

# I Worship God

## My Notes and Lesson Preparations . . .

**Objective:** Children will state they respond to God's creation by caring for it and by worshipping God.

**Opening prayer:** Gather children before the icon. *Last week we ended our class with the prayer, "Thank You, God, for making the world." That will be our opening prayer today. Who remembers how we hold our hands to pray? (Palms up) Let's do that now, and be quiet for a moment. Look at how beautiful our icon is. Now let's say together, "Thank You, God, for making the world."*

**Introduction:** [Using the project made during last week's lesson, review the lesson.] Ask, "Who made the world?" *God gave us a wonderful world as a gift.* [Hold up picture 6 of the Creation Visual Aid from the last lesson.] *What did God tell Adam and Eve to do for the world? (Care for it.)* [Repeat sentence from the narrative.] *How can we care for plants? How can we care for animals? God is so good to us. That's why we say "Thank You" when we pray.*

*We can also give something back to God. Do you like to give gifts? Would you like to give a gift to God? You can give yourself back to God when you come to church. In this paper bag are some ways you can give yourself back to God. Can you name a way you can give yourself back to God?* [In bag place a candle, a coin, a picture of people singing—see worksheet "Lesson 11 Activity 3 (2/3)."] *Let the children respond; then pull out each one and discuss.* *Two more ways we can worship God are by helping out at church and simply by smiling at one another. We can all do that, can't we? Let's review. Who can tell me one way to give yourself back to God?* [Ask three times.] *When we give ourselves back to God in church, we are worshipping God. Have you heard the words, "To You, O Lord," in church? It means we are giving ourselves back to God.* [Raise your arms up as you repeat it] *"To You, O Lord." We give ourselves back to God in worship especially when we say that phrase. Our lesson today is about how we worship God. Let's stand, face the icon, and as we raise our arms say together, "To You, O Lord."*

## ACTIVITY OPTIONS

Choose one of the following:

### 1. Lighting candles and incense

**Materials:** new votive candle, old votive candle, censer, charcoal and incense, matches

*One way that we give ourselves to God is by lighting candles. Candles are made from wax. Let's see what happens to the wax when we light a candle. [Light new votive candle. At the same time light the charcoal in the censer to get it started.] The candle is beginning to melt. Soon it will disappear like this candle. [Show old votive candle.] We have offered it to God. Let's light the incense. [Place incense on the charcoal.] Look how the incense rises up. It reminds us that our prayers rise up to God. Soon the incense will disappear. When you light a candle in church or see the priest with the censer, you can say to yourself, "To You, O Lord." You are offering yourself to God.*

### 2. Worshipping with Our Bodies

[Modify these actions if they are not exactly the practice in your parish.] *One way we worship God is with our bodies. In front of our icon, let's practice ways we worship with our bodies. [Gather children and have them sit in front of the icon.]*

**SIGN OF THE CROSS:** *One way is to make the sign of the cross. [Demonstrate.] Place your thumb and first two fingers together. Touch your forehead, chest, your right shoulder, and your left shoulder. In a few weeks we will spend a whole lesson learning about the sign of the cross.*

**KISS AN ICON:** *Another way we worship is to kiss an icon. When you kiss someone, what are you telling them? A kiss means you love them, and it is a way of showing someone honor, too. [Demonstrate and have the children one by one kiss the icon.]*

**Bow:** *Another way is with a bow. [Stand and demonstrate; have the children stand and imitate you.] A bow is also a way to show honor. [Choose a child to stand with you.] Let's pretend \_\_\_ is a king/queen. This is what I would do if he/she came into the room.*

[Bow.] *I'm saying something with my action. I'm saying, \_\_\_\_, you are very important. In some countries everyone bows before kings and other important people. We bow before God because God is very important. Let's all stand and bow before the icon.*

**KNEEL:** *We also can kneel in the presence of someone who is greater than us, like God. Let's all kneel together. All these are ways that we worship God with our bodies. When we worship, we are giving ourselves to God. Let's review what we just learned. Here are some ways we worship God with our bodies. [Either demonstrate each and have them name what you are doing; or if a child would like to help you, have him or her come forward. You tell him or her what to do, and the other children name the action.] All these are ways we worship God. We give ourselves to God when we worship. What words did we say earlier when we held out our arms to God? Let's all try them together, "To You, O Lord."*

### **3. Church Charades**

*There are many things we do in church: pray, sing, make the sign of the cross, light a candle, donate money, receive communion. Let's play a guessing game to see if we can remember some of the things we do. What am I doing? [Enact one of the above.] Let's see if you can pretend, too. [Have the children imitate you. Repeat using list above.] The priest does many things in church, too. [Enact each as you say,] He blesses us, raises his arms to pray, processes with the Gospel, gives the sermon, and gives us Holy Communion. Let's do pretending again with what the priest does. [Using the list above, enact and have children imitate.]*

### **4. Singing or Saying "Holy God"**

[Modify the words according to those used in your parish.] *We give ourselves to God when we sing in church. Today we're going to learn one of the hymns or songs we sing in church. I'll sing (say) each phrase, and you can repeat it after me.*

- *Holy God, Holy and Mighty*
- *Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us.*

- *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen*
- *Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us.*
- *Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal*
- *Have mercy on us.*

[If the children do well with the words, have them try bowing at the appropriate times as they sing or say the hymn.] *Now you are ready to sing this in church. I'll be so proud if I see you sing and bow next Sunday!*

#### 4. "I Worship God" Turning Craft

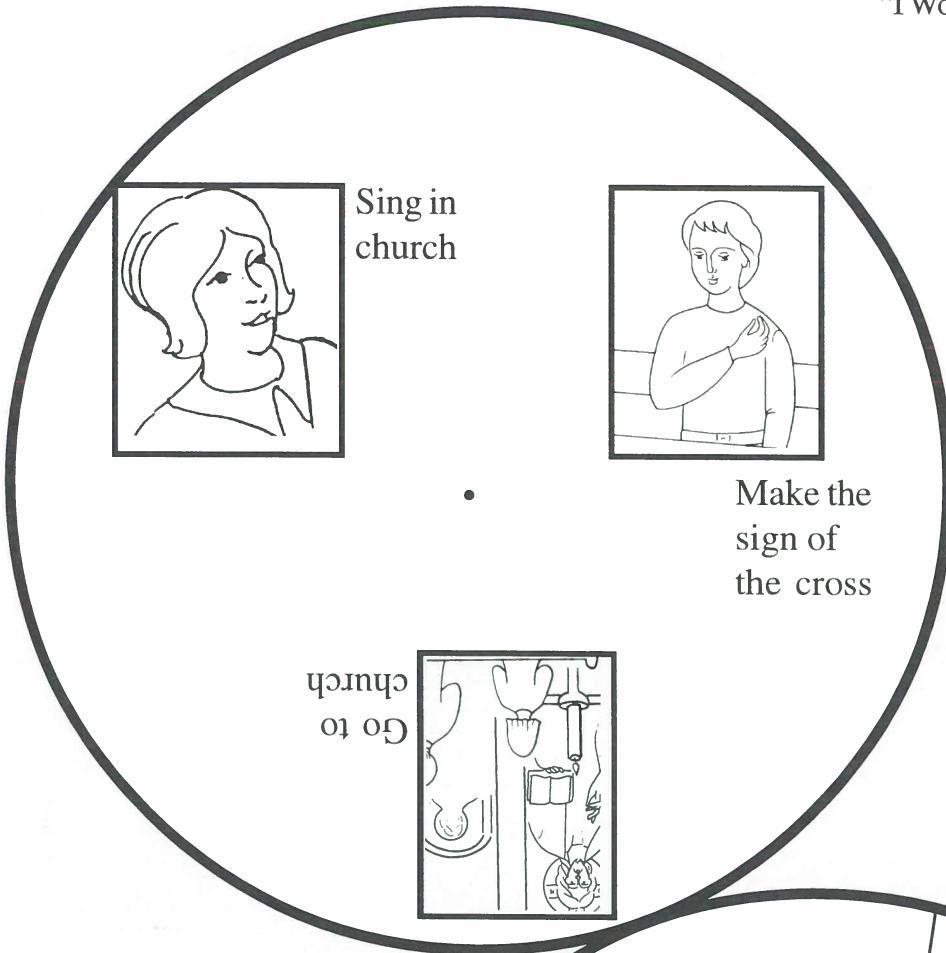
**Materials:** "I Worship God" worksheet copied onto heavier paper, markers, decorating materials (buttons, glue, sequins), brads (paper fasteners), scissors, parent to help

[You may wish to cut out the circles ahead of time.] *Today we learned that we worship God in many ways. We bow, we sing in church, we kneel, we pray, we make the sign of the cross. Here is a craft to help you remember three of the ways we worship. It says, "I worship God when I . . . make the sign of the cross." If we turn the top circle, we'll see another way we worship God. I'll pass out the circles, and you can decorate the top circle and color the pictures on the bottom circle. When you're done, I'll come around and help put your fastener in the circles.*



**Bible Story:** *Last week we learned about how God created the world. Let's read that story again.*

**Closing:** [Gather the children before the icon.] *Today we learned many ways we worship God. We worship as our way of giving something back to God—what do we give back to God for the beautiful world he has created? (Ourselves) What phrase do we use to tell God we are giving ourselves to Him? (To You, O Lord.) Let's make that our closing prayer, and let's raise our hands to God. First, let's put open our hands, palms up, and be still. Now, let's raise our arms, "To You, O Lord."*



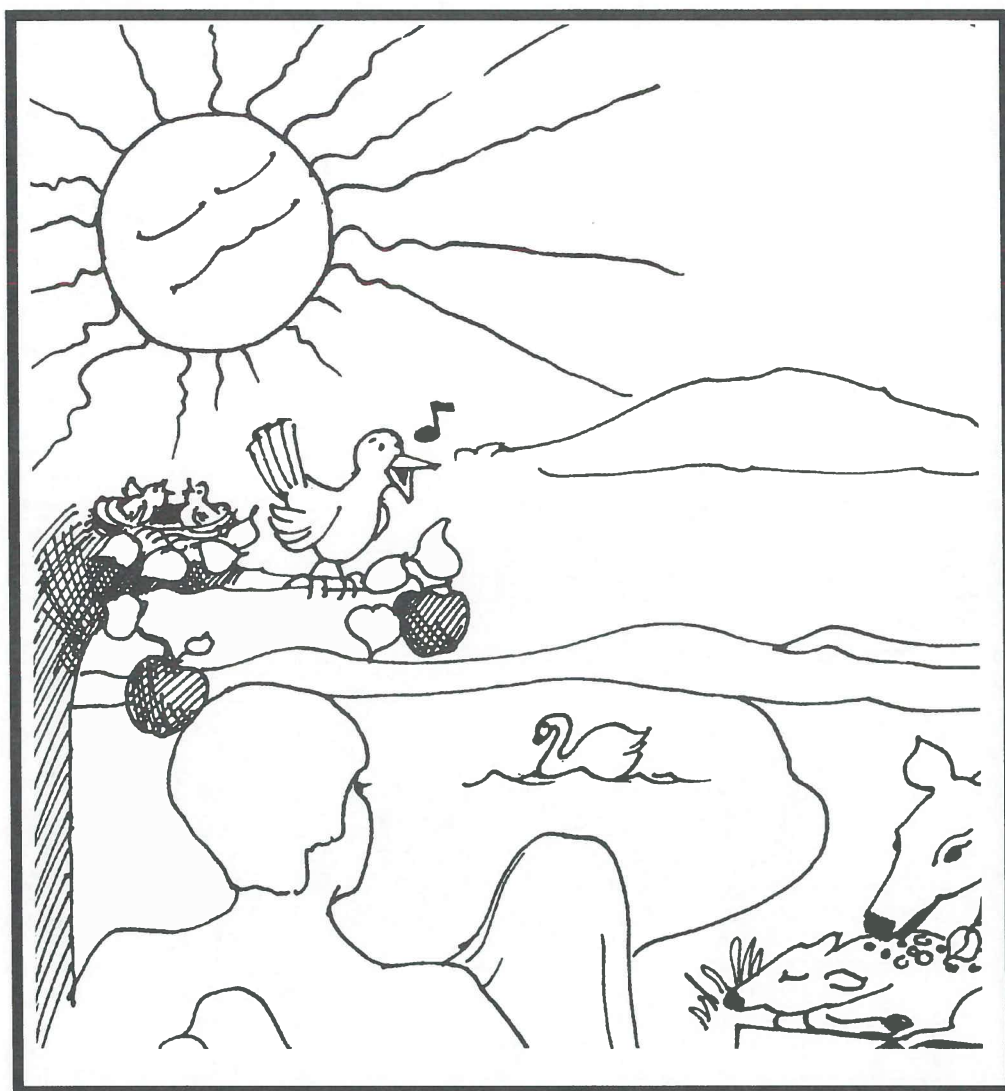
I worship  
God when I

. . .

Cut out pie  
wedge on thin  
line.

Put a brad  
(pronged  
paper fastener)  
through the  
center, con-  
necting the two  
circles.

## Glory to God! Lesson 3: I Worship God



### God Creates the World

God created the world. He created the heavens and the earth. He created rivers, oceans, and streams. He created plants and trees and the stars, sun, and moon. He also made fish, birds, and animals. Then, God created Adam and Eve. God saw that everything He made was good, and on the seventh day He rested (Genesis 1).

Today your children recalled that God made the world. They learned that we say “Thank You, God.” when we worship. Ask your children to think of something to say “Thank You” to God for during your time of worship. Sing the hymn “Holy God” with your children during the Divine Liturgy.