

S E C T I O N I

Worships About God

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Create a Creature

Although humans can create many wonderful things, they can't create life. Only our amazing, creating God can design and shape living, breathing creatures.

Bible connection:

“God said, ‘Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals’ ” (Genesis 1:24, NIV). See also Psalm 104. We may be able to make model animals, but only God can make creatures that live and move and breathe.

THINGS YOU NEED:

- A generous supply of newspapers, junk, string, crepe paper, tissue, wire coat-hangers, clean yogurt cartons, tubes and boxes, etc.
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Sticky tape, paper clips, etc.

Worship activities:

1. Read the Bible verse. Ask what it might have been like for God to create so many different creatures that live, move, and eat in so many different ways.
2. Work together as a family to create a model of a completely new kind of bird or animal using your craft supplies and junk.
3. The creature must be able to move in some way, such as flap its wings or bend its legs when you pull some strings.
4. Make sure that everyone is involved in designing and making the creature.
5. Stop after 15 minutes and see how well your creation works.
6. Discuss what you will call your creature, where it will live, and what it will eat.
7. Compare your creature to a real animal. How good is your creation compared to God's creation? Isn't God amazing to create so many different creatures so perfectly?
8. If you were God, which animal would you have enjoyed making the most?

Prayer:

- Choose your favorite animals or birds. Praise or thank God for at least three of their special features. Thank God for the way He has made each of you so wonderfully too.

Other ideas:

- Make your own individual creatures, instead of working as a group.
- Draw plans and designs for your animals instead of making them.
- If you are at the beach, in a park, or in a forest, try making your creatures out of the natural materials lying around on the ground.

Filled With Wonder

What are the wonderful things that inspire you to praise God for His creation? Is it a rainbow, how we breathe, a newborn baby, a mountain, the sea, a butterfly, a patch of bluebells, a whale?

Bible connection:

Psalm 8 or Psalm 19. We are surrounded by thousands of wonderful details of God's incredible creation. Being filled with wonder increases our faith in God.

THINGS YOU NEED:

- A collection of interesting natural objects, such as flowers, seeds, a piece of wood, animal skin, stones, shells, bones, etc.
- Pictures of amazing landscapes and scenery from the Internet, old calendars, books, etc.
- Pencils and paper (optional)

Worship activities:

1. Read the Bible verses and talk about any moments of wonder you have experienced recently. Children often have a natural sense of wonder and curiosity. Remind them of a time when they watched an ant, a bee, or another creature.
2. Let each person choose one of the natural objects or pictures you have collected.
3. Allow two minutes for everyone to explore their object carefully and to notice everything wonderful about it. They can write down these details if they wish.
4. Then let everyone introduce their item of wonder to the rest of the family, describing its special characteristics and talking about how perfectly it has been created.
5. Talk about what fills each of you with wonder. Is it something beautiful, tiny, huge, dramatic, mysterious, or unexpected?

Prayer:

- Write a psalm of praise together. Use the wonderful objects you have explored to inspire your praise-psalm prayer.

Other ideas:

- Collect rugs, hot drinks, pillows, binoculars or telescopes, flashlights, and books about stars. Find a dark place where you can lie down and watch the stars with your children. Identify planets and constellations. Talk about the wonders of the universe and God's amazing creative power.
- Go on a wonder-wander. Give everyone a bag in which to collect three natural things that fill them with wonder. Be careful not to take items that will damage the environment. Afterward, "show and tell" your discoveries, describing why they are so amazing, and what they teach you about God.

Rainbow Praise

Whenever we see rainbows, we're reminded of the story of Noah and God's promise to us. Rainbows can also remind us of the beautiful rainbow of glory shining around God's throne.

Bible connection:

"A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne" (Revelation 4:3, NIV). God's glory shines in a whole spectrum of colors. Make a rainbow that praises His glory and love.

THINGS YOU NEED:

- Large sheets of white paper, pencil, and eraser
- Marker pens in rainbow colors

Worship activities:

1. Talk about rainbows. When did you last see a rainbow? What do rainbows mean to you? What do you like most about rainbows? Etc.
2. Draw seven concentric arcs on the white paper to create the outline of a rainbow. Use a variety of colored pens to write a rainbow of praise on the paper. Do this as an individual or group project.
3. Use the colors and praise categories listed below:
 - Red—praise God for saving you and forgiving you
 - Orange—thank God for providing for you
 - Yellow—praise God for healing people or for keeping you healthy
 - Green—praise God for His creations
 - Blue—thank God for preparing a future in heaven for you
 - Purple—praise God for His love
 - Violet—write a verse from the Bible that praises God

Prayer:

- Read what you've written on your praise rainbows.
- Or make seven cards, colored according to the list above. Write each of the different praise categories on them and put them in a bag. Take turns drawing a card from the bag and praying a sentence prayer for the praise category that has been selected.

Other ideas:

- Use colored paper to make rainbow collages, bunting flags, or paper chains. Write praises on them according to the colors listed above.
- Staple sheets of different colored paper together to make a book of rainbow-colored pages. Let younger children write, draw, or stick pictures of some things they want to thank God for that are the same colors as the pages.
- Make a rainbow fruit platter together, arranging different-colored fruits in rows. Thank God for all the fruits. Praise God, using the categories listed above, as you eat through the delicious layers.

An Advertisement for God

Today we are surrounded by advertising for all kinds of things. Some of the advertisements are clever, interesting, or artistic. How would you design an attractive advertisement for God?

Bible connection:

“No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us” (1 John 4:12, NIV). How can our lives be advertisements for God’s love?

THINGS YOU NEED:

- Large sheets of paper as big as you can find
- Thick marker pens, tape, and scissors
- Pencils, erasers, and scrap paper for working out designs
- An assortment of magazines with examples of advertisements

Worship activities:

1. Read the Bible verse.
2. Give everyone a magazine and allow one minute for them to find their favorite advertisements.
3. Show the ads you have chosen and tell why you liked them.
4. Discuss how different ads appeal to different people. Look at how the colors, words, and pictures have been used to attract your attention.
5. Talk about how you could design an ad for God’s love. Whom do you want to appeal to? What are their greatest needs? What would attract their attention?
6. Then ask each person to design an ad for God’s love. They can cut pictures and words from magazines if they wish.
7. When everyone has finished, showcase your designs. Look at the different ways each of you have advertised God’s love.
8. Then ask how you can be advertisements for Jesus. What can each of you do and say to be a living, walking, talking, smiling advertisement for God’s love?

Prayer:

- Pray that you’ll be good advertisements for God’s love. Ask God to show you how to share His love with the people in your home, neighborhood, school, workplace, and community.
- Make a prayer poster, cutting words and pictures from magazines and arranging them in an attractive collage.

Other ideas:

- Older children might like to design an advertisement using a computer
- Christian T-shirt companies often have clever designs and thought-provoking slogans. Maybe you could turn one of your ads into a wearable T-shirt design?

Being Still With God

Our lives can be incredibly busy. Take time out to be quiet and to feel how refreshing it is to be still, to listen to God, to pray, and to think about His love.

Bible connection:

“Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10, NIV). When we stop and sit quietly for a while, God can have our full attention.

THINGS YOU NEED:

- A quiet corner or room with a soft rug and comfy pillows and chairs
- Soft, instrumental worship music and a CD player
- Safe candles, battery-operated lanterns, or Christmas lights
- Anything that will transform your room into a tranquil place

Worship activities:

1. Our lives are often very busy and noisy. It can be hard to find the time and space to be quiet and still for a while. But spending time being quiet with God, listening to His love and hopes for us, and thinking inspiring thoughts can be both comforting and energizing.
2. Make your peaceful space as inviting and lovely as possible.
3. Read the Bible verse and talk for a few moments about what it means to be still with God and to imagine He is right there in the room. Explain that you will do this just for a few moments, because being quiet and still can feel quite strange when you're not used to it.
4. Pray that God will make Himself known to each of you in the stillness.
5. Ask everyone to think about how much God loves them or to imagine that He is giving them a big hug or that they are sitting on His lap. Imagine what He most wants to say to each of you today.
6. Print out the children's version of “The Father's Love Letter” and give it to one of your children to read during the stillness. <http://www.fathersloveletter.com/kids/>.
7. After you have been quiet for a while, ask your children how it felt to be still and experience God. What did they think about? What did they learn about God or themselves? What new ideas did they have about God's love for them?

Prayer:

- Thank God for what each of you experienced in the stillness. Thank Him for the time and space to calm down and listen to Him. Thank Him for His loving care for each one of you.
- Or pray silent prayers for a short time, followed by a family hug.

Other ideas:

- Find an outdoor place to be quiet together: in a forest, by a lake, in a quiet corner of the park, in your yard, etc.
- Try having five to ten minutes of quiet time in your family as often as you can. Read one verse or a short Bible story, to focus your thoughts on God, before having some quiet time together.

Searching for God

As followers of God, we need to keep looking for Him, learning about Him, and discovering what He wants us to do for Him.

Bible connection:

“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:13, NIV). Just like children playing hide-and-seek, God wants us to search for Him and He wants us to find Him. As we search for Him, we will discover more about Him, and we will come to love Him more.

THINGS YOU NEED:

- 10 envelopes
- Paper, marker pens, scissors, and one sheet of the paper cut into 10 slips
- A large red heart of cardstock or paper cut into 10 pieces, like a jigsaw puzzle
- Sheets of paper or cardstock, one of them as big as the heart
- Adhesive

Worship activities:

1. Prepare for worship by writing a Bible reference about God on each of the 10 slips of paper. Put one slip and one piece of heart jigsaw into each envelope. Hide the envelopes around your family worship room.
2. You might choose from these verses: Psalm 23:1; Psalm 139:7–12; Psalm 103:1–5; Psalm 103:8–12; Psalm 103:13–18; Psalm 145:3–5; Psalm 145:15, 16; Psalm 145:17–20; Isaiah 6:2, 3; Isaiah 30:18, etc. Or use your own favorite verses about God’s love, kindness, forgiveness, glory, etc.
3. Read Jeremiah 29:13. Talk about what it means to seek God when we can’t see Him. How do we search for God, and why do we need to search for God? What difference does searching for God make to our lives?
4. Then send your children on a search to find all the envelopes.
5. Open the envelopes together and help your children look up the verses and read them. Write what you learn about God from each of the verses on the separate jigsaw pieces.
6. Then make the jigsaw together, pasting the finished jigsaw onto a sheet of paper or cardstock to make a heart covered with descriptions of God.

Prayer:

- Draw two hearts, one inside the other, on sheets of cardstock or heavy paper, to make a heart-shaped frame. Draw a frame like this for each person. To avoid rips, cut out the frames after you’ve written on them.
- Write prayers between the lines of the heart frames, asking God to help you search for Him and find Him. Then cut out the frames. Look through the heart shapes as a reminder to search for God’s love.

Another idea:

- Beside one of the envelopes, hide a gift, such as a small book, that will encourage your children to seek God in some way.

The Light of the World

Jesus is the Light of the world. He came into our dark world to light up God's character and to show us a safe pathway to heaven.

Bible connection:

"When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life'" (John 8:12, NIV).

THINGS YOU NEED:

- A collection of different kinds of lights, or make a list of the different lights around the home
- Paper, pencils, white adhesive labels, and pens
- A solar-powered object, or a candle and a hand mirror
- Tealight candles and a dish, or battery-operated tealights

Worship activities:

1. Read the Bible verse and talk about Jesus being the Light of the world. We often think of Jesus being a light in the darkness—but many kinds of lights can help us understand more about Jesus.
2. Look at the collection of lights you have found, or go on a light hunt around your house. Look for power lights, standby lights, warning lights, nightlights, table lights, candles, flashlights, security lights, emergency lights, etc.
3. Think about lights outside—car lights, street lights, traffic lights, lights on emergency vehicles, spotlights, illuminated signs, lighthouses, etc.
4. List the various lights you've found and what they can teach you about Jesus. He lights up our life. He shows us the way; keeps us safe; warns us; takes away our fear; helps us know when to stop, wait, and go; makes our lives beautiful; helps us to avoid dangers, etc.
5. Show how a solar-powered object works. Talk about how we can be solar-powered by letting Jesus' light shine on our lives or how we can be like mirrors behind candles, reflecting His light into a dark world.

Prayer:

- Give each person a tealight candle and a sticky label. Cut the labels so they will fit around the tea-lights.
- Ask each person to write on their labels how they would like to reflect God's love in the world. Stick the labels around the tea-lights.
- Place your tealights in a safe dish, light them, and pray together.

Other ideas:

- Give each person a sheet of tracing paper and a permanent marker pen. Cut the paper to wrap around a glass candle lantern or jar, with a small overlap for sticking the edges together.
- Write "Jesus is the Light of the world because . . ." and then write your ideas on the paper in an attractive way. Wrap the papers around the lanterns, stick the edges together, and light candles inside them.

God's Hats

God has lots of different jobs to do. But there's one He likes the best ...

Bible connection:

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" (1 John 3:1, NIV). God loves being our Father.

THINGS YOU NEED:

- Lots of different hats, or pictures of hats, illustrating some of God's roles:
- A firefighter's hat—we can call on God in emergencies
- A policeman's hat—He keeps us safe and shows us the way to go
- An old-fashioned hat—God has always been there, and He never goes out of fashion
- A construction worker's helmet—God is preparing a place for us in heaven
- A judge's wig—God is the most merciful Judge ever!
- A Santa Claus hat—God is much, much better than Santa! He gives us good gifts, whether we deserve them or not, every day of the year!
- A foreign hat—God cares for everyone all over the world
- A crown—God is our King
- A crazy hat/headdress—some people think God is crazy—but He is the wisest person ever
- A hat that your children know as "Dad's hat"—hide this until you need it

Worship activities:

1. Show your children the different hats you've collected.
2. Talk about the different "hats" you wear as parents and the various responsibilities you have, besides being a mom or dad.
3. Look at each hat in turn and talk about God's work as a builder, a firefighter, a merciful judge, etc.
4. Now show the "Dad's hat." Ask your children how it reminds you of God's special work, the work He enjoys the most.
5. Read the Bible verse and think about what it means to be children of God. Talk about the special ways God has lavished His love on you in the past week.

Prayer:

- Pick up each hat in turn and thank God for doing the role that it represents.
- Pray the Lord's Prayer together. Make up actions to accompany the phrases, to add a fresh dimension to this familiar prayer.

Other ideas:

- Make a Father's Day card for God, thanking Him for lavishing His love on you.
- Ask your children to imagine they could spend a day with God as a loving Father. Invite them to draw pictures or write a schedule of how they would like to spend their time with Him.

God's Love Wreath

God is love, and His love has many wonderful dimensions. Make a wreath together to celebrate the different aspects of His love.

Bible connection:

1 Corinthians 13:4–8. This passage describes some of the many practical ways in which God loves us. Look up other verses about God's love too.

THINGS YOU NEED:

- 1 sheet of cardstock at least 12 inches (30 cm) square or cut cardboard from a large box
- Two plates of different diameters to help you draw a ring/wreath in which the band is at least 2 inches (5 cm) wide and the diameter of the outer circle is about 12 inches (30cm)
- Various colored papers, crepe paper, scrapbook paper, etc.
- Marker pens, scissors, and pencils
- Glue stick or double-sided tape
- Heart-shaped templates

Worship activities:

1. Use the two plates to draw two concentric circles on the cardstock. Cut out the center of the circle and around the edge of the widest circle so that you are left with a flat ring of cardstock. Cover the ring with attractive paper; or wrap strips of crepe paper around it. Cut neat heart shapes out of the colored paper scraps, varying the colors, sizes, and shapes of the hearts.
2. Read the Bible passage and make a list of all the ways God shows His love to us. Add other thoughts and ideas about God's love that aren't found in these verses.
3. Give each person a few paper hearts and ask them to write a Bible verse about God's love on their hearts or to write a description of God's love ("God's love is patient"), etc.
4. Roll just the edges of the hearts gently around a pencil so that they curl like petals, to add some dimension to the hearts.
5. Arrange the hearts around the wreath so that all the descriptions of God's love can be read. Fill any gaps on the wreath with small cut-out hearts or other attractive craft supplies.
6. Hang the heart-wreath where everyone can see it to remind them of God's wonderful love.

Prayer:

- Give each person a sheet of attractive paper or a blank greeting card. Invite them to write a love letter to God, as a prayer, and to thank God for all the wonderful ways in which He loves us.

Another idea:

- Make a heart wreath filled with Bible promises and give it to someone who needs encouraging or cheering up.

Our Invisible Friend

When Jesus left His friends on earth, He promised to send them the Holy Spirit, who could be with all of them, all the time, wherever they were.

Bible connection:

John 16:12–15. The Holy Spirit guides us, inspires us, comforts us, teaches us, and gives us special gifts.

THINGS YOU NEED:

- Drinking straws
- 2 or 3 cotton balls, balls of rolled up tissue, or ping pong balls for each person
- Various objects that illustrate the work of the Holy Spirit, labeled with Bible verses: a comforting blanket or hot-water bottle (Comforter—John 14:16); a picture of a dove (Peace-Bringer—Matthew 3:16,17); a compass, remote-controlled toy, or GPS system (Guide—John 16:3); gift bag (Gift-Giver—1 Corinthians 12:1–11); tool box or apron (Helper—John 14:16, 17, 26); batteries or electric extension cable (Power source—Acts 1:8)
- A few large, strong balloons
- Permanent marker pens

Worship activities:

1. Place all the balls on a smooth, shiny floor. Give everyone a straw. See how quickly your family can use the straws to blow the cotton balls from one end of the room to the other.
2. Talk about how hard it is to control the balls, even when you're trying to blow them in a straight line. How is your breath like the Holy Spirit? He is trying to guide us, but it's not always easy, because we often wander off in random directions.
3. When Jesus was on Earth, He could only be in one place at a time. When He left Earth, He sent the Holy Spirit so that He could be everywhere.
4. The Holy Spirit has lots of special jobs. Give each person an object and a Bible verse to look up. Then share what you've learned about the Holy Spirit's work from the Bible verses and the objects.
5. How is the Holy Spirit working in the lives of your family members? Tell each other about the times when you have seen the Holy Spirit at work in their lives.

Prayer:

- Give a flat balloon to each person. Our lives are like flat balloons until we're filled with the Holy Spirit. Blow up the balloons. How are they different from the flat balloons? Using permanent markers, write prayers on the inflated balloons. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you and transform your lives.

Another idea:

- Send your children on a treasure hunt around your home using your cell phones (mobile phones). Give your children a phone and talk to them, or message them, guiding them to a treasure or to you. Discuss the importance of listening carefully to the Holy Spirit's instructions.