

HEART TO GOD

Learning outcomes

Having earned this badge members will:

- be able to define worship and why we should worship God only;
- describe various forms of worship including the use of creative arts and the spoken word;
- participate in worship at a church parade/church;
- reflect on how their attitude and behaviour during worship reflects true worship;
- create and help to lead a meaningful worship experience.

Badge Requirements

1. Know what worship is and why God is the only person truly worthy of our worship.
2. Create a list of various activities that can be used as part of worship.
3. Create an item to help or enhance worship.
4. Participate in corporate worship:
 - a. by participating in a worship activity set out in **Badge requirement 2**;
 - b. by considering how your attitude and behaviour express worship.

Consider starting this badge near an upcoming Church Parade so that members can complete requirements 3 and/or 4 during the Church Parade.





TEACHING IDEAS



1. Know what worship is and why God is the only person truly worthy of our worship.

Ask members to bring an item to represent something or someone they enjoy or admire or follow, someone/something they are a 'fan' of, e.g. a pop idol, movie star, a particular sport or sports person. Members could come dressed accordingly, e.g. in football jersey, team colours or as a celebrity.

Alternatively (or as well as) provide arts and craft materials for members to create a representation of something or someone they admire. These creations could be displayed in the room for the duration of the badge.

Encourage members to talk about what they like about the object or person. Help them to understand that their adoration and/or dedication to a team, celebrity or other interest is a form of worship. We worship a person, object or thing when we think or talk about it a lot.

Members might have read or know about some of the issues that celebrities face. Whilst they appear to live glamorous lives, many celebrities are lonely and have their own problems, e.g. drug or alcohol abuse. Allow members to discuss this.

Cut up **Leader's Resource 1** and display the pieces around the room. Invite members to read each one to help them think about what worship is.

Create a graffiti wall using butcher's paper or cardboard (with brick print if you like) and felt pens, chalk or other materials. Members write words that mean or describe worship, e.g. greatness, awesome, love, devotion;

Or

Create a poster featuring 'fallen heroes' to cause members to think about whom they worship, their faults and weaknesses and their worthiness to be worshipped.

Discuss what is good and bad about worshipping things and people. Help members to see that humans let us down – regardless of how great we think they are, they have failings and weaknesses just as we do; and non-living things (like a possession, e.g. a car) break down, rot, can be destroyed.

Explain that only God is truly worthy of our worship. Ask members to consider why this is. **Handout 1** may be used.

Worship is about honouring God above everything and everyone else. Worship is declaring our love and adoration for God, that He is central in our priorities – that God is the most important part of our life and we show that by attending worship events and by living to please God and doing what He says.

Worship is more than an event, i.e. it is not simply a Sunday morning gathering of believers. We should worship God every day. Our whole life should be focused on God, thinking about Him, loving Him, interested in the things that interest Him in the same way that we are interested in our team's place in the competition or our favourite singer's latest recording.

Teaching ideas



2. Create a list of various activities that can be used as part of worship.

This could be done individually or as a group. It is important to help members understand that worship is more than music or singing songs. Though music is a powerful worship 'tool', it is not the only tool.

Here are some other worship tools that members might suggest, though in general anything that helps us to focus on God is a worship activity or tool: prayer, reading the Bible and/or listening to it being read, drama, art (e.g. stained-glass windows and banners are a worship art form), speaking a personal testimony or listening to someone share their experience of God, listening to a Bible message or giving it, giving money, talking about God – particularly with other Christians, appreciating nature, singing (corporate, small group or solo), dance, playing a musical instrument, listening to God-focussed music, meditation.

Posture may also help us to worship God. For example, standing to sing, kneeling to pray, hands together during prayer sometimes help us to focus on God and/or express our esteem and reverence for God.

Worship is an attitude relating to what we are doing at the time. We worship God by our behaviour at school, work and play. That which extols God is worship. If people see Christianity through the way we approach life then we are worshipping God.

This could lead to an exciting opportunity to discuss attitudes, responsibility and reactions to circumstances. The way we manage ourselves not only worships God but also draws respect for Him from the community.



3. Create an item to help or enhance worship.

Use your imagination, and that of your members, to create or build something that could be used in worship. This should be an original creation and not something prepared by someone else, e.g. a script from a published book is not acceptable. However a dance or timbrel item may use pre-recorded music as it is the movement that will be original.

Some examples include an art work, banner, a drama script, song, poem or dance, or make an item to use in worship or to distribute (e.g. wooden crosses, leather bookmarks).

Your group's creation could be used or presented during a Church Parade.





Teaching ideas

4. Participate in corporate worship:

- a. by participating in a worship activity from Badge requirement 2;
- b. by considering how your attitude and behaviour expresses worship.

This could be a Church Parade or other worship experience.

Note: This requirement is in **addition** to the Christian worship activity required for each Star Award. Simply attending a worship event does not meet the requirement; members must actively participate either individually or in a SAGALA group of any size. Members are required to participate as SAGALA members and so participation in regular church choral groups (e.g. Songster Brigades) or musical ensembles (e.g. brass bands) may **not** be credited toward this requirement.

- a. **11–13s** must participate in a worship activity of substance. The minimum level of participation would include collecting the offering and offering prayer, reading a short Bible passage (between 5 – 10 verses), participate in a group performance, e.g. song, drama.

14+ must participate in at least 3 worship activities. This may include those activities listed above for 11–13s, however these older members should be encouraged to greater participation, e.g. perform a drama, song or dance, sharing personal testimony, present a Bible reading in a creative manner, give a short Bible talk, share a personal experience where they encountered God or believed they worshipped God.

- b. Invite a member of the congregation to briefly share their attitude to corporate worship. Either this guest or another could describe how they think their behaviour may impact others, and how the behaviour of other people impacts their worship.

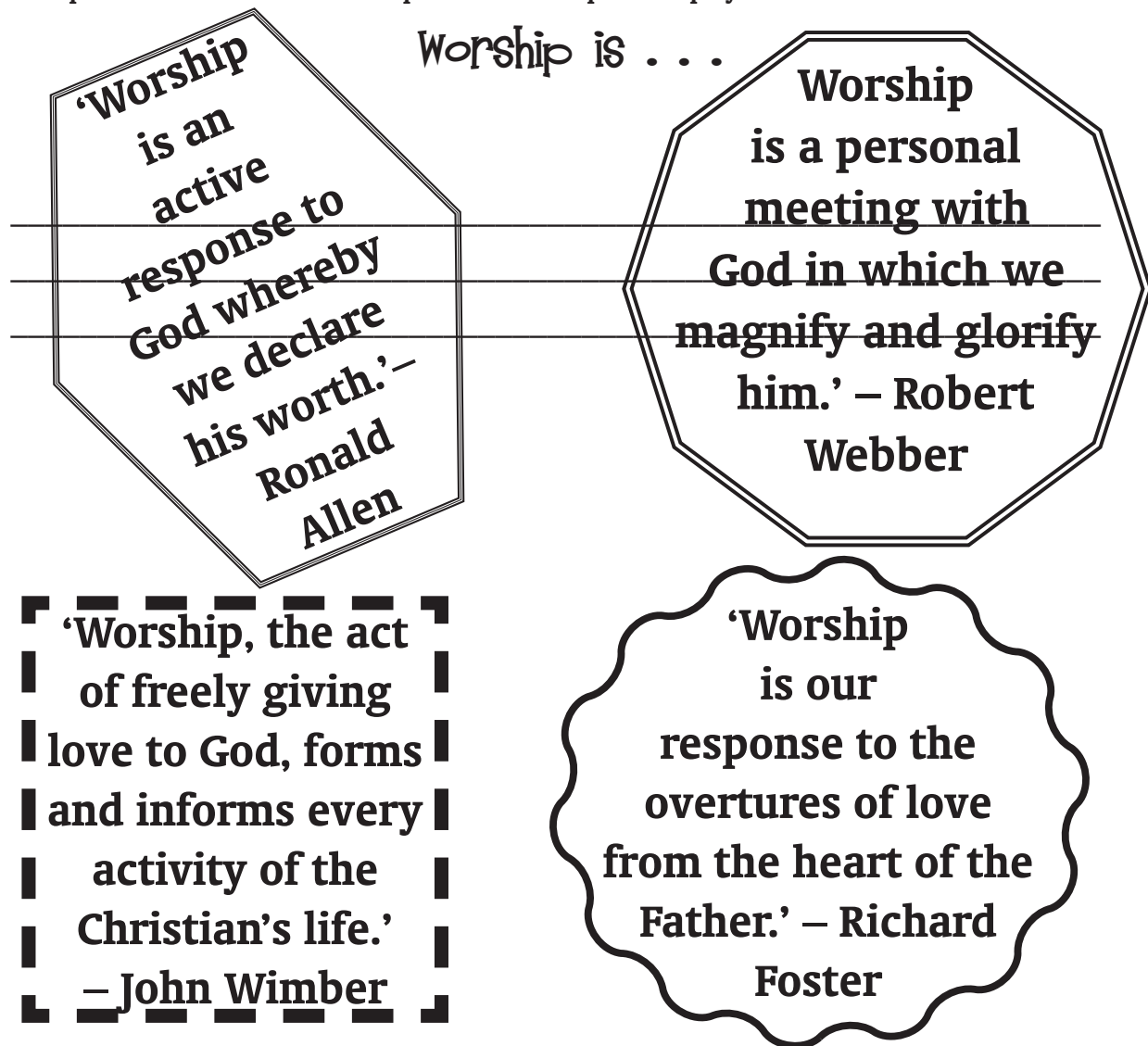
Handout 2 can be used to find Bible verses that identify attitudes of worship. (*Missing word answers: reverence, Be still, Spirit and truth*).

Another idea is to listen to a selection of worship music – loud, soft, fast, slow, modern or traditional. Consider creating a musical montage of different songs.

- Introduce musical or percussion instruments, e.g. party blowers, drums. Allow members to play along to and move with appropriate worship music. Help members to understand when it is appropriate to play such instruments during worship and when it would not be appropriate, e.g. during prayer.
- Members could also consider the ‘mood’ of the song and how each song could be used in worship, that is the song’s purpose, e.g. to create an atmosphere of prayer, to praise God, to respond to God.
- Providing members with the words of the songs and invite members to highlight words that speak to them personally, or that describe God, or that describe how they feel about God. Words or phrases they don’t understand could be used as discussion starters. Ask members to think about the mood each type of music creates, e.g. bright, cheerful, prayerful, respectful, thoughtful.

Leader's Resource 1

Cut up these definitions and descriptions of worship and display around the room.



Leader's Resource 1 (contd)

**'When we
worship, we pause to
encounter God, we humbly bow and
express our love for Him. We find ourselves
focused on God, drowning in the delight of simply
being in His presence. It's an experience of intimate
communion with God in which we may be startled by
His holiness, awestruck by His transcendence and His
complete otherness. As we draw closer to God in
worship, we may be silenced by His majesty and,
yet somehow, emboldened by the assurance
of His love toward us.' – Jim Thomas**

**Psalm 150:3 - 5
Praise him with trumpet
sound; praise Him with
lute and harp!
Praise Him with
tambourine and dance;
praise Him with strings
and pipe! Praise Him
with sounding cymbals;
praise Him with loud
clashing cymbals!**

**'Worship
is God's
enjoyment of us
and our enjoyment of
Him (see Psalm 149:2 - 4).
Worship is first and foremost
for God's benefit, not ours,
though it is marvellous to
discover that in giving Him
pleasure, we ourselves enter
into what can become
our richest and most
wholesome experience
in life.' – Graham
Kendrick**

Handout 1 - Guards/Rangers

WHY GOD IS WORTHY OF OUR WORSHIP

What did God do that might give us reason for worshipping Him? **Genesis 1:27 (CEV)**

What characteristics of God are found in these verses?
Highlight or underline them.

- **Psalm 33:4.** The LORD is truthful; He can be trusted.
- **Leviticus 19:2.** 'to say to the community of Israel: I am the Lord your God. I am holy, and you must be holy too!'
- **1 Chronicles 16:34.** Praise the LORD because He is good to us, and His love never fails.
- **Job 12:13.** But God is the real source of wisdom and strength.
- **Psalm 103:2,3.** With all my heart I praise the LORD! I will never forget how kind He has been. The Lord forgives our sins, heals us when we are sick.

14+ are also to read **Matthew 6:27 - 30.**

What reason is given in these verses for worshipping God?

Handout 2 - Guards/Rangers

HOW WE SHOULD WORSHIP GOD

Find the following Bible verses and identify the attitude of worship.

Psalm 5:7 (NIV)

According to this verse how should we approach God?

In r _ _ _ r _ _ _ _.

Discuss what you think this word means and how you can show it when you worship God.

Psalm 46:10 (NIV)

How else are we to approach God? B _ _ s _ _ _ _

How does this apply to you during worship?

Exodus 3:5

This verse is taken from Moses' meeting with God. What did God direct Moses to do and why do you think God made the request?

What would be an equivalent today?

John 4:23 - 24 (NIV)

There are two important words in this verse that are repeated. What are they?

S _ _ _ _ _ and _ _ _ t _

How do these two words relate to worship? How can they help us to worship God?
