



WORSHIP

A TWELVE WEEK CURRICULUM
WRITTEN BY VINEYARD WORSHIP

NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL SERIES
VINEYARD YOUTH CURRICULUM

vineyardyouth

NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL LIVING

| WORSHIP |

WELCOME!

to Vineyard Youth Curriculum

Hello, friends. What you hold in your hands is the product of lots of people, lots of prayer, and lots of purpose. The Vineyard movement is at a crucial place, and we believe that the work we do with students will have massive influence on what the movement will look like over the next 10-20 years. We set out to design a curriculum that communicates and reinforces the biblical and kingdom values of the Vineyard while inviting students to embrace the reality that they are part of something bigger than themselves.

Understanding the diversity within the Vineyard movement, we purposefully designed curriculum that can be utilized by groups of differing sizes led by either paid or volunteer leaders in any geographical setting or location. Easy, right? We believe we accomplish this by offering a buffet of activities that allow you – the in-the-trenches leader – to choose what works for you and your group. We're pretty sure no one will use all of the material proposed, but we're confident some of it will be a good fit for your group.

Each lesson will include:

- Experiential, hands-on activities that reflect a variety of learning styles.
- Large group questions to frame a conversation (I.E., not a lecture).
- Application suggestions to live and reveal the kingdom of God.
- Small group questions with age- and gender-specific items.
- Chances for you as the leader to tune into what God is doing in you and your students' lives.
- Space for students to hear from God for themselves.

This curriculum is written by youth leaders for youth leaders. If you would like to join the team and contribute your voice to the conversation, we would love to hear from you.

You may not hear this enough, but thank you for what you do. It's important, it's needed, and it's laying the foundation for a new generation of leaders to continue the good things God has already done in the Vineyard movement. Keep up the good work!

Why This Topic?

God is eager to be known and experienced by all. In response to God's initiative, we value the life-changing power of the experience of His presence. The primary place where that relationship is nurtured and developed is in the act of worship—both private and corporate. So, worship, as holistic engagement (Matthew 22:34–40), is the central activity of all that we do in the Vineyard. It is worship (through song and devotion) that causes all else that we do in our lives to become an act of worship. We experience God's presence as a palpable reality when we worship—whether through song, study, prayer, the Eucharist, or other acts of worship. As we worship we become increasingly sensitive and responsive to the Spirit's presence so that we can do as Jesus did: "See what the Father is doing," (John 5:19) and support His work with our lives. Our teens are constantly pulled in numerous cultural directions that are vying for their attention. In the midst of the fast-paced visual marketplace these students are growing up in, we want them to experience God in a way that flows out of a life of worship and affects all aspects of their lives, so that all division between the secular and the sacred vanish. Our prayer is that they experience intimacy with the Father in a way that changes them forever.

Connecting to Vineyard Values

We intentionally connect our curriculum to Vineyard Values and Distinctives. Worship connects to the Vineyard value of "Experience and Worship God." As we worship, we enter into deeper relationship with God. You can read more about it here: vineyardusa.org/about/core-values-beliefs.

Helpful Reminders For You, the Youth Leader

In working with this curriculum there are a few ideas we'd like to keep in front of you:

Plug in your stories wherever you can. These are bare bones here. You add the meat!

Experiential learning lasts. We've tried to make this as experiential as possible, rather than just providing head knowledge. We encourage you the leader to try it out—take some risks!

Humor is key. It's hard for us to artificially add this from a distance, but we encourage you to find all chances you can to connect through humor.

Context matters. We don't know what's going on in your group right now, but you do. We encourage you to pray and think about how this message applies to the new ones in your group, the veterans, and the seekers. How does this tie into the message of salvation through Jesus?

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WORSHIP /// WHAT IS WORSHIP?



BIG IDEA

We were made to worship.

**YOUTH LEADER
SOUL CARE**

As part of your preparation for the lesson, read this week's Main Verse aloud, then spend a few minutes in silence or singing a worship song. This is an opportunity to spend unhurried time soaking in the presence of God and "gazing upon the beauty of the lord." You were made to worship Him.

Worship Song Pairing

(During each Youth Leader Soul Care section we will suggest a song or songs to incorporate in your soul care.)

"What Joy Is Found" (Full Attention / Jeremy Riddle)

**VIDEO
SUPPLEMENT**

Vineyard Worship has created a short supplemental teaching video for you. Ted Kim, worship pastor at Syracuse Vineyard, shares about what worship is. You can watch it vineyardyouthusa.com/curriculum.

WORSHIP /// WHAT IS WORSHIP?

STARTER

Shoe Talk

1. Split the group into two halves.
2. Get each half of the group to line up against opposite sides of the room.
3. Get each person to take off one shoe; the team should then make a pile of their shoes.
4. Choose one team to start. Taking turns, each person from that team should select a shoe from the other team's pile and then find the person that shoe belongs to.
5. Once they have found their match, have a "get-to-know-you" question for each person to ask the other. Make sure you don't make this time too long, but don't make it too short, either; give both people a chance to answer.
6. Have the other team go through the same process with the first team's pile of shoes.

MAIN VERSE

"One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple." Psalm 27:4

POINT 1

WE ALL WORSHIP SOMETHING OR SOMEONE

DISCUSS

What is worship? Invite the students to brainstorm some ideas. Make a list on a whiteboard, or brainstorm aloud.

WORSHIP /// WHAT IS WORSHIP?

Dictionary.com says that worship is 1) an act of devotion (n.), 2) to show honor (v.), and 3) to give worth (v.). Based on this definition, what are some things we tend to worship in our culture? (Invite the students to volunteer their ideas. Consider some of these: social media, professional sports, celebrities, pop stars.)

In the Bible, we see people worshipping all kinds of things: Some people worshipped the sun, some the sea, others the stars. Some kings built statues of themselves and made people bow down and worship the statues! And remember the Israelites, who (in Genesis 32) built a golden calf while Moses was up on Mount Sinai talking to God on their behalf? That might sound silly to us, but do you think some of the things our culture worships will sound funny to people 100 years from now? It's easy to see that people are made with a desire or longing to worship. Think of how good it feels to be part of something that's bigger than you. When we go to concerts or rallies/assemblies at school, we can feel the excitement and energy that comes with being part of something that feels alive. There's nothing wrong with enjoying those experiences, but when it comes to worshipping (remember that dictionary definition!), God is clear about what He wants for us. He wants us to worship Him, and Him only.

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them..."

Exodus 20:2–5a

The funny thing about the things we see people in the Bible worship—like the golden calf—and the things we see worshipped in our own culture is that these things don't even love people back. There's a story (a satire) in Isaiah 44 that's used to illustrate this idea. (Read Isaiah 44:12–20 aloud to the group.) Even when God gave the Israelites the Ten Commandments, he wanted them to know that He loved them, that He

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was the one who had saved them, and that He wanted them to love Him, too. In that same way, God made us all to worship because He loves us, He has saved us, and He wants us to love Him, too.

POINT 2

WORSHIP IS ALL ABOUT LOVE: FIRST, GOD'S LOVE FOR US; THEN, OUR RESPONSE OF LOVE BACK TO HIM.

TEACH

When we worship God, we find intimacy with him, but worshipping other things doesn't give us that same intimacy. What is intimacy? Dictionary.com defines it as 1) a close, familiar, loving, personal relationship with another, 2) a deep understanding, and 3) being comfortable and warm. When we, as Christians, worship the living God, we are freely giving ourselves to Him—an act of devotion—and experiencing intimacy with Him all at the same time. And remember that God created us to worship Him because He loves us, and our response to Him is one of love, so worship is really all about love. God's love first, and our response of love to Him second.

POINT 3

WORSHIPPING GOD ORIENTS US TOWARD HIM. IT IS BETWEEN GOD AND US. THAT'S ALL.

DISCUSS

Have you ever gotten really wrapped up in something that you're excited about? A new album from your favorite band or a video game? A show on Netflix or your new crush at school? And then everything in your life seems to point toward that thing? You think about it, you talk about it, you look for other people who feel

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TEACH

the same way about it, you learn as much as you can about it, and you spend time with it. (Share a personal story about a time when all of your attention was focused on something or someone—share something funny!)

When we turn our attention toward Jesus and spend time worshipping Him—talking to Him, listening for His direction in our everyday decisions, reading about Him, talking to others who feel the same way about Him, spending time with Him—we find that other parts of ourselves begin to turn toward Him, too. It's like we start to see situations and relationships through different lenses because we're more focused on worshipping God.

RESPONSE

You will probably have great ideas for response because you know your group. Our hope is that we can help you as much as possible, without getting in your way. Below are some response ideas - use what works and throw out the rest! Our main hope is that we will make this as experiential as possible for the teens.

WORSHIP SONG SUGGESTIONS

"What Joy Is Found" (Full Attention / Jeremy Riddle)

"I Love Your Presence" (VRUK Small Group Worship, Vol. 01 / Vineyard Worship)

"Dwell" (We Are Ready / Vineyard Soul)

"Kyrie Eleison" (Kyrie Eleison / Vineyard Worship)

"We Say Yes" (Kyrie Eleison / Vineyard Worship)

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OPTION 1

As your worship band plays, or as you turn on a worship song, invite your students to spend some time in God's presence. Lead them in confessing the things they have worshipped and in inviting God to occupy the only place of worship in their lives. Some of our teens have never experienced intimacy with God. Lead them to invite the Lord into their deepest places right now.

OPTION 2

As your worship band plays, or as you turn on a worship song, allow the students five to ten minutes to jot down some parts of their lives that have become "golden calves." Break into small groups and allow the students to pray for one another, inviting God into these places.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- ① Did you feel an intimate connection with God this week? If so, what happened? How did it feel?
- ② Are there areas of your life that have become "golden calves" that are difficult to give to God? Why do you think they are so valuable to you?
- ③ What situation can you invite Jesus into this week that is difficult or scary for you? Sometimes, these can be our most intimate moments with Him.

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BIG IDEA

We become like whomever or whatever we worship.

YOUTH LEADER
SOUL CARE

Ask the Lord to show you an area in your life where He wants to refine you, making you more like Him. Then, spend a few minutes being quiet, with your hands open, turning your heart toward Jesus while a worship song plays in the background. The simple act of opening our hands often connects us to the reality of letting go of things we're holding onto and allowing God to refine and shape us to be more like Him.

Worship Song Pairings

"All For You Jesus" (Kyrie Eleison/Vineyard Resources)

"Make Us Like Jesus" (Kyrie Eleison/Vineyard Resources)

VIDEO
SUPPLEMENT

Vineyard Worship has created a short supplemental teaching video for you. Ted Kim, worship pastor at Syracuse Vineyard, shares about who we worship. You can watch it vineyardyouthusa.com/curriculum.

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STARTER

M&M's Mix & Meet

1. Have each person grab a small amount of M&M's. Tell them not to eat them.
2. Assign a different meaning to each color:

Blue = family
Green = school
Yellow = friends
Red = hobbies
Brown = music/movies

3. The number of M&M's they have in their hands will determine how many facts they have to share with the group. For example, for three blue M&M's, they would share three facts about their family.

MAIN VERSE

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
Matthew 6:19-21

POINT 1

OUR DEVOTION SHOWS US OUR HEARTS.

DISCUSS

Last week, we talked about some of the crazy things that people in the Bible worshipped and some of the crazy things people in our culture worship. Even if we don't actually worship some of those things, it's important to take inventory of the things we are devoted to in our lives. They often show us our priorities, and can even show us a little about our

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TEACH

hearts. What does it mean to be devoted to something? (To be committed, to show love or affection.) What are some of the things we are devoted to? (Allow students to volunteer their answers. These might be friends, sports, studies, learning a musical instrument, etc.)

It's easy to see what is important to us by taking inventory of how and where we spend our time, our money, our thoughts, and our conversations. Do we intentionally spend time with God? Share a story about your own journey toward learning how to spend time with God. Or share a story about when you spent your time and money on something to the exclusion of spending time with God. Regardless of how we use our resources of time and money, it's important that we spend time with God in the midst of all of those things. Colossians 3:17 says, "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." We can be devoted to God ALL the time, whether we're at school, practicing our instruments, hanging out with our friends, playing sports, or using social media.

POINT 2

AS WE PRACTICE WORSHIPPING JESUS, WE BECOME MORE LIKE HIM.

DISCUSS

Have you ever hung out with a friend whose bad behavior rubbed off on you? What about a friend whose good behavior rubbed off on you? Share a story about when this happened in your own life or ask for a volunteer to share.

TEACH

When we spend time with Jesus, we begin to be more like Him. Think about Jesus' disciples: What were they like before they started hanging around with Jesus? We know that a few of them were fishermen and one was a tax collector. But more importantly, we see that,

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by hanging out with Jesus, the disciples learned to worship God above all else. They learned to love one another, be humble, help those in need, have mercy, not fear (even in scary situations), and trust Jesus. Even though we don't get to go fishing with Jesus, we can still hang out with Him all the time and, as a result, become more like Him. As we spend time in prayer (talking with God), we get to know Him; as we read the Bible (the story of God and His people), we begin to see how our own life story fits into the bigger story—God's story; and as we act in love and generosity toward others, we allow God to grow us in ways that look more like Him.

POINT 3

WE WANT TO BE LIKE JESUS!

DISCUSS

Why would we want to be more like Jesus? Think of the people in your life who you trust the most. Are they arrogant? Are they inconsiderate? Are they selfish? Are they untrustworthy? Or are they kind, loving, trustworthy, and generous?

TEACH

Jesus is all about love. The Bible, in 1 Corinthians 13:4–7, explains what love really is: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." This verse describes some of the many characteristics of Jesus, which are often the characteristics we are drawn to in other people—and vice versa. These are the qualities that make our relationships deeper, stronger, and able to withstand challenges. And that's why we want to be like Jesus!

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RESPONSE

You will probably have great ideas for response because you know your group. Our hope is that we can help you as much as possible, without getting in your way. Below are some response ideas - use what works and throw out the rest! Our main hope is that we will make this as experiential as possible for the teens.

WORSHIP SONG SUGGESTIONS

"All for You Jesus" (Kyrie Eleison / Vineyard Worship)

"Make Us Like Jesus" (Kyrie Eleison / Vineyard Worship)

"Surrender" (Anchour Studio Sessions / Vineyard Worship)

"Reign in Me" (Kyrie Eleison / Vineyard Worship)

OPTION 1

As your worship band plays, or as you turn on a worship song, give the students some time to invite the lord into the places in their lives that they have not previously invited Him into. This can be school, sports, friends, or something else.

OPTION 2

Break into small groups. In each group, put one kid in the middle and allow each of the other students to identify something in him or her that "looks like Jesus." Once everyone has shared, have a different kid sit in the middle, and so on. This can be a powerful time.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- ① How might some of our activities look different if we “do them in the name of the Lord” and invite Jesus into them?
- ② Are there areas in your life that you are reluctant to invite Jesus into? Why do you think you’re reluctant?
- ③ Read 1 Corinthians 13:4–7. Have each person choose one attribute of God’s love that they feel drawn to. Spend time praying for each person, asking God to develop this attribute in him or her.

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BIG IDEA

Worship is an intimate, personal encounter with the living God.

YOUTH LEADER SOUL CARE

When we worship, we make Christ the central focus of our affection. We sense God's presence with us, and the Spirit of God touching us and communicating to us the Father's love. Spend ten minutes sitting with the Lord, allowing Him to love you as the music plays in the background.

Worship Song Pairing

"I Love You" (All Things Rise / Vineyard Worship)

VIDEO SUPPLEMENT

Vineyard Worship has created a short supplemental teaching video for you. Anabeth Morgan, worship pastor at the Mile High Vineyard, shares about why we worship. You can watch it vineyardyouthusa.com/curriculum.

STARTER

Teeth!

1. Everyone sits in a circle.
2. Each player chooses a fruit or vegetable.

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MAIN VERSE

3. The first player says his or her fruit/veggie, then says the player's fruit/veggie that they want to pass it on to. For example: Player A says, "Strawberry strawberry, broccoli broccoli," and player B says, "Broccoli broccoli, carrot carrot"... and so on.

What makes this game amusing is that the players can't show their teeth at any point (which means they have to pull their lips over their teeth). If anyone catches a player showing their teeth, that person alerts the group by screaming "teeth, teeth!" and flapping their arms at the player (making sure they don't show their teeth in the process). You make the rules: Players who show their teeth can either be eliminated or lose points.

"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40: 28–31

POINT 1

WE GET TO HAVE AN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR BIG GOD!

DISCUSS

We talked last week about some of the characteristics of God and how we want to be like Him. In addition to all of those different characteristics, we also see God wear a few different hats in the Bible. What are some of those? (Allow students to volunteer their answers.)

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TEACH

The Bible shows us the nature of the God we worship. He is our Creator (Genesis 1:1)—our Father who began everything, who made us, and who gives us life. He is our King (Psalm 103:19)—the ruler of the universe, the leader of His Kingdom, and the One who allows us to be part of that Kingdom coming to earth as we love and obey Him. He is the Trinity (Deuteronomy 6:4)—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. And He is our Savior (Matthew 1:21)—our Rescuer. The Israelites first knew God as their rescuer. He brought them out of slavery in Egypt by doing some pretty amazing things (parting the Red Sea!) and sustained them in the desert, where they otherwise would have died. And by Jesus' life, death on a cross, and resurrection, He rescued and redeemed us by conquering sin and making us new creations in Christ.

POINT 2

AND WE ARE THE OBJECTS OF HIS AFFECTION!

DISCUSS

How many movies have we seen that have a king who is all powerful, but who nobody is allowed to get near without fear for their lives? (Invite the students to shout out names of childhood movies that depict this. There are quite a few!)

TEACH

Unlike many of the kings we see in movies (or even in history), our king—Jesus—loves us more than anything and invites us to have an intimate relationship with Him. In Luke 15, Jesus tells the story of the Prodigal Son. This guy's father (who was not a king, but a landowner with enough money to give to his kids) gives his son his inheritance early, and the son runs off and wastes it on "wild living." When the son hits rock bottom, he decides to come back and ask his

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father to forgive him and hire him on like a servant. Instead, the father forgives the son and holds a feast in his honor, celebrating that the son has come home. This story is one that illustrates the love and affection of God for us. God loves us so much that He gives generously to us; he weeps when we make poor decisions for our lives; and he forgives, welcomes, and celebrates us when we return. Every time.

RESPONSE

You will probably have great ideas for response because you know your group. Our hope is that we can help you as much as possible, without getting in your way. Below are some response ideas - use what works and throw out the rest! Our main hope is that we will make this as experiential as possible for the teens.

WORSHIP SONG SUGGESTIONS

"I Love You" (All Things Rise / Vineyard Worship)

"No Longer Strangers" (God You Are / Vineyard Worship)

"One Thing Remains" (Furious / Jeremy Riddle)

"God You Are" (God You Are / Vineyard Worship)

OPTION 1

Use the Rembrandt painting *The Return of the Prodigal Son* (this is easy to find with an Internet search) and give the group some time to look at the painting and write their thoughts/reflections on the parts of God's character that can be seen through this story and painting.

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OPTION 2

Just as you prepared for this week's lesson by spending some time sitting in the loving presence of the Lord, give your students time to do the same as your worship band plays, or as you turn on a worship song. If you have a ministry team, this is a good time to deploy them for prayer.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- ① Revisit the different hats God wears: Creator, Father, King, Trinity, Savior. Which of these do you connect with most? How and why?
- ② Look closely at each line in the song "No Longer Strangers." Discuss what each line means and how it applies to our lives.
- ③ Is there an area of your life in which you feel like you've been the Prodigal Son?

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BIG IDEA

We worship to find fulfillment and intimate connection.

YOUTH LEADER
SOUL CARE

Spend a few minutes taking inventory of the day ahead of you (whether it's the rest of today or tomorrow). Jot down a quick list of what your day will entail. Spend a few minutes inviting God into each aspect of your upcoming day: your job, your social activities, your difficult situations. Ask Him to awaken your heart, your soul, your mind, and your strength to His presence throughout the upcoming day. At the end of the day, mentally recap the events, and look for ways you encountered Jesus in each.

Worship Song Pairing

"Fall Afresh" (Furious / Jeremy Riddle)

**VIDEO
SUPPLEMENT**

Vineyard Worship has created a short supplemental teaching video for you. Anabeth Morgan, worship pastor at the Mile High Vineyard, shares about why we worship. You can watch it vineyardyouthusa.com/curriculum.

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STARTER

Team Architect

1. Divide the group into teams (the number of teams is up to you).
2. Give each team a package of Popsicle sticks and a roll of tape.
3. Give the teams ten minutes to each build a bridge that can support a Bible.
4. After the ten minutes are over, test each bridge and award a prize to each team that is successful.

MAIN VERSE

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Mark 12:30

POINT 1

WORSHIP WITHOUT INTIMACY IS EMPTY.

DISCUSS

Remember when we talked about all of the different types of things people worshipped in the Bible? Like the kings who built statues of themselves and made people worship those? Or people who worshipped the sun? Or the golden calf? Why do you think people did that? What were they looking for? (Allow students to volunteer their answers.)

TEACH

Recap the story of the Israelites making the golden calf when Moses was on Mount Sinai (Exodus 32). Focus on the facts that God had rescued them out of slavery, fed them with manna, and was now giving them instructions—for their own good—about how to live when they built this golden calf. What were the differences between the relationship between the

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Israelites and the golden calf versus the Israelites and God? Worshipping the golden calf involved a lot of hard work and a one-way relationship. It was also one of the ways the Israelites had dropped back into a bad habit they'd learned in Egypt: idol worship. Worshipping God involved trust, love, rescue, provision, and an intimate relationship, but it required no hard work from the Israelites, only love and obedience.

POINT 2

JESUS COMMANDS US TO WORSHIP GOD WITH OUR WHOLE SELVES (MARK 12:30).

DISCUSS

We all have different groups of friends: church friends, school friends, work friends, family friends, neighborhood friends. Have you ever been reluctant to mix your friend groups? Why? (Allow students to volunteer their responses.) Maybe we find that our school friends only know the school part of us, or that our church friends only know the church part of us. So mixing these friend groups might involve combining our worlds in ways that we're not quite ready for.

TEACH

When Jesus commanded us to worship God with our whole selves, He meant a few things. We'll talk later about the different ways we can worship Him, but one of the other things he meant was that we are to worship God in every part of ourselves: the school part, the church part, the at-home part, and so forth. God wants a relationship with us that is not compartmentalized. When we worship in all aspects of our lives we are saying yes to the intimate relationship God wants to have with us. This way, God is in every part of our lives, not in only one area.

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POINT 3

THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE OF WORSHIP WHERE WE FIND INTIMACY AND FULFILLMENT.

DISCUSS

We can know all about God, but we can experience Him, too. What are some of the ways you've experienced God? (Allow the students to share their stories and share one of your own stories of experiencing God.)

TEACH

James 4:8a says, "Come near to God and he will come near to you." When we worship the living God—when we "come near" to Him—we get to experience intimacy with Him as He "comes near" to us. When we worship (draw near) with every part of us—our **WHOLE** selves—we experience intimacy and fulfillment in our lives. God is the only One who offers us true fulfillment.

RESPONSE

You will probably have great ideas for response because you know your group. Our hope is that we can help you as much as possible, without getting in your way. Below are some response ideas - use what works and throw out the rest! Our main hope is that we will make this as experiential as possible for the teens.

WORSHIP SONG SUGGESTIONS

"Surrender" (Anchour Studio Sessions / Vineyard Worship)

"We Say Yes" (Kyrie Eleison / Vineyard Worship)

"Reign in Me" (Kyrie Eleison / Vineyard Worship)

"Gloria A Dios (With My Whole Heart)" (We Are Ready / Vineyard Worship)

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OPTION 1

As your worship band plays, or as you turn on a worship song, ask the students to spend some time in worship, inviting Jesus into the parts of their lives where they have not invited Him in. Ask which students would like prayer for this and deploy your ministry team.

OPTION 2

Some of our students may not have “experienced” God before. If there are students in your group who would like to experience God, ask them to raise their hands or come forward for prayer. We never know how God will show up for a person, so come with expectancy!

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- ① A few weeks ago, we talked about the “golden calves” in our lives. Let’s follow up with that. How are we doing in those areas?
- ② Are there still parts of your life (school/home/sports/etc.) that are hard for you to invite God into? Why do you think these are hard?
- ③ Do you want to invite God into these areas of your life? Let’s pray for one another, asking God to come near to us in these areas that have been difficult to invite Him into.

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BIG IDEA

We worship because we love God in response to Him loving us first.

YOUTH LEADER SOUL CARE

As youth leaders in our churches, we are often faced with a to-do list that can be overwhelming: organize Winter Camp, plan the next teaching series, buy snacks for the youth group, meet with parents. Sometimes, this can lead to serving from a place of striving rather than from a place of loving Jesus. Ask the Lord to renew your perspective on leading the youth at your church, and to remind you of when He first called you to this ministry. Ask Him to show you His love for you as you spend the next few minutes in worship.

Worship Song Pairing

"I Come to the Well" (Shine On Us / Vineyard Worship)

STARTER

Two Truths and a Lie

1. Each student will come up with three statements about him or herself. Two of these will be true, and one will not be true. For example: I have two brothers, I was born in Australia, and I have a motorcycle.
2. After giving the students time to come up with their statements, have each student share, one at a time.

WORSHIP /// WHY DO WE WORSHIP? PT II

MAIN VERSE

3. The rest of the group will guess or vote on which statement is false for each student. Keep track of the answers and award the student who gets the most correct.

"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19

POINT 1

GOD STARTED THIS LOVE RELATIONSHIP.

DISCUSS

When we read the Bible, we see that God loves His people in many different ways. What are some of the ways we see Him love people? How about in modern times? What about in your life or the lives of people you know? (Allow the students to volunteer their responses.)

Here are a few ideas from the Bible:

- He rescued the Israelites from Egypt
- He rescued Daniel from the lions
- He forgave the woman at the well
- He showed His love through Jesus.

TEACH

God shows His love to us in many ways throughout our lives, but His love for us began even before we were born: "For you created my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb" (Psalm 139:13). God loves us before we ever do anything, which means that when we experience God's love and His presence, it's not because we've done a good job at worshipping Him—it's because He started this whole love relationship in the first place!

WORSHIP /// WHY DO WE WORSHIP? PT II

POINT 2

WE WORSHIP AS A RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE.

DISCUSS

What are some of the ways we respond to someone loving us? When someone shows us kindness, or generosity, or favor, or compassion--how do we feel and how do we respond? (Allow students to volunteer their answers.)

TEACH

When we worship, we are responding to the great love that God continually shows us. "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." (Psalm 107:1)

Whether we are aware of it or not, God is constantly (meaning, he never stops) loving us in all kinds of ways. He is protecting us. He is going before us into uncertain situations. He is giving us words to say when we don't know what to say. He is helping us to hear with ears that reflect His heart. He is forgiving us, over and over. He is guiding us toward things that are good for us. He is putting specific people into our lives that will help us grow. And that's the short list! When we worship, we are giving thanks for all of those things. We are responding to God's love.

POINT 3

WHEN WE WORSHIP, WE ARE LOVING GOD, NOT STRIVING TO PLEASE HIM.

DISCUSS

When a parent hugs a child and says, "I love you, not because of what you do, but because of who you are" does that mean the child has done something that earned the parent's love? Have you ever experienced love or forgiveness from someone when you didn't deserve it or had done nothing to earn it? (Allow students to share, and also tell a story of your own.)

WORSHIP /// WHY DO WE WORSHIP? PT II

TEACH

As we discussed a few weeks ago, we want to be like Jesus. But when we worship, we are not striving to please Him; we are simply loving Him back. The Samaritan woman that Jesus meets at the well (John 4), seems to know all of the right answers to Jesus' questions. She knows that socially, she should not be talking to Jesus and tells Him so (this was the right answer socially, since Jews and Samaritans didn't mix). She knows that you can't draw water out of a well if you don't have a bucket (this is a physical reality that she points out). She knows the "right" way to worship according to Samaritans and Jews (this was the right religious answer, since both groups had sacred worship practices). And since she knew Jesus was (what she thought) a prophet, she had just earned an A in His class by having all of the right answers. But when she asks Jesus to tell her exactly how to worship in a way that would be pleasing to God, Jesus responds by telling her what kind of person God is seeking as a worshipper. He is seeking people who will worship "in spirit and in truth"—people who worship from their hearts, not by striving to have the right habits. God is always looking at the heart, as it is in the heart that worship begins and ends.

RESPONSE

You will probably have great ideas for response because you know your group. Our hope is that we can help you as much as possible, without getting in your way. Below are some response ideas - use what works and throw out the rest! Our main hope is that we will make this as experiential as possible for the teens.

WORSHIP SONG SUGGESTIONS

OPTION 1

“Come to the Well” (Shine On Us / Vineyard Worship)

“Pour It Out” (Anchour Studio Sessions / Vineyard Worship)

“I Lift My Eyes Up” (Anchour Studio Sessions / Vineyard Worship)

As your worship band plays, or as you turn on a worship song, lead your group through this prayer exercise. With their eyes closed, invite the students to ask the Lord to show them places in their lives where He has loved them. These might be situations at home or school, family dynamics, relationships, and so forth. After a few minutes, lead the teens through a prayer of thankfulness for God’s love. Finally, end with leading them into a time of just being in the Lord’s presence and resting in His love.

OPTION 2

Guide your group through the Prayer of Examen as your worship band plays, or as you turn on a worship song. You can look it up, but here’s the basic idea:

1. Become aware of God’s presence—look back on the events of the day (or yesterday) in the company of the Holy Spirit.
2. Review the day with gratitude—Walk through your day mentally and think about the joys and delights. Pay attention to the small things. God is in the details! Thank God for the experiences of the day that brought you joy and life.

WORSHIP /// WHY DO WE WORSHIP? PT II

3. Recall any moments in your day that were painful or sad. Why did you feel that way? Did you feel like you lost something in that experience? What is God saying through these feelings? Ask God to show you where He was present in this situation.
4. Choose one aspect of the day and pray about it. This might be an emotion; it might be a situation; it might even be something that seems insignificant. The key is to ask the Holy Spirit to highlight the aspect He wants you to focus on. As you pray, allow yourself to pray spontaneously from your heart, whether that takes the form of gratitude or repentance or intercession.
5. Look toward tomorrow (or today if it's Sunday morning!). Ask God to give you guidance for the coming challenges of the day. Allow any feelings that come up to turn into prayer.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- ① How have you experienced God's love in your life?
- ② Are there areas in your life where you are striving to earn God's love or acceptance? Do you feel you need to do something or be something in order for God to love you? If so, what are those things?
- ③ Do you believe that God loves you? Let's ask Him to reveal His love for you right now.

NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL LIVING

WORSHIP /// HOW DO WE WORSHIP? PT I



BIG IDEA

We worship God by getting to know Him.

YOUTH LEADER
SOUL CARE

Ask the Lord to bring to mind a scripture that He wants to use to minister to you right now. Or think of a scripture that has ministered to you in the past. Spend a few minutes quiet, before the Lord, and let this scripture wash over you.

Worship Song Pairing
Instrumental track

VIDEO
SUPPLEMENT

Vineyard Worship has created a short supplemental teaching video for you. Anabeth Morgan, worship pastor at the Mile High Vineyard, shares about how we worship. You can watch it vineyardyouthusa.com/curriculum.

WORSHIP /// HOW DO WE WORSHIP? PT I

STARTER

Speed Interview

1. Set up chairs in two circles: a small circle and a larger circle outside of that. Make sure that the chairs on the inside are facing the chairs on the outside, and that the two circles have an equal number of chairs.

2. Each kid will sit across from another kid—one in the inside circle and one in the outside circle. The group will have 30 seconds to complete a list of interview questions with their partner:

What's your favorite food?

Who's your favorite celebrity?

What do you want to do when you grow up?

Who do you look up to the most?

What's your favorite childhood memory?

What's your most embarrassing moment?

3. After thirty seconds, rotate one of the circles. Make sure each student has a chance to interview everyone in the opposite circle.

"My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. Where can I go and meet with God?" Psalm 42:2

MAIN VERSE

**WE GET TO KNOW GOD'S HEART,
MOTIVATIONS, DESIRES—HIS PERSONALITY—
THROUGH THE SCRIPTURES.**

POINT 1

DISCUSS

Get out a whiteboard and ask the students to brainstorm together what they know about God. What is God's "reputation" in the Bible?

WORSHIP /// HOW DO WE WORSHIP? PT I

TEACH

What does it mean to have your reputation precede you? (Allow students to volunteer their answers.)

When a person's reputation precedes him or her, that reputation—what people have experienced, known, and shared with others—can allow people to know about someone they've never met. Sometimes this can be a good thing, and sometimes it can be a bad thing.

When we read the Bible, we get to know God through His reputation. We also get to see Him in action, interacting and having relationships with His people. If we really spend time reading the scriptures, we start to see patterns in God's personality. And we also learn about who He is NOT. For example, we can see that His love is never-ending and unconditional. We can see that He is a rescuer. We can see that He is NOT a trickster or mean. We get to know Him through His Word, and then we begin to get beyond the reading, looking for God's personality, perspectives, motives, and attitudes to shine through each page and verse.

POINT 2

WE GET TO KNOW GOD BEYOND READING ABOUT HIM WHEN WE SPEND TIME WITH HIM.

DISCUSS

What is your favorite thing to do with your friends? How do we get to know a person? (Allow students to volunteer their answers. Some examples: We spend time with that person, talk, find common interests, hang out in different settings, and so forth.)

WORSHIP /// HOW DO WE WORSHIP? PT I

TEACH

As we read the Bible and invite God into that process, we start to see things through God-shaped glasses. The more we get to know God through the scriptures and through hanging out with Him, the more we begin to live our WHOLE lives in worship. And then we find that we want to be with God all the time. He becomes our best friend—a real friend, not just a buddy who is fun to hang out with. This is the friend to whom we can tell all of our secrets. The friend we can depend upon and trust, who is always there for us and never leaves. The friend who will go with us into every situation, whether it's scary, embarrassing, or difficult. The friend who knows us better than anyone else. And the friend who will always tell us the truth.

RESPONSE

You will probably have great ideas for response because you know your group. Our hope is that we can help you as much as possible, without getting in your way. Below are some response ideas - use what works and throw out the rest! Our main hope is that we will make this as experiential as possible for the teens.

WORSHIP SONG SUGGESTIONS

Instruments from worship team or instrument track

"I Love You" (All Things Rise / Vineyard Worship)

"The Lord Is Gracious and Compassionate" (Vineyard UK Small Group Worship Vol. 02 / Vineyard Worship)

"High King of Heaven" (Promises of Wonder / Vineyard Worship)

WORSHIP /// HOW DO WE WORSHIP? PT I

OPTION 1

Before church (or youth group), write some of the different verses from Psalm 103 on small slips of paper. Here are some examples:

- "Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name (1)...who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases." (3)
- "Praise the Lord, O my soul: all my inmost being, praise his holy name (1)...who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion." (4)
- "Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name (1)...who satisfies your desires with good things..." (5a)
- "The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love." (8)
- "For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him." (11)
- "...as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us." (12)
- "As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him." (13)

As your worship band plays an instrumental song, or as you turn on an instrumental worship song, give a slip of paper to each kid. Invite them to spend time meditating on the scripture and on the aspect of God's personality that it reveals. Encourage them to ask God to speak to them specifically through this scripture.

OPTION 2

As your worship band plays, or as you turn on a worship song, lead your group through this prayer exercise. With their eyes closed, invite the students to ask the Lord to show them places in their lives where He has loved them. These might be situations at home or school, family dynamics, relationships, and so forth. After a few minutes, lead the teens through a prayer of thankfulness for God's love. Finally, end with leading them into a time of just being in the Lord's presence and resting in His love.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- ① What does it look like to hang out with God?
- ② What do you know about God's personality/character? Where does your perspective come from? The Bible? Your parents? Your own experiences? Does your perspective match what we see in the Bible?
- ③ Knowing that God is someone we can wholly trust, someone who is always there with us, someone with whom we can share anything and everything, are there areas in our hearts that we can trust Him with that we haven't been willing to trust Him with before? Are there hard situations we can trust Him to handle? Do we have fears that we're willing to hand over to Him? Do we have secrets we can share with Him? Can we trust Him with these things, knowing that He'll give us His love in return? Let's spend some time silently before the Lord, with our hands open, giving Jesus the things in our hearts that we will trust Him with, and waiting for what He has for us in exchange.

NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL LIVING

WORSHIP /// HOW DO WE WORSHIP? PT II



BIG IDEA

YOUTH LEADER
SOUL CARE

**We worship with our attitudes
and our actions.**

This week you'll be teaching and pastoring your youth group through some ideas that run counter to the daily cultural air they breathe. This is no small assignment. Send a text or email to five people and ask them to pray for wisdom and discernment for you as you prepare your lesson, and that God would open the hearts of your youth this week. Spend a few minutes in worship, asking the Lord to impart to you all that He wants your youth to receive this week.

Worship Song Pairing

"Full Attention" (Prepare The Way / Jeremy Riddle Live)

STARTER

Remember Me?

1. If there are students in your group who do not know one another, give them a few minutes to introduce themselves. Split the group into two teams.
2. Have the leaders hold up a bed sheet up by two corners like a screen. The two groups will sit on opposite sides of the sheet.

WORSHIP /// HOW DO WE WORSHIP? PT II

MAIN VERSE

3. Each team will silently select a player for the round, and that player will quietly move to sit facing the bed sheet in the middle.

4. When the leaders can see that both players are ready, they will drop the sheet so the players can see each other. The first player to yell out the other player's name wins a point for his or her team. Continue until every student has had a turn.

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:1–2

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Mark 12:30

POINT 1

WE WORSHIP WITH OUR BODIES.

DISCUSS

We often communicate what we want to say with our words, whether that's by talking, sending a text, posting on social media, or writing. But what are some ways we communicate with our bodies? (Allow the students to volunteer their ideas.)

We communicate with our bodies through the way we dress, our gestures, our posture, our interactions with friends (hugging, fist bumping), our interactions with our enemies (fighting), and our interactions with our boyfriends and girlfriends. (Use your discretion here. You know where your youth group is on this issue. Some of them haven't given much thought to dating, while others may be involved in sexual relationships.)

WORSHIP /// HOW DO WE WORSHIP? PT II

TEACH

Another discussion topic is to ask the students what they feel comfortable doing with their bodies during worship and why? Do they close their eyes? Raise their hands? Why or why not? Does it matter who is near them? Does it matter if the room is dark? Does it matter if it is youth group or church?

In the Old Testament, we see people use their bodies for worship. They marched, they bowed down, they sang, they celebrated, they played instruments, they were silent, they stood, they sat, they gave gifts, and the list goes on. At one point, David was so grateful to God that he “danced before the Lord with all of his might” (2 Samuel 6:14). In churches, different faith traditions have different ways they worship with their bodies. In the Vineyard, people often stand, raise their hands, and close their eyes. But beyond church, we can choose to use our bodies to honor and worship God, or we can choose to use our bodies in ways that do not honor or worship God. If every physical thing we chose to do with our bodies honored God, what would that look like? Would we talk back or roll our eyes at our parents? Would we bump into the kid at school who annoys us? Would we gossip about the neighbor?

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” Ephesians 4:29

What about our relationships with our boyfriend or girlfriend?

“Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but whoever sins sexually sins against their own body. Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.” 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

We have a choice to use our bodies in ways that honor God (which is worship) with every action we take.

WORSHIP /// HOW DO WE WORSHIP? PT II

POINT 2

WE WORSHIP WITH OUR MINDS.

DISCUSS

We live in a visually stimulating world. There's eye candy everywhere we look, and advertising comes in countless forms. What are some of those? (Allow students to volunteer their answers.)

We see advertising on TV, in movies (product placement), on the Internet, down a sidebar of a video game, on a billboard, on people's clothes and shoes, and even on cars. What's the purpose of all of this advertising? To get us to act—to buy the advertised products! The ads create for us a sense of familiarity so that when we are ready to buy something, we gravitate toward the brand that we have seen through advertising.

TEACH

A few weeks ago, we talked about worshipping God with our WHOLE selves, in every different part of our lives. Mark 12:30 says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your MIND and with all your strength." This is talking about worshipping with every part of our being. But how can we worship God with our minds? How do we do that in a culture that is all about visual stimulation that may not always be good for us, but is everywhere we look? First, remember that the more time we spend getting to know God through reading the Bible and hanging out with Him, the more we start to see people and situations through God-shaped glasses. As we become more like Jesus, we begin to respond to the world around us more like Jesus would. We become drawn toward the things He loves and repelled by the things that aren't good for us. In Romans 12:2, Paul writes, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." That transformation comes from God.

POINT 3

WE WORSHIP WITH OUR HEARTS.

DISCUSS

Have you ever seen a cartoon that shows what kind of heart a person has? (Allow students to volunteer their responses.)

We might see an evil character with a tiny, black heart (The Grinch), or a character who is so in love that his heart beats outside of his chest, or a character who becomes ugly on the outside because of the anger in her heart (Maleficent). But really, what goes on in our hearts is only between God and us. Nobody can see it; nobody can hear it; nobody can measure it with a machine.

TEACH

Even though the fictional characters we mentioned have physical hearts that show their true character or emotions, we know that the heart is really a metaphor for the center of a person's life. The Bible is clear about what a worshipful heart—or the center of a person's self—looks like and what it doesn't. One aspect of this is holding a grudge. Ephesians 4:26 says, "In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry." Let's look closely at this scripture. It doesn't say that anger is a sin; even God gets angry sometimes. But it tells us not to sin when we are angry. What might that look like? Saying something hurtful? Hitting someone? Talking behind someone's back? And what about the next part of the verse? "Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry." But what if someone has really, really hurt you? Is God asking us to give up our anger toward someone even if they haven't apologized? He is. When we hold onto anger—no matter how justified it is—we are putting it in a place of priority in our hearts instead of putting God in that place. This is where confessing and receiving God's forgiveness come into play. When we find

WORSHIP /// HOW DO WE WORSHIP? PT II

ourselves holding onto anger, we can confess it to our loving Father, ask Him to forgive us for holding onto it, and trust Him to take it off our hands. Sometimes we might have to do this over and over for the same situation (because sometimes we take back the thing we've asked God to hold onto), but God will be there, ready to forgive us and to take our burdens every time.

RESPONSE

This week's lesson might open up some deep places where our students are struggling and need us to walk beside them. In discussing worship with our bodies, minds, and hearts, we've addressed sexual impurity, gossip, pornography, holding grudges, and so forth. Be ready to lead your students to the feet of Jesus in some hard places.

WORSHIP SONG SUGGESTIONS

"Full Attention" (Prepare The Way / Jeremy Riddle Live)

"Take My Life" (We Are Ready / Vineyard Soul)

"Surrender" (Anchour Studio Sessions /
Vineyard Worship)

OPTION 1

Bring in a cross (it can even be a small one), nails and a hammer, and some small slips of paper. As your worship band plays, or as you turn on a worship song, invite the students to write down an area in which they are struggling to worship with their bodies, minds, or hearts. As this will be private, encourage them to not hold back in their confessions, but to be totally honest. Then, give them each a turn to nail their slip of paper to the cross as they ask Jesus for forgiveness.

WORSHIP /// HOW DO WE WORSHIP? PT II

OPTION 2

Do an old-school call for ministry. As your worship band plays, or as you turn on a worship song, invite students forward for prayer. Encourage them to pray for one another and deploy your ministry team to pray.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- ① What does it mean to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength”?
- ② How is loving God this way challenging for us in our culture?
- ③ What is something in your life that you could change right now that would point you toward loving God in this way? Let’s spend some time praying for one another and asking Jesus to help us in these areas.

NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL LIVING

WORSHIP /// HOW DO WE WORSHIP? PT III



BIG IDEA

**We worship in community
AND alone with God.**

YOUTH LEADER
SOUL CARE

Spend a few minutes thanking God for the worshipping community He's given you--your pastor, your fellow youth leaders, and other followers of Jesus that the Lord has put in your life. Then, spend some time alone in worship, connecting intimately with your Father.

Worship Song Pairings

"All Things Rise" (All Things Rise / Vineyard Worship)

"Oh Lovely One" (Anchour Studio Sessions / Vineyard Worship)

STARTER

True-False-Run!

1. Label two sides of the room: one with a "True" sign and one with a "False" sign. Have the group stand in the middle of the room.

2. The leader will read aloud a statement. For example: "Bats aren't actually blind" or "All twelve disciples were Jews." After the statement is read, the leader yells, "Run!"

WORSHIP /// WHY DO WE WORSHIP? PT III

MAIN VERSE

3. The students run to the side of the room with the sign they think is correct, true or false. Teens who run to the correct side continue on to the next round.

*“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.
Colossians 3:12–16*

POINT 1

WE WORSHIP GOD TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY.

DISCUSS

Every week, we all gather at this church and worship together. But why do we do that? Couldn’t we do the same thing alone at home? (Allow students to volunteer their ideas.)

TEACH

Even though we sometimes think of worshipping together as singing to the Lord together at church, this is only one part of worshipping as a community. The Bible gives us a clear idea of what it means to worship with other people who love Jesus. It says we should be kind and compassionate toward one another. We should be humble and patient with one another. We should forgive one another. We should let peace rule in our hearts, and we should be thankful. We should study the Bible together and let the truth of God’s word be the guide for our relationships. We should sing to the Lord with grateful hearts together. And, above all, we

WORSHIP /// HOW DO WE WORSHIP? PT III

should love one another. You see, in this community, the thing we all have in common is Jesus. We might have some similar interests, go to the same schools, or have history together, but the reason we're all here today is because we worship the living God. And when we come together as a worshipping community, we get to practice worshipping God in ways that we just can't do alone. I can't be kind and compassionate to you if I'm never with you! So, even though we're not immune to the challenges that every community faces—hurt feelings, arguments, disappointment—we are all on the same page as far as how we deal with those things. And living that out is an act of worship!

POINT 2

WE ALSO WORSHIP ALONE, JUST GOD AND US.

DISCUSS

While it's important for us as Christians to spend time together worshipping God, it's also important for us to spend time alone with God. Why would that be an important thing? (Allow students to volunteer their ideas.) Share a story about a powerful encounter you've had with the Lord when you were alone with Him.

TEACH

We know that spending time alone with God is important because we even see Jesus do it in the Bible. One day when Jesus is with his disciples, He tells them to wait for Him because He needs to spend some time with the Father—just the two of them (which is hard for us to wrap our minds around since Jesus is God!). And later in the Bible, we read about our

WORSHIP /// HOW DO WE WORSHIP? PT III

bodies being temples (a temple was a sacred place of worship). 1 Corinthians 3:16 says, "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?" This is a reminder that we don't have to be in a church building to worship God; our bodies are like a church building and we carry the Holy Spirit with us all the time. So we can worship anywhere, any time. One last thing about worshipping alone with God is the importance of silence. In our busy culture that is connected 24/7, we can easily forget how to spend time in silence. But the Bible makes it clear that silence before the Lord is important. Psalm 37:7 says, "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him." This can take some practice if we are used to always having the TV on, or having our phones vibrating, or listening to music. But being still and silent before the Lord allows us to interact with Him on the most intimate, personal level.

RESPONSE

You will probably have great ideas for response because you know your group. Our hope is that we can help you as much as possible, without getting in your way. Below are some response ideas - use what works and throw out the rest! Our main hope is that we will make this as experiential as possible for the teens.

Consider doing both of the ministry options if you have time.

WORSHIP SONG SUGGESTIONS

OPTION 1

“All Things Rise” (Shine On Us / Vineyard Worship)

“Every Heart (You’re Holy)” (Shine On Us/
Vineyard Worship)

“God You Are” (God You Are / Vineyard Worship)

Have your group spend a couple of minutes in complete silence with their eyes closed. Encourage them to listen for anything God wants to say, or to simply rest in His presence. Explain to your group: We believe that God speaks to each of us individually in unique ways. Prayer is a conversation—a practice of speaking and listening. Try to listen for what God is saying to you, but it’s ok if you don’t hear anything. God communicates to us in ways that go beyond what we can “hear.” God can speak to us through any of our senses. We might see pictures in our minds, hear a song playing, be reminded of a memory, have a thought run through our minds, think of a scripture from the Bible, or feel a warm sensation in our bodies or a tingling in our hands.

These are just a few examples of ways God communicates with us. You might think these are nothing, but any of these can be one of the ways God speaks to you. God will often speak to us through things that already make sense to our minds or speak to our hearts. Are you a math wiz? Maybe God speaks to you through math. Are you an actor? Maybe God gives you pictures of scenes from movies or plays and then speaks His words to you through those. Are you a poet? Maybe God speaks to you through poetry or song lyrics. Be open to hearing God speak in a variety of ways! As your worship band plays, or as you turn on a worship song, allow the students to remain quiet before the Lord.

OPTION 2

Ask your worship band to play a celebratory song or turn one on. Encourage your group to celebrate together as you sing to the Lord.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- ① What do you like about coming to church and being part of this church community?
- ② Would there be anything missing in your life if you did not have a community of other Christians to spend time with?
- ③ Read 1 Corinthians 12:12–27 aloud. What does this mean for our youth group? What does it mean for our whole church? What does it mean for Christians in general? What does it mean for you personally?

NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL LIVING

WORSHIP /// HOW DO WE WORSHIP? PT IV



BIG IDEA

YOUTH LEADER
SOUL CARE

We worship by caring for others.

Jesus cares about the least, the lost, and the left out. Invite the Lord into a place in your life where you're experiencing hardship or insecurity. Spend a few minutes worshipping and allow God's love to pour over these places. As you prepare to teach your youth group about caring for others this week, ask the Lord to increase your capacity for compassion, just as He has had compassion on you in your places of difficulty.

Worship Song Pairing

"Peace Be Still" (Wear The Crown / Vineyard Worship)

STARTER

One or the Other

1. Have the group stand in the middle of the room. The leader will stand in front of the group, facing them.
2. The leader will call out a pair of choices to the group and point to the side of the room that corresponds with each choice. For example, the first choice might be "inside vs. outside." When the leader says, "inside," he or she points to the right side of the room. When the leader says, "outside," he or she points to the left side of the room.

WORSHIP /// HOW DO WE WORSHIP? PT IV

MAIN VERSE

3. The students walk to the side of the room that matches the choice they prefer. If I like “outside” more than “inside,” I would walk to the left side of the room. (Sometimes, it’s fun to have the students talk for a few minutes among their group about why they chose what they chose.)

Here are some ideas for choices:

nature vs. city
casual vs. dressy
performing vs. watching
Superman vs. Batman
apple vs. banana
Mac vs. PC
dancing vs. singing
Marvel vs. DC

“The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” Mark 12:31a

“When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you. I am the Lord your God.” Leviticus 23:22

POINT 1

JESUS CARES FOR THE LEAST, THE LOST, AND THE LEFT OUT.

DISCUSS

Have you ever been in a situation where you’ve been left out? Or when you’ve left someone out? How about a situation where you’ve included someone who’s being left out? Or when someone has included you when others left you out? (Allow students to share their stories and provide one of your own.)

WORSHIP /// HOW DO WE WORSHIP? PT IV

TEACH

One of the ways we worship God is by caring for those who are left out or marginalized in some way. Not only is it an act of kindness when we care for the people on the fringes, but the Bible tells us that we are actually caring for Jesus Himself when we show love and compassion for these people.

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me...Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:35–36, 40

POINT 2

WHEN WE HONOR OTHERS, WE ARE LOVING WHAT GOD LOVES.

DISCUSS

A few weeks ago, we talked about wanting to be more and more like Jesus. Does anyone remember some of the ways we said we could do this? (Allow students to volunteer their answers.)

Reading our Bibles, inviting God into all parts of our lives—school, church, sports, home—spending time with God, worshipping in community at church, spending time with other people who are following Jesus, and spending time alone with God in silence.

WORSHIP /// HOW DO WE WORSHIP? PT IV

TEACH

When we care for the least, the lost, and the left out, we are practicing loving in the same way that God loves. It's not always easy to reach out to the kid who nobody wants around, or include a younger sibling when we'd rather not, or come to someone's aid when everyone else is making fun of him or her, or befriend a new kid. But James 1:27 says, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." This certainly means that we, as followers of Jesus, are to care for people who are orphan—parent-less children—and widows—women whose husbands have died. But do you think this can extend to other types of "orphans" or "widows" in various parts of our lives? What about a kid who transfers schools and has no "group" or school family? Is that kid an orphan? If we think about it, there are lots of orphans in our society—people who have no family or group to call their own. When we take a social risk and bring these people into our groups or social families, we are caring for and loving the very ones God loves. We are partnering with Him in caring for people who need to be cared for.

POINT 2

LOVING SOMEONE WHO IS DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO LOVE CAN BE AN ACT OF WORSHIP, AND IT MEANS TRUSTING THAT GOD KNOWS BETTER THAN WE DO.

DISCUSS

We can all probably think of people who are difficult to love. (Share a personal story here about a person in your life who was difficult for you to love.)

WORSHIP /// HOW DO WE WORSHIP? PT IV

TEACH

Since we are human, we can expect loving others to be a challenge sometimes. There are some people who are really easy to love. But there are others who, for one reason or another, are hard for us to love. Maybe these people are annoying to us, or maybe we're jealous of them; maybe they are not cool and don't speak the same social language we speak; maybe these people are unkind to us or to people we love. No matter what the reason is, God still asks us to love His people. All of them. So when we make a choice (yes, a choice!) to love someone who is difficult for us to love, we are actually trusting God that He knows something about this person that we don't. And we are choosing to ACT on that trust, rather than on our own perceptions of the person. This is an act of worship!

RESPONSE

You will probably have great ideas for response because you know your group. Our hope is that we can help you as much as possible, without getting in your way. Below are some response ideas - use what works and throw out the rest! Our main hope is that we will make this as experiential as possible for the teens.

WORSHIP SONG SUGGESTIONS

"Make Us Like Jesus" (Kyrie Eleison / Vineyard Worship)

"Have Your Way" (God You Are / Vineyard Worship)

"Form Us" (Discover Vineyard Worship /
Vineyard Worship)

WORSHIP /// HOW DO WE WORSHIP? PT IV

OPTION 1

As your worship band plays, or as you turn on a worship song, invite the students to ask God to highlight a specific person in their minds (this may have already happened during your lesson). As He does, encourage them to ask for prayer from one another or from your ministry team. Direct them to give their perceptions or fears of this person to the Lord, and to ask Him to exchange those perceptions with His love for the person.

OPTION 2

Give each student a slip of paper on which to write the name of one person who God is bringing to mind for them. Put these in a box or envelope and have each kid commit the person on the paper to prayer for the next month. They might also ask the Lord to change their hearts or minds about this person. After a month, give each slip of paper back to the students who wrote them and have them reflect on how God has worked in their situation.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- ① Have you ever been left out or left another person out? How did this feel for you?
- ② Have you ever included someone who has been left out? How do you think that felt for the other person? How did that feel for you?
- ③ Let's spend some time asking God to give us eyes to see the people in our lives who are left out, who are orphans of one kind or another, who are overlooked, who are lonely. Sometimes these people are easy to spot, and other times they aren't. Let's ask the Lord to help us see through the lens of Jesus' love so we can reach out to them.

NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL LIVING

WORSHIP /// HOW DO WE WORSHIP? PT V



BIG IDEA

We worship by living generously.

YOUTH LEADER
SOUL CARE

Recall the story of the friendship between David and Jonathan and how Jonathan gave his entire birthright to David, and David became the next king of Israel instead of Jonathan (1 Samuel 18). As leaders in our churches, we have the opportunity to be Jonathans. We can lead generously, raising up other leaders and holding our positions loosely, with open hands, ready to give away our titles. As you spend a few minutes in worship, ask God to teach you the art of leading generously by molding your heart to look more like His heart.

Worship Song Pairing

“Form Us” (Discover Vineyard Worship /
Vineyard Worship)

STARTER

“Never Have I Ever...”

1. Have each student hold out five fingers.
2. Go around the room and have each person announce something that he/she has NEVER done, beginning the statement with the phrase, “Never have I ever...” For example, a student might say, “Never have I ever been to Europe.”

WORSHIP /// HOW DO WE WORSHIP? PT V

MAIN VERSE

3. For each statement that is said, all players drop a finger if they HAVE done that statement. So, if three other people have been to Europe, they must each put down a finger, leaving them with four fingers up. The goal is to stay in the game the longest!

“As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. Truly I tell you,” he said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.” Luke 21:1–4

POINT 1

THERE IS ONLY ROOM TO TRULY WORSHIP ONE THING IN YOUR LIFE.

DISCUSS

Over the last several weeks, we’ve talked about who we worship, why we worship, and how we worship, including what worship even is in the first place. We’ve talked about worship being complete devotion. We’ve also talked about the idea that worshipping the living God involves intimacy—a two-way relationship that goes to the deepest places in our hearts. What do you think happens if we try to worship God and fill-in-the-blank? Let’s say God and social media. We worship God on the weekends, but during the week our devotion is reserved for Instagram. How would that impact our worship? (Allow students to volunteer their responses.)

TEACH

The first commandment says, “You shall have no other gods before me” (Exodus 20:3). Now, we might not be intentionally worshipping other “gods” or things instead of worshipping the one, true, living God, so how does this apply to us today? Sometimes we can look closely at the areas in our lives where we’re

WORSHIP /// HOW DO WE WORSHIP? PT V

willing to be generous, as well as those areas where we're not willing to be generous, and see which things hold places of honor for us. It's easy to be generous with something we don't care about, right? But what about when it comes to something that's special to us? (Share a personal story about being generous—or not—with something that was important to you.) Worshipping God and God alone means that we hold loosely to everything else in our lives, trusting that He will provide for us, protect us, and bring us joy.

POINT 2

GENEROSITY IS NOT GIVING WHAT'S LEFT OVER, BUT GIVING IN A WAY THAT INVOLVES SACRIFICE.

DISCUSS

You've probably given your dog some leftover table scraps, but what if you gave your dog your own meal and YOU ate the scraps? Has someone ever given you something that involved sacrifice for him or her? Have you ever given in a way that involved sacrifice? (Allow the students to share their stories.)

TEACH

In the book of Luke, Jesus sees people at the temple giving money. The rich people give a lot compared to everyone else. But a poor widow comes up and gives two small copper coins that were probably almost worthless to the rich. So, if we were going to compare the amounts of money given, the widow would have given much less than anyone else. But the difference here is that she gives "ALL THAT SHE HAS TO LIVE ON." What does that mean? Does it mean she won't have a next meal? Even though the rich people gave a lot of money, it didn't require any kind of sacrifice for them. But this woman sacrifices everything to give to the Lord.

WORSHIP /// HOW DO WE WORSHIP? PT V

POINT 3

IF WE ASK, GOD WILL CHANGE OUR HEARTS ABOUT THE THINGS WE HAVE A HARD TIME BEING GENEROUS WITH.

DISCUSS

What are some things it's hard for us to be generous with? (Allow the students to volunteer their answers.)

TEACH

Sometimes it's hard to be generous. Sometimes it's hard to even WANT to be generous. But we can ask God to change our hearts to be more like His. Matthew 7:7-8 says, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." This passage does not mean that God is like a genie in a lamp, but it does tell us about God's character. It is a promise that God will give us good gifts if we want them. It might be hard for us to be generous with some of our things, or relationships, or time. But if we desire to be more like God in generosity, He will be faithful to change our hearts.

RESPONSE

You will probably have great ideas for response because you know your group. Our hope is that we can help you as much as possible, without getting in your way. Below are some response ideas - use what works and throw out the rest! Our main hope is that we will make this as experiential as possible for the teens.

WORSHIP /// HOW DO WE WORSHIP? PT V

WORSHIP SONG SUGGESTIONS

OPTION 1

"Form Us" (Discover Vineyard Worship / Vineyard Worship)

"Surrender" (Anchor Studio Sessions / Vineyard Worship)

"Have Your Way" (God You Are / Vineyard Worship)

OPTION 2

As your worship band plays, or as you turn on a worship song, invite the students to ask God to show them an area of their lives in which He would like them to be more generous. Lead them in inviting the Lord into that place and asking Him to change their hearts.

Break into small groups and pray for one another. Encourage students to share an area of their lives that they would like to invite God to grow their generosity.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- ① Is there something that you spend a lot of time or money on in your life? (This can be anything!)
- ② What value do you find in this thing that draws you to spend your time and money on it? What makes it important to you?
- ③ Let's spend some time asking the Lord to help us be generous with our time. Are we willing to trust Him with our time? What if we commit to spending time with Him, or with someone in need, even though we have other things to do?

NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL LIVING

WORSHIP /// WORSHIPPING TOGETHER PT I



BIG IDEA

YOUTH LEADER
SOUL CARE

When we worship together, we can choose to “show up.”

This week you'll be teaching and modeling “showing up” to your youth group. Spend a few minutes now in prayer and worship:

1. Prepare your heart. “My Lord and my God, to think that You would desire to meet, face to face with me, is beyond my imagination. I yield myself to the encounters with You that You have planned. In Jesus’ name I come to encounter You.”
2. Expect His presence. “Spirit of God, I want to be a ‘first responder’ when it comes to meeting with You in worship. Though I can’t see You, I want to touch Your heart with my own. Teach me how to respond to Your approach. In Jesus’ name, I pray.”
3. Express your worship. “Lord, I know that I have been given this body for a good reason, and that sometimes what I do with it affects the state of my heart. Show me ways I can begin to express my love for You, with physical postures that will influence my spiritual posture. In Jesus’ name, I come to worship You.”

WORSHIP /// WORSHIPPING TOGETHER PT I

4. As you worship, hold your hands out in a posture of receiving what God has brought for you.

Worship Song Pairings

"To Know You" (Let Your Kingdom Come/Anchor
Studio Sessions / Vineyard Worship)

"What Joy Is Found" (Full Attention / Jeremy Riddle)

STARTER

Who Am I?

1. Give everyone in the group a piece of paper and a pen. Ask them to write down their names and three facts about themselves. They should keep these hidden from the rest of the group and hand their papers to the leader when they finish.

2. Give everyone in the group a new piece of paper to write down their answers. The leader will read each paper's three facts and the students will write down the name of the student they think the facts belong to.

3. Go through the answers at the end!

MAIN VERSE

"Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy..." 1 Peter 1:8

This week we're going to do some hands-on practice in place of discussions. We have talked for the last several weeks about worship. This week we're going to practice some things we can do any time and any place to posture our hearts for worship. (All of these practice steps can be done in silence, with a worship album playing in the background, or with your worship band playing quietly.)

WORSHIP /// WORSHIPPING TOGETHER PT I

POINT 1

WE CAN PREPARE OUR HEARTS.

TEACH

We prepare our hearts and our posture in different ways depending on whom we're meeting. How do you prepare yourself to meet your friends at lunch? To go talk to the principal at your school? To confront someone who has wronged you? We can also prepare our hearts to meet with God. Psalm 42:2 says, "My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?" This suggests to us that our hearts, deep down, have always been and always do long for being in the presence of God, and we can be purposeful in turning our attention toward God. We can quiet our minds, which might mean closing our eyes in order to avoid distractions, and pay attention to God's invisible, loving presence.

PRACTICE

Let's try this for a few minutes right now. Have your group close their eyes and lead them in praying, "I want to know You, my God. It's hard for me to imagine that you would want to meet me face to face. I want that, too, and I am open to whatever You have planned." (You can pray this aloud while the students are silent, or you can have them repeat after you.) Wait a few minutes in silence while they encounter Jesus.

POINT 1

WE CAN PREPARE OUR HEARTS.

TEACH

Experiencing God is like noticing a quiet voice in a loud room. He is always speaking, but it takes being attentive to hear Him. When we worship, we can expect

WORSHIP /// WORSHIPPING TOGETHER PT I

PRACTICE

God to make Himself known to us, to speak to us, to touch our hearts. Sometimes this might come in the form of a feeling or a thought that gives us insight into something, or a sense of comfort or joy. The possibilities are endless. In 1 Peter 1:8, the apostle says, "Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy." At times, we are overwhelmed with an unexplainable sense of God's love and affection for us. This is God's presence!

Let's try this! Have your group close their eyes and lead them in praying, "Lord, I expect You to reveal Yourself to me, and I'll listen to my heart and mind for thoughts and feelings that line up with Your personality as revealed by Your Word. By faith, I'll believe that is Your presence revealed to me." (You can pray this aloud while the students are silent, or you can have them repeat after you.) Wait a few minutes in silence while they encounter Jesus. (Leader note: This kind of practice can open up areas of teens' lives that are not in line with God and, as a result, create a conflict within them. It will be particularly important to use discernment as students face off with these areas of their lives. Also, remember that we value an approach to God's presence that is respectful both of God and of those we are with. We want to avoid hype and other efforts to manipulate either God's presence or the response of others to His presence. Sometimes students will need our help navigating this.)

POINT 3

**WE CAN EXPRESS OUR WORSHIP
WITH OUR BODIES.**

WORSHIP /// WORSHIPPING TOGETHER PT I

TEACH

Have you ever wondered why people lift their voices to sing, raise their hands, bow down, or clap during worship? The Bible shows us over and over that we can physically express our worship as well as internally express it. Psalm 134:2 says, "Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the Lord." Sometimes these small physical actions can capture what we are feeling toward God and help us to be more open to experiencing Him.

PRACTICE

Let's try this! Have your group close their eyes and open their hands as though receiving a gift. Lead them in praying, "Lord, I know that I have been given this body for a good reason, and that sometimes what I do with it affects the state of my heart. Show me ways I can begin to express my love for You, with physical postures that will influence my spiritual posture. In Jesus' name, I come to worship You." (You can pray this aloud while the students are silent, or you can have them repeat after you.) Wait a few minutes in silence while they encounter Jesus!

RESPONSE

You will probably have great ideas for response because you know your group. Our hope is that we can help you as much as possible, without getting in your way. Below are some response ideas - use what works and throw out the rest! Our main hope is that we will make this as experiential as possible for the teens.

Since your group has spent this time practicing steps of "showing up" to worship, you might want to continue this posture by simply allowing the students to remain in worship.

WORSHIP /// WORSHIPPING TOGETHER PT I

WORSHIP SONG SUGGESTIONS

"Have Your Way" (God You Are / Vineyard Worship)

"Fall Afresh" (Furious / Jeremy Riddle)

"All for You Jesus" (Kyrie Eleison/ Vineyard Worship)

"All Things Rise" (Shine On Us / Vineyard Worship)

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- ① Describe your experience during worship this week. What was it like? Did you enjoy it? Was it something new for you?
- ② During the worship time at church, we practiced preparing our hearts and expecting God to show up. What are some other areas of our lives where we can expect God to show up? How can we prepare our hearts for this?
- ③ [As the group sits in a posture of receiving—eyes closed, hands open—read Psalm 138 aloud.] Let's spend a few minutes waiting on the lord and expecting Him to show up. As you listen to this psalm, focus on Jesus and expect to encounter Him!

NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL LIVING

WORSHIP /// WORSHIPPING TOGETHER PT II / WORSHIP SERVICE



BIG IDEA

**When we worship together,
God ALWAYS shows up!**

YOUTH LEADER
SOUL CARE

Choose two songs from previous weeks that have resonated with you. Spend the next several minutes with your eyes closed and in a physical posture of worship. You might open your hands, bow down, or raise your hands. Play the worship songs and expect God to show up!

STARTER

Paper Telephone

This game is a variation on the game "Telephone."

1. Pass out slips of paper to the students. Each person should have as many slips of paper as there are students in the group.
2. Have each student write down a crazy statement on the first sheet of paper. For example: "A clown riding a bicycle on a pepperoni moon." Make sure they don't say it out loud.
3. With the statement paper on top, the students should pass their entire stack of paper to the right. Now each person should have his or her neighbor's stack of paper.

4. After reading the top paper's statement (silently), have students put that slip of paper at the back of the stack and draw a picture of what they have just read.

5. Once everyone has drawn a picture, keep the drawings on the top of the stacks and have students pass their entire stack to the person to the right.

6. Now each person will look at the drawing on the top of the stack they have received, move it to the bottom of the stack, and write down their best guess as to what that drawing is supposed to be.

7. Pass the stack to the right. Continue passing the stacks and alternating between drawing and writing until the stacks make it back to their original author.

8. Allow students to share the evolution of their original statements!

MAIN VERSE

"Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. 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 95:1-7

REVIEW

Spend a few minutes recapping last week's lesson and practice steps.

RESPONSE

You will probably have great ideas for response because you know your group. Our hope is that we can help you as much as possible, without getting in your way. Below are some response ideas - use what works and throw out the rest! Our main hope is that we will make this as experiential as possible for the teens.

WORSHIP SONG SUGGESTIONS

As your worship band plays, or as you turn on a worship playlist, start the worship time by reading Psalm 95:1–7 aloud to your group. Use the rest of the time to worship together, making space for prayer and ministry as needed.

Choose songs from previous weeks that have resonated with your youth group.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- ① We have spent the last several weeks talking about worship. Do you feel like you have learned something new about worship? Do you see worship differently than you did before?
- ② Which part has been the most meaningful to you personally? Why?
- ③ What are some steps you plan to take in your own life as you grow in leading a life of worship?

WELCOME TO VINEYARD YOUTH CURRICULUM

Hello friends. What you hold in your hands is the product of lots of people, lots of prayer, and lots of purpose. The Vineyard movement is at a crucial place, and we believe that the work we do with students will have much influence on what the movement will look like over the next 10-20 years. We set out to design a curriculum that communicates and reinforces the biblical and kingdom values of the Vineyard while inviting students to embrace the reality that they are part of something bigger than themselves.

Understanding the diversity within the Vineyard movement, we purposefully designed curriculum that can be utilized by groups of differing sizes led by either paid or volunteer leaders in any geographical setting or location. Easy, right? We believe we accomplish this by offering a buffet of activities that allow you – the in-the-trenches leader – to choose what works for you and your group. We're pretty sure no one will use all of the material proposed, but we're confident some of it will be a good fit for your group.

Each lesson includes:

- Experiential, hands-on activities that reflect a variety of learning styles.
- Large group questions to frame a conversation (I.E., not a lecture).
- Application suggestions to reveal and experience the kingdom of God.
- Small group questions with age and gender specific items.
- A devotional for the leader to help them grow in this area.
- Planned activities to help students hear God for themselves.

Why Worship?

God is eager to be known and experienced by all. In response to God's initiative, we value the life-changing power of the experience of His presence. The primary place where that relationship is nurtured and developed is in the act of worship—both private and corporate. Our teens are constantly pulled in numerous cultural directions that are vying for their attention. In the midst of the fast-paced visual marketplace these students are growing up in, we want them to experience God in a way that flows out of a life of worship and affects all aspects of their lives, so that all division between the secular and the sacred vanish. Our prayer is that they experience intimacy with the Father in a way that changes them forever.

About Vineyard Worship

From the very beginning of the Vineyard movement, our value for intimate worship emerged from hearts hungry for God. This hunger remains the essence of worship in our movement. Vineyard Worship (the ministry) exists to gather, equip, inspire and impart this deep-rooted value for worship in our local churches. We desire to: **Gather** worship leaders, musicians, and songwriters to build community and care for one another. **Equip** our worship community with practical tools to broaden its local worship experience. And **Inspire** our worship community toward a deeper connection with Jesus. Learn more at <https://www.vineyardworship.com/>