily to be used for His purposes. His purposes are not burdensome when we are living a life of worship to God. When we daily remember that God has saved us and set us free from the sin that once enslaved us, we will gladly submit and sacrifice for Jesus.

[THEREFORE]

What does it look like for you to live your life in glad submission to Jesus?

1 Corinthians 10:31 teaches us that whatever we do, we should do it for the glory of the Lord. Whatever we eat, drink, or do should be done with the intent of glorifying God. This means that we gladly submit to Him and His will for our lives because we know that He has rescued us from our sin debt.

How does worship change for you when you consider that it is a daily submission and sacrifice to Jesus?

Romans 12:1-2 shows us that to live a life of submission and sacrifice, we must know God's will and seek to do His will. This is our worship. When we seek to do God's will for our lives, we will worship Him daily.

2. Romans 12:1-2: Worship is a daily sacrifice our lives and selves to live for God's glory.

THE CHURCH IS A WORSHIPING PEOPLE

BIG IDEA #3: WORSHIP CAN HAPPEN WHEREVER WE ARE, AND IN WHATEVER WE DO.³

[THIS]

Worship is a daily action that occurs in the life of every believer. Every person worships something or someone because we are created to worship. When we are redeemed by Jesus, we are set free to worship God and our worship should be a lifestyle. This means that wherever we are, we have a heart of worship. We seek to glorify Him and practice a constant awareness of Him. When we practice a constant awareness of God, we will be in awe of Him for who He is and what He has done in our lives. We will see Him at work and notice how He provides, sustains, sees, and hears us. We will desire to praise Him for all that He is. This praise will reveal itself as an obedient life that seeks to know God and serve Him.

[THEREFORE]

What is challenges you in daily worshiping Jesus?

Galatians 5:17 teaches us that the desires of our flesh are against the desires of the Spirit. This means that every day we fight against the desires of our flesh. They are in conflict with the fruit of the Spirit. This can challenge us to daily worship Jesus.

[THIS]

1 Corinthians 10:31 teaches us that whatever we do should be done for the glory of God. This means that all that we do is done as an act of worship to God. When Paul wrote to the Roman believers in Romans 12:1-2 telling them to present their lives as sacrifices to the Lord, he was teaching them to live daily for the Lord. Our walk with God is a daily walk. It is a decision to live each day for Him and to do what He has given us to do that day. James 4:14 teaches us that our life is a vapor, meaning that our time here on earth is short compared to our eternity. James goes on to teach that we should not live our lives making promises about our futures as if we know for certain that our futures will come. Instead, we should live the day we have been given in submission and sacrifice to Jesus, worshiping Him because He has rescued us from darkness and given us new hearts to live for Him.

[THEREFORE]

How can it help you to daily worship the Lord wherever you are when you think of your life as a vapor?

Colossians 3:17 shows us that whatever we do should be done in worship to God. We can do this as God's people by remembering that our lives are short compared to our eternities and we should live each day for God's glory and not our own.

How can you live out Romans 12:1-2 each day?

In Romans 12:1-2, Paul encourages the Roman believers to present their bodies as living sacrifices. This seems like an impossible thing, but it is made possible when we think of our lives as our fleshly desires and dreams. When we sacrifice our wants and desires and seek to please God, this is our act of daily worship. When God's people do this collectively, His church worships rightly.

3. Colossians 3:17: All that a believer does should be done for the glory of the Lord.