THE WAY OF JESUS

Memory Verse: **“So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19**
Weekly Big Idea: **Why do we worship God together as a church?**
(Answer) Jesus Connection: **We gather together for the purpose of praising God.**
Bible Story Scripture**: Living as the Church | Colossians 3:14-17**

SERIES OVERVIEW

Hey Y’all! Welcome to KXP! This month, we have so much more to learn in our series called **The Way of Jesus**. We have been looking closely at the life of Jesus. We know that Jesus is the One and Only Son of God. Jesus lived His life in a way that kept Him close and connected to His Father. Jesus knew God’s Words that had been given to His people. Jesus prayed to God all the time and shared His hopes and struggles. Jesus rested His body and His mind when He needed to. He trusted His Good Father and traded any worries for God’s peace. Jesus is our example to follow in every way.

Let’s take a look at our new memory verse – *(read slowly)* ***“So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19***
We really want to practice this new verse so that we can put God’s Word in our hearts and minds and allow the Holy Spirit to use it when we need it.

LESSON INTRODUCTION

We will keep asking questions this month as our Big Ideas. Today we want to answer the question - **Why do we worship God together as a church?**

So, first things first - what do you say ***“the church”*** is?
(Show real-life photos as examples and ask the kids if each is a picture of God’s church: a church building, a group of people singing/worshipping, people praying together, a few folks reading their Bibles, people sharing a meal or serving together)
All of these pictures show what it means to be the Church. God’s Church is people coming together who believe in Jesus and all that He has done for us. It’s believers praising God through singing and music. The Church is people praying together in hard times and celebrating with joy too. It’s reading and learning God’s Word together in peoples’ homes. The Church is believers helping and loving other people in need. The people who follow after Jesus and His ways are the Church!
In the Book of Ephesians in the New Testament, we see Paul praying for one of the first churches of that time. Paul was praying for the believers in Ephesus. He was thankful for their faith in Jesus Christ and their love for all of God’s people. Does that early church sound a lot like our church today? People believing in Jesus, following His ways, and loving others? Sounds like God’s Church to me!
Do you think when God’s Church comes together to pray, learn, serve, love, and sing that we are worshipping God through our actions? YES! Everything we do that honors God is worship.

Let’s look in the New Testament to see how the Apostle Paul encouraged believers in the early churches.

Living as the Church | Colossians 3:14-17

During the presentation of Scripture, use a physical Bible, when possible, to model exploring God's Word together.

Paul was a man who lived after Jesus died and rose from the grave. Paul was a man who once treated Christians very badly. We have learned that Paul had a Heavenly encounter and turned from his mean ways. He believed in Jesus with his whole heart and wanted everyone to know it. Paul became a missionary who traveled to many places teaching and sharing the Good News about Jesus with all who would listen. The mission was important to Paul because it was important to Jesus. Paul saw many people come together as believers in Jesus and form the first churches. Paul was following Jesus' example, words, commands.

Paul was a faith-encourager! When Paul would talk to believers about their new life in Christ, he shared how other people would know they were different/changed by God's Spirit. Paul told the believers that they would be known by how they love each other.

In Colossians chapter 3 verses 14 and 15, Paul says "Love is what holds you all together in perfect unity. Let the peace that Christ gives control your thinking. You were all called together in one body to have peace."

As God's Church, we are to love each other by serving and helping each other. What are some ways that you can show God's love through serving and helping? *(Pause to allow kids to respond.)* And that is worshipping God!

Paul continues encouraging the Church in verse 16 "Let the teaching of Christ live in you richly. Use all wisdom to teach and strengthen each other."

When we value the truth of God's Word and teach it to others, we are worshipping God! The message we hear in the big room on Sunday mornings, the message we talk through together in House Church, and our lessons here in KXP all teach us about who God is and who Jesus is.

Let's get back to our scripture and read what else Paul told the early church. ***Verse 16 finishes with "Sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God."***

A psalm is a type of poem. Hymns and spiritual songs are about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Paul lets us know that when we sing to God with gladness and thankfulness in our hearts, we are worshipping God! Where do you see believers worshipping in this way? *(Pause to allow kids to respond.)*

Paul ends with verse 17 saying "Everything you say and everything you do should all be done for Jesus your Lord. And in all you do, give thanks to God the father through Jesus."

LESSON CONCLUSION

As God's Church, we can worship Him by loving each other, serving and helping each other, teaching the truth of God's Word, and singing songs of gladness and thankfulness. That is how we let the world know that we are different. As believers, we have God's Spirit living in us and guiding us. When we worship God through our actions as His Church, we can show the world the goodness of our God. Remember that everything you say and do can bring praise to God. Isn't that what Jesus did every day? Every time He met and gathered with others - Jesus chose to love them, serve them, teach them, and give His Father all the credit and all of the honor.

JESUS CONNECTION

We gather together for the purpose of praising God.

SMALL GROUP: REVIEW & DISCUSSION

This is a time to check kids' understanding of the Bible story and its Truths. These guided questions can spark minds to continue seeking understanding of God and His Son, Jesus.

Recall:

- What is the church? *(Responses will vary; see answers in Lesson Introduction)*
- Who encouraged the Church to be different? *(Paul)*
- How should we sing praises to the Lord? *(with gladness, thankfulness, our whole hearts)*

Discussion & Application:

- Why do we worship God together as His Church?
- What is one thing you learned from today's lesson?
- How will you use what you learned this week?

PRAYER

Dear Father in Heaven, thank You that we can come together as Your Church to worship You. We can show the world that we are different because we follow Jesus. We can worship through our words, service, and love. Please help us to make everything we do count as something that will honor You. In the awesome name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

LIVE IT OUT CHALLENGE

This challenge will prompt kids to make the KXP lesson personal. It can encourage them to live out what The Bible teaches us.

Challenge: Chances to Worship

- **Leaders –** Help kids brainstorm ways to worship with their families, church, House Church, friends, KXP class.
- List their ideas on the board.
- Encourage the kids to **PRAY FIRST** and then write down 1-2 of the ideas on their notecards from the list.
- **Kids –** Take your ideas home and worship strong this week!