

11

Worshipping God



Key Passages

- Malachi 1:11, 2:2, 3:6a

Lesson Focus

- God deserves our best.

Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will color the Ezra Coloring Sheet as a review of Lesson 10 and/or play with play dough.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the Flip Chart Prayer Page, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—The people in Malachi's time were not giving their best to God. God is great and deserves our very best.

Song—Students will sing songs to help them remember the lesson of the day. Lyrics to the songs are found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.



Activity 1: Give My Best Relay

Students will run a relay race to put the "good" gifts and "bad" gifts into the right containers.



Activity 2: My Best Card Game

Students will play a type of Concentration game by matching the picture cards and remembering that God deserves the best we have to offer.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Students will review the memory verse as they play a game and recite/sing the verse. Give them an opportunity to repeat the verse with you or after you individually.



Applying God's Word/Snack

Students will review the lesson while enjoying the snack for the day.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

- ☐ Study the Prepare to Share section.
- ☐ Go Before the Throne.



COME ON IN

- ☐ Print one Ezra Coloring Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- ☐ Provide play dough if appropriate.

- ☐ Ezra Coloring Sheet for each student
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Play dough
- ☐ Cookie cutters



CIRCLE TIME

- ☐ Print one each of the six Lesson Illustrations to use during class.
- ☐ Bring in a nice gift and a broken or unattractive gift OR fresh flowers and old, crushed flowers.
- ☐ Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- ☐ Lesson Flip Chart
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Stuffed animal for prayer time
- ☐ Six Lesson Illustrations
- ☐ Nice gift and a broken or unattractive gift OR fresh flowers and old, crushed flowers



GIVE MY BEST RELAY

- ☐ Print and cut out the Relay Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM. Make enough for each student to have at least one.
- ☐ Print one white heart and one black heart from the Resource DVD-ROM. Attach each to a bowl, box, or appropriate container.

- ☐ Relay Cards (at least one per student)
- ☐ White heart and black heart pictures
- ☐ Two boxes, bowls, or other appropriate containers to hold the cards
- ☐ Tape



MY BEST CARD GAME

- ☐ Print and cut out two each of the six My Best Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM for every 2–4 students in your class (12 cards per set).
- ☐ Make a complete set of the cards for each student to take home and play with family. Put student cards into small plastic bags.

- ☐ My Best Cards for every 2–4 students to play during class.
- ☐ My Best Cards for each student (12 cards total) to take home and play
- ☐ Plastic bags for the sets of cards



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW AND ACTIVITY

- ☐ No extra preparation necessary.

- ☐ Flip Chart Memory Verse Page



APPLYING GOD'S WORD/SNACK

- ☐ Prepare and bring snacks.

- ☐ Lesson Flip Chart for Review
- ☐ Snacks
- ☐ Student Take Home Sheets



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the lesson key passages along with this background.

The final book of the Old Testament was written by the prophet Malachi. We know Malachi only from this writing; there is no mention of him in any other books of the Old Testament. Based on the themes of his prophecies, Malachi may have been a contemporary of Nehemiah and Ezra, or his ministry may have come shortly after their prominence in Israel. This places the writing of Malachi between 440 and 400 BC (see historical section below for more details).

Malachi was surely writing after the restoration of the Temple since he talked about the role of the priests in offering sacrifices. Like Ezra and Nehemiah, Malachi confronted Israel's sins: offering improper sacrifices, marrying foreigners, not paying the tithes and offerings, and the leaders unfairly treating the people. The book has two main thrusts: to call the people to right worship and to point forward to the coming of the Messiah. In this lesson we will be looking at the worship aspect and then deal with the coming of the Messiah in the next lesson.

At the beginning of Malachi, God reminded the Israelites that He chose them as His special people even though they continually rejected Him (Malachi 1:1–4). He then rebuked the priests for their failures in conducting the worship in the Temple in the way God had commanded Moses. Specifically, the priests were offering the blind, lame, and sick animals as sacrifices to God—animals they would not offer to their earthly governors. They either didn't care that they were offering defiled sacrifices or they were unaware of what God had commanded. In either case, they were responsible for their failure to study and obey the Law. God had clearly commanded them to offer only animals that were without blemish, and He clearly described the things that were unacceptable to Him (Leviticus 22:18–25).

In chapter 2, God reminded the priests that He had made a covenant with the priestly line of Levi—Aaron being the first priest of the Levites—and they had broken that covenant. Since they had failed in their duty to teach the people the truth, the sins of the people were also on their heads (2:1–8). For this failure, God was angry with them.

The people were also divorcing their wives and marrying foreign women, another clear violation in

worshipping God as He desired. On top of this, the people were not giving God the tithes and offerings He had commanded the Israelites to give. In this, the people were robbing God, and He was withholding His blessing because of their disobedience (3:8–12). These offerings were to support the Levites serving in the Temple (Numbers 18:21–32), as well as to pay for the festivals and to care for the poor (Deuteronomy 14:28–29), but the people rejected God's plan and went their own way. By robbing God, they robbed themselves of His blessing.

If the people had stayed married and paid their tithes, would God have been pleased? Well, God is not concerned only about outward actions but also about the motives of the heart. God addressed this in Malachi 3:13–15. The Jews had thought it was useless to serve God, so they were just going through the motions. Because their hearts were not attached to their actions, God was not pleased. They pretended to be sorry for their sins, but they were faking it. Their actions did not match their attitudes, and God knew it.

The proper attitude in worshipping God was also addressed by King David. After he had sinned against God by committing adultery with Bathsheba and having her husband killed, David confessed his sin to God. In Psalm 51, David described the connection between worshipping God with our actions and our hearts. God does not desire sacrifices that are offered with the wrong attitude. Only when a sacrifice was offered with a broken spirit and heart—recognizing the true nature of sin—was it pleasing to God (Psalm 51:16–19). The Jews had not heeded the wisdom of David and thus failed to please God with their actions because their hearts were in the wrong place.

Today, we don't offer burnt offerings, but we do offer worship to God in many other ways. We offer Him the praise of our lips as a sacrifice (Hebrews 13:15). We offer Him our good deeds for others as a sacrifice (James 1:27). We offer our money and time to our local church and other ministries as a sacrifice (Philippians 4:18). But if any of these things are done without love, for selfish motives, as a religious practice, or to appear holy before others, they are not pleasing to God. We should seek to serve God out of a pure heart. Jesus's sacrifice as the unblemished Lamb has paid the penalty for sin and purified our hearts to serve God. As we seek to obey God, we can do it with a pure heart because of what Jesus has done on our behalf. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8).

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Because there are no clear references to kings (or other people) in Malachi's writing, assigning an exact date to his prophecies is difficult. He was surely writing at a time when Israel had forgotten about worshipping God properly and when the teachers had failed to fulfill their God-given role. There are a couple options, however, for the time of writing. One possibility is during the time that Nehemiah returned to Persia after re-establishing the Law with the help of Ezra and other teachers. This would date the book of Malachi around 442 BC during a period of backsliding before Nehemiah returned to govern the nation again. Malachi touches on several of the same problems Nehemiah sought to reform, so this is a reasonable conclusion.

The second option for a date of writing is after Nehemiah had died and the people had again turned from truly worshipping God. Malachi may have been reminding the people of the truths Ezra and Nehemiah had taught them, exhorting them to continue to follow the Law until Elijah would come to announce Messiah's arrival. This would place the date closer to 400 BC. In either case, the text clearly called the people to worship God as He had prescribed.

Many people today believe they can approach God in any way they want to. They fail to recognize that God demands to be worshipped in very specific ways. For the Israelites during the Old Testament period, that involved the Law and sacrificial system. But it is only those who approach God with a pure heart that can be accepted. The problem is that no one has a pure heart. Apart from Christ, even our good deeds are

filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). Only in Jesus can we rightly worship God. Those who reject this idea are working against Christ (1 John 4:1–6). As Christians, we must help people understand that they can only come to the Father through the Son (John 14:6). Apart from receiving Jesus by faith, no one will have eternal life (John 5:19–27). Even though the gospel is an unpopular message, it must be taught so that God can be worshipped as He desires. Let's not be like the priests of Malachi's day, but let us faithfully teach what God has revealed to us in His Word.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

God, you are holy and mighty. What a great privilege I have to come to you in prayer because Jesus redeemed me. Examine my heart now, O Lord. Have I been offering you pure worship? Have my sacrifices of praise, service, money, prayer, and study been offered with a heart that is humble and faithful to you? Convict me, Lord. Show me if there is any offensive way in me. And by the power of your Holy Spirit, open the eyes and hearts of my students today to see that worship is only acceptable if presented with a repentant, humble heart and a right attitude. Move in their hearts that they will one day desire to worship you with the worship you are worthy of.

► As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart Page to keep the children engaged. When reading the lesson Scriptures, stand up, be enthusiastic, look at the children, and emphasize the answers to the questions you will be asking. This will help to keep the children interested.



COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will color the Ezra Coloring Sheet as a review of Lesson 10.
- If there is time, they can play with play dough.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Flip Chart Pages. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your Lesson Flip Chart, Bible, stuffed animal for prayer time, six Lesson Illustrations, nice gift and a broken or unattractive gift OR fresh flowers and old, crushed flowers. See the Lesson Preparation chart for details (page 2).

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

We start our Bible study with prayer. Let's pray. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today Adoration is suggested. You might proceed this way:

Today let's say prayers of adoration—and tell God how much we love Him.

I'll start. Dear God, you are great and good. I love you so much because . . .
(insert personal prayer).

➤ Prior to making your transition to Circle Time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the Circle Time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life, and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer telling God how much they love Him.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first five questions will be repeated each week this quarter. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

- ? **Is there more than one true God?** *No. There is only one living and true God.*
- ? **Where can we learn about the one true God?** *Hold up your Bible. The Bible.*
- ? **What does the one true God know?** *The one true God knows everything!*
- ? **Who should we trust and obey?** *The one true God!*
- ? **Who alone should we worship?** *The one true God!*

The following activity should be repeated at the beginning of each lesson to encourage anticipation and enthusiasm for looking into the Word of God. Use a sticky note to mark today's passage before you begin.

Bible Pass Around

➤ Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

➤ When the Bible Pass Around Activity is completed, continue with the lesson.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. *Hold up Bible. God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number *choose a number*. You may also choose to practice the alphabet, recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity. We'll start right here. Hand the Bible to the first student. As we say each number (or word) you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you—remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready to start our lesson. Are you ready? Let's begin. *You may want to have the student with the Bible stand next to you until it is time to open it. Continue with the lesson when finished with Bible Pass Around.**

- ? **We've been learning a lot about the men that God used to bring His people back to Jerusalem.** *Show Lesson Illustration 1. This is the first man we learned about. His name was Zerubbabel. Can you repeat that name with me? Zerubbabel. Repeat name several times.*

Refer to Lesson 5 Flip Chart Page. Zerubbabel helped the people rebuild God's Temple.

? Show Lesson Illustration 2. Then we talked about Ezra. Can you say that? Repeat the name several times. Ezra.

Refer to Lesson 8 Flip Chart Page. Ezra loved God's Word. He taught God's Word to the people in Jerusalem at the Temple. The people were sorry for their sins and turned back to God.

? Show Lesson Illustration 3. We heard about Nehemiah too. Let's say his name together! Repeat the name several times. Nehemiah.

Refer to Lesson 9 Flip Chart. God sent Nehemiah back to Jerusalem. Nehemiah led the people to rebuild the walls and gates of the city.

Show Lesson Illustration 4. Then we heard some more about Ezra. He taught the people from God's Word. Remember how he stood up high on the platform and read from God's Law?

Refer to Lesson 10 Flip Chart. Ezra blessed the Lord, and the people lifted up their hands like this and praised God, saying, "Amen. Amen!" Do that with me.

Lead the children in an enthusiastic round of "amen." They bowed their heads and worshipped God because Ezra taught them that God's Word is very special.

Well, today we're going to learn about another man that God used. Show Lesson Illustration 5. His name was Malachi. Say that with me. Repeat the name together several times.

Refer to Lesson Flip Chart Page. Malachi was a prophet of God. And God was going to use him to remind the people of something very important. When Malachi visited the Temple, he noticed something was not right. Malachi noticed that the people were not worshipping God the right way. The priests in the Temple were leading the worship, but they were doing it wrong! In those days, the worship of God included sacrificing animals to God. But God wanted the very best animals. God deserves the very best. But the priests were offering animals that were sick and weak. That's not the very best!

Take a look at this picture. Show Lesson Illustration 6.

? Which one of these sheep looks the best? Allow for answers.

? If you were bringing one of these sheep for a sacrifice to God, which one would you bring? The best one.

That's right. God deserves our very best. But the priests and the people were not honoring God. They were not obeying God's commands. So God sent Malachi to speak for Him. That is where we are going to start our lesson today. Let's open the Bible to Malachi 1. Malachi is the last book of the Old Testament. Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible, and he/she opens it to where the sticky note is. Show the Old Testament and New Testament in your Bible. Show the students where the book of Malachi is. Let them look at it. Carry it around your circle. Listen as I read what

➤ As you present the Lesson Illustration, get up and walk around the circle showing the picture to your students.

Malachi 1:11

God told Malachi to say to the people. *Stand up and read Malachi 1:11 emphasizing "My name shall be great" and "pure offering." Be enthusiastic! Emphasize God's greatness.*

? What did God say about His name? *It is great.*

? What kind of offerings did God want? *Pure offerings.*

? Refer to Flip Chart. Were the people giving pure, good offerings? *No.*

No, the people and priests were not giving God their best. God told the people that He is great! God deserves our very best. But the priests were not obeying. This made God angry. Listen to what God said to the priests. *Read Malachi 2:2 with enthusiasm, emphasizing "a curse" and conveying that God was angry.*

? God knew the people were not listening or obeying Him. They were not taking God's Law to heart. They were sinning against Him. What was God going to send because the people were sinning? *Re-read Malachi 2:2. A curse.*

Yes! God was going to send a curse. A curse was God's way to punish the people because they were disobeying God's commands. They were not honoring God the way they should. God deserves the very best. But the priests and the people were not giving their best, and God would punish them for it. God is great—and He deserves the very best.

? Hmmm. What about us? Should we give our very best to God? *Allow for answers.*

The God that Malachi worshipped is the same God we worship now. Listen carefully to this verse. *Read Malachi 3:6a.*

? Who is speaking in this verse? *The Lord.*

? What did He say He does not do? *Does not change.*

That's right. He is the same God that Malachi worshipped. God does not change! And that means He still wants us to worship Him, honor Him, and glorify Him. God deserves our very best, doesn't He? He deserves the best worship we can give Him.

Let's think about what that means. Take a look at these gifts. *Show the nice gift and the broken or unattractive gift OR fresh flowers and old, crushed flowers. Whichever you brought in.*

? If you were going to choose one of these things to give to someone special as a gift, which one would you choose? *Allow for answers. The good gift, the fresh flowers.*

? Why would you choose that one? *Allow for answers. Because it is nicer.*

We would choose the best one to give as a gift, right? Especially if the gift is for someone we love—someone who loves us. Well, it's the same way with God. He loves us very much, and we should show Him that we love Him too. God deserves our very best.

Malachi 2:2

➤ Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text. The children should hear God's Word and know they can answer questions from it. It is not too hard for them.

Malachi 3:6a

? But what can we give to God? Does He want us to buy Him a gift at the store? No.

God doesn't need our flowers or gifts like these. God wants us to worship Him and give Him the best in everything we do.

? Refer to Flip Chart. The people in Malachi's time were not giving God their best. But you know what? Sometimes we don't give Him our best either. What are some things we can do to show God that we love and honor Him? Allow for answers.

There are lots of things we can do each day to show God we love and honor Him. We can listen to His Word so we know how to obey Him. We can pray and talk to Him. We can show God's love to others by being gentle and kind. We can obey God by obeying our parents.

Refer to Flip Chart Page. But, in the end the very best thing you can give to God is your heart. The Bible says we should love God with ALL our heart and ALL our soul and ALL our strength. And we should believe and trust in Jesus—this is what God wants from us. When we believe and trust in Jesus, God's Son, it will be easier to give our very best to Him. So where can we start? We can start by learning God's Word, loving God's Word, and believing God's Word.

SONG

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. It's really important to learn God's Word. Part of learning God's Word is memorizing it. So let's practice our memory verse. Sing it with me. Here we go! Sing the Memory Verse Song two or three times with enthusiasm!

Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page. A great way to worship God is singing praises to Him. So let's stand up and sing "God Wants Me to Worship Him." Sing together once or twice with hand motions.

And we'll sing another praise song to God. This will remind us that God is with us everywhere! Let's sing "We Gather All Around." Stand in a circle and use hand motions.

Repeat songs as time allows. You may want to add hand motions, stomping, marching, or instruments.

Lyrics can be found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the end of the Teacher Guide.

► Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page and Flip Chart Memory Verse Page during this part of the lesson.



Give My Best Relay

MATERIALS

- ☐ Relay Cards (at least one per student)
- ☐ Two containers for the relay cards
- ☐ White and black heart pictures taped to containers

INSTRUCTIONS

Attach the white and black hearts to the containers. Set them on chairs across the room.

Shuffle the Relay Cards together. Have the children line up in one line for the relay. Show the first card to the children. Have them tell you if the gift on the card would be a good gift or a bad gift. Hand the card to the first child in line and say, "Ready, set, go!" He will take the card and drop it into the correct container, then run back to the line. Continue through the line until all the children have had at least one turn. You may want to go through each container to see if they got them all correct, discussing the pictures as time permits.

We talked about how we should give our best to God. Today we're going to play a game that will help us think about that. I'm going to show you some pictures of things that we could give to someone as a gift or

things we can do for someone. As you look at the pictures, you tell me if it would be a good gift or a bad gift!

Then when I say, "Ready, set, go!" you will take the card and run over there to put the card into the right container. The white heart is for good gifts. The black heart is for bad gifts.

Ready? Here we go! *Play the game.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Let's look in the containers now and see if we put the right pictures in. Look at all the great things in here! A lot of these can show others that we love them. And some of these things can show God we love Him, too! God deserves our very best. And loving God with all our heart, mind, and soul, and believing and trusting in Jesus is the best thing we could do for God.



My Best Card Game

MATERIALS

- ☐ My Best Cards for every 2–4 students to play in class
- ☐ My Best Cards for every student to take home and play
- ☐ Plastic bag for each set

INSTRUCTIONS

Print (on cardstock) and cut out two copies of the My Best Cards for each team of students to play during class. Make one set for each student to take home and play. Students will play a type of Concentration, trying to match the pictures on the cards. As they play and turn cards over, remind them that God is a great God and always deserves our very best!

These cards have pictures of some good things we could give as gifts and some good things we could do. We learned that because God is great He always deserves the good things—He deserves the very best.

After dividing the class into appropriate teams begin play.

I'm going to give each team a set of these cards. I'll lay them face down. You get to take turns trying to find the pictures that match. Just flip two cards over at a time. If they don't match, you flip them back over. And you take turns until you find all the matches.

When it is time to go, I'll give each of you a set of cards so you can play at home with your family. *Play the game.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God deserves our best. And loving God with all our heart, mind, and soul and believing and trusting in Jesus are the best things we could do for God.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Nehemiah 9:6 You alone are the Lord; you have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them . . .

MATERIALS

- ☐ Flip Chart Memory Verse Page

INSTRUCTIONS

Students will move around the room doing an action you tell them to do, such as: crawling, skipping, turning in circles, galloping, walking in giant steps, etc. Then when you say, "Freeze!" the students will stop and freeze in position. They can then recite the memory verse together or repeat it after you. After saying the verse, have them move again with a different action.

We're going to practice our memory verse playing a game called, "Freeze!" Let's practice the verse first. *Point to each picture as you say each word and have the students repeat. Practice the verse together using the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page.*

Ok. Let's play. I'm going to tell you what you need to do like crawl or take baby steps. Everyone will do the same thing, but when I say, "Freeze," you have to stop and freeze like a statue. Like this—*Show an example so the students understand how to freeze in position.* Then we're all going to say our memory verse together before we can move again. Are you ready? Everyone stand up and start moving around taking giant steps.

You may want to sing the Memory Verse Song instead of saying the verse. When finished, see if anyone can say the verse alone using the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Our God is the Creator of all things: heaven, earth, the seas and everything in them! God is great, and He deserves our best!



Applying God's Word/Snack

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

After thanking God for your snack, review today's lesson using the Flip Chart.

Malachi was a prophet of God. He noticed that the priests were leading the people to worship God the wrong way. They were not following God's commands; they were sacrificing sick and weak animals instead of the best, strong, healthy ones. So God spoke through Malachi to let the people know that they would be punished. They were not giving God their best. They were not worshipping God the way He deserves. God is great, and He deserves our very best.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

We all like to receive gifts, don't we? But we wouldn't want someone to give us a broken gift. That's what the people in Malachi's time were doing to God. They were not giving God their best. God wants us to give Him our best. He deserves our best because He is our Creator, and He loves us. We can give our best to Him by loving Him with all our heart, soul, and strength, and believing in and trusting in Jesus as our Savior who died to forgive sin.

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for His Word that tells us about Jesus.
- Praise God because He is great!
- Pray that God will give us hearts to want to give our best to God in everything we do.

Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring sheet, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

Song Sheet

NEHEMIAH 9:6

(To the tune of "Are You Sleeping?")

Shout, "Nehemiah 9:6!"

You alo-one,

(Are you sleeping?)

Are the Lo-ord;

(Are you sleeping?)

You-have-made heav'n,

(Brother John,)

The heav'n of heavens,

(Brother John.)

With a-all their-eir ho-ost,

(Morning bells are ringing.)

The earth and ev'rything on it,

(Morning bells are ringing.)

The-seas and all—

(Ding, ding, dong,)

That-is in them.

(Ding, ding, dong.)

GOD WANTS ME TO WORSHIP HIM!

(To the tune of "This Is the Way We Wash Our Clothes")

Lift up your hands then lower them when singing the words "worship Him."

God wants me to worship Him,

(This is the way we wash our clothes,)

Worship Him,

(Wash our clothes,)

Worship Him.

(Wash our clothes.)

God wants me to worship Him,

(This is the way we wash our clothes,)

Worship Him alone!

(Early Monday morning.)

Look up and point up when singing the words "obey Him."

God wants me to obey Him,

Obey Him,

Obey Him.

God wants me to obey Him,

To obey Him alone!

Lift up your hands and shout the word "awesome."

Our God is an AWESOME God!

AWESOME God,

AWESOME God!

Our God is an AWESOME God.

Let's worship Him alone!

WE GATHER ALL AROUND

(To the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell")

We gather all around, Walk in circle, holding hands.

(The farmer in the dell,)

To hear God's holy Word. Stand still, hold hands like open book.

(The farmer in the dell.)

We pray and thank Him every day. Bow head, fold hands.

(Hi-ho, the derry-o!)

We praise and love our God. Stretch both arms up in praise, then cross arms over heart.

(The farmer in the dell.)

God is with us there. Point away.

God is with us here. Point to self.

God is with us everywhere. Stretch both arms up, then outward.

We praise and love our God. Stretch both arms up in praise, then cross arms over heart.

Think of fun ways to sing. For example, get children in a circle holding hands. They can go in one direction and at each verse quickly reverse direction. Put one or more than one child in the middle of the circle. Go around them then move in and back out! Get them into a straight line. Have them follow you around the room.