

Date Used: _____

Group: _____

LOOKING UP

Topic: Worship

Purpose of this Session:

Junior high students rarely understand the meaning of worship. They often consider it a boring meeting their parents force them to attend. This TalkSheet provides the opportunity to discuss your church worship service and to encourage your youth group to take their worship service more seriously.

To Introduce the Topic:

Before beginning a discussion using the TalkSheet, conduct a short worship service with your group. Have each division of the service take place in a different room, so you can more easily show the distinctions between the different elements of worship. Include a time of fellowship, singing, prayer, scripture reading, teaching, and offering.

The Discussion:

Item #1: Draw a duplicate of the TalkSheet line on the board and have each student place an X on the line. An alternative would be to draw a chalk line on the floor, from wall to wall. Against one wall is "Always boring", against the other is "Never boring". Have the students stand where they placed their X.

Item #2: Ask the students to share their sentences. (Note: You might wish to show these sentences to your church's worship planning committee. If the students know this in advance, they might come up with more thoughtful responses.) Let them talk about the parts of the service they do not like. Point out some things will be boring but this does not make them bad.

Item #3: Ask the students to share their views on this item and to explain their choices. Ask "What part of our worship service do you enjoy the most? Which part do you think we could do without?"

Item #4: These statements focus on different aspects of worship and the worship service. Let the students debate those in which there is not total agreement. Save your comments for the conclusion.

Item #5: Ask the students to read the way they matched up the verses with the statements. Ask them to share any new insights they might have gained from reading the scriptures on worship.

To Close the Session:

Take this opportunity to present your views on worship and to help your students understand why worship is important. Some ideas: (1) Discuss the concept that worship is a verb, not a noun. It is not something we attend in order to be entertained. Instead, it is something we do. We *worship* God. The worship service helps us do that. (2) 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 we acknowledge the church is the body of Christ and how much we need each other. (3) 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?"

Close by sharing praise and prayer requests to God.

Outside Activities:

1. Your youth group can plan a worship service. They should be given the freedom to be creative and different. Have them meet with the pastor and congregation members to discuss their ideas.
2. Have volunteers participate in different parts of the morning service, such as scripture reading, ushering, offering, greeting, etc.
3. Ask the pastor or the chairman of the worship committee to come to the youth group meeting and answer questions from the group about your church's worship style.