

LOOKING UP [w o r s h i p]

THIS WEEK

Some high schoolers don't understand the importance and meaning of worship. Some think it's just a boring meeting that their parents force them to attend. Others don't think it applies to them at all. This TalkSheet provides the opportunity to discuss your church worship service and to encourage your youth group to take their worship service more seriously.

OPEN

You may want to start with a role-play situation like this—

Anna keeps hearing some kids at school talk about their church services. Anna isn't a Christian and doesn't understand what they're talking about—or why they're excited about it. So she finally asks one of them what church is all about and why they go to worship services. How would your kids respond to the following questions in this circumstance?

- Why do they go to church?
- What's good (or not) about it?
- Does going to church mean that you are a Christian?
- Will your kids ask Anna to go with them sometime?
- Do they ever face situations like this at their school?

THE DISCUSSION, BY NUMBERS

1. Ask everyone to explain why they chose the words they did. Don't put down or argue any of those that are negative comments—everyone may have a different opinion.
2. Make a list of all the ingredients of a worship service and ask which they think is most important (it might be helpful to provide copies of your church's bulletin for their reference). Discuss the reasons for each different part in the order of worship.
3. What parts of the service does the group not like? Point out that some parts might indeed be boring, but this doesn't necessarily make them unacceptable or without purpose. Encourage them to take their comments or suggestions to the pastor or the church's worship committee.
4. This exercise focuses on the different aspects of worship and the service itself. Let them debate the statements that are controversial. You may want to add that there are many ways to worship God. For example, people can worship God, obey him, and do his will, but that doesn't mean they shouldn't go to church.

5. What insights have they gained from reading these Bible verses?

THE CLOSE

What are your kids' views of worship? Why is worship important? Consider these ideas—

- Worship is a verb, not a noun. It isn't something they attend in order to be entertained. Instead, it is something they do. They worship God. The worship service helps us do that.
- The worship service brings everyone in the church together, both young and old, which is important. The church is people, the community of God, and it is important for the church to have that common experience together. Corporate worship (worship with others) is one way they acknowledge the church is the body of Christ and how much they need each other.
- Worship is for God, not for us. The question to ask after a worship service is not "Did I like it?" but "Did God like it?" and "Did I do my best for him?"

MORE

- Get involved! Plan a worship service with your youth group. Let them choose the theme, pick and lead the songs, or plan and perform a skit. Give them some freedom to be creative and different. Have them meet with the senior pastor or worship leader, who can give them some direction if needed.
- And encourage your kids to get involved in different parts of the morning service, such as scripture reading, ushering, offering, greeting, and so on. They are an invaluable part of the church! You may want or need to work with your planning committee to get your youth involved in the services.
- There are several praise and worship rallies and retreats for youth of all ages. One of includes DCLA—Youth For Christ (www.yfc.org). These mass events give kids a chance to learn and worship with others their age. They often include big name Christian artists and speakers that give a new light to worship and praising the King. You can find more information on these events and links at www.YouthSpecialties.com.