



## Pathfinder Honour:

### Trainer's Notes: Complete Version

(Bible verses included)

# Christian Worship 1



#### Instructions to Trainers / Instructors of this Honour

Thankyou for being involved with this Honour. These notes have been developed to assist in teaching / instructing this honour. We recognise that there is much more information available and we are grateful that you should share your expertise. Please remember that Honours are designed to develop our Pathfinders in many ways; their interests, their knowledge and their relationship with their Saviour and Creator. Your enthusiasm and creativity will have a huge impact on those doing the honour.

To complete an Honour, the following (where applicable) must be completed satisfactorily:

- Physical and Practical Requirements.
- Honour Workbook.
- Honour Assessment Sheet. *(On SPD Honour Website but Leader's level access is required)*

#### Additional Reference Material

#### Acknowledgements

These notes were reviewed at the *Honour Workshop* which was part of the SPD 'Move with the Power 3' Youth Leader's Summit which was held at Brisbane in August 2011.

# Christian Worship 1 Honour: Trainer's Notes – Complete Version

## INTRODUCTION: BEFORE YOU START

The aim of this honour is to give an introduction to the wonderful topic of Christian Worship. Christian Worship comes from the heart. The love of God for each of us is difficult to comprehend. When we study His scriptures, we are best to just accept it and wait for heaven.

As this honour is focused on Pathfinders, we've made extensive use of modern translations:

- *THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®*, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ - acknowledged as (NIV)
- *New King James Version (NKJV Bible)* – acknowledged as (NKJV)

My all means feel free to use any other reputable translations.

This complete version of the Trainer's Notes has all the words of the Scripture passages mentioned. The short version '*Christian Worship 1 Trainer's Notes - Short*' has text references only.

**Important:** Each of the topics in this Honour can be a source of many day's prayerful study (or even years). Use your creativity and imagination. Call on Divine assistance to make each topic real. The message will lose its impact if the honour is dragged out.

## **REQUIREMENT 1: To help appreciate the character and majesty of the Christian God, briefly discuss what the Scriptures have to say about the following:**

The purpose of this Requirement is to give a basic insight into the character of the Christian God. Whether we like it or not, we humans are caught up in a titanic struggle between good and evil. Each one of us can freely choose what side we are on.

We have only allowed one page in the Christian Worship 1 Honour Workbook. We want this to be a snapshot of world history – the conflict between good and evil.

### **a. Satan's pride, conflict in heaven, Satan thrown out of heaven**

Ezekiel 28:17: Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendour; (NKJV)

Isaiah 14: 13, 14 (NKJV)

13. For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation, On the farthest sides of the north;

14. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'

Revelation 12:7-9 (NKJV)

7. And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,

8. but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.

9. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

### **b. Creation of the earth and its inhabitants**

Genesis 1:1 to 2:3. The story of creation of the earth (NIV)

Genesis 1:27. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (NIV)

Psalms 8:5. You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honour. (NIV)

Psalms 139:14. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. (NIV)

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## c. Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and their expulsion

The Garden of Eden was a wonderful place, but Adam and Eve had some serious shortcomings. Perhaps we may have done the same things as they did.

### God creates the Garden of Eden, places people in it and gives specific instructions

Genesis 2:8-17 (NIV)

8. Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.
9. And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground - trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

### God places people in the Garden and gives specific instructions:

Genesis 2:15-17 (NIV)

15. The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.
16. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;
17. but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

### Satan, disguised as a serpent talks to the woman Eve:

Genesis 3:1-5 (NIV)

1. Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"
2. The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,
3. but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"
4. "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman.
5. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

### Eve is deceived. She eats the fruit and gives some to her husband Adam:

Genesis 3:6 (NIV)

6. When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

### Initial results of eating the forbidden fruit

Genesis 3:7-13 (NIV)

7. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.
8. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.
9. But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"
10. He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."
11. And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"
12. The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."
13. Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

### Terrible results of disobedience - eating the forbidden fruit

Genesis 3:14-24 (NIV)

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14. So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.
15. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”
16. To the woman he said, “I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”
17. To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat of it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.
18. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.
19. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”
21. The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.
22. And the Lord God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.”
23. So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.
24. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

### **d. The shortcomings of the human race**

#### The source of human shortcomings:

Ephesians 6:12. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (NKJV)

John 8:44. You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. (NKJV)

1 Peter 5:8. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (NKJV)

#### Some shortcomings of those who have gone before us and which may affect us today.

Romans 5: 12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned. (NIV)

Psalms 14:1. The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good. (KJV)

Psalms 78:32. In spite of this they still sinned, And did not believe in His wondrous works. (KJV)

Nehemiah 9:26. Nevertheless they were disobedient And rebelled against You, Cast Your law behind their backs. And killed Your prophets, who testified against them To turn them to Yourself; And they worked great provocations. (KJV)

Isaiah 46:6. They lavish gold out of the bag, And weigh silver on the scales; They hire a goldsmith, and he makes it a god; They prostrate themselves, yes, they worship. (KJV)

Isaiah 53:6. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. (NKJV)

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Matthew 6:19. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal (KJV)

Acts 7:52. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, (KJV)

Romans 3:23. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (KJV)

Revelation 3:16. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. (KJV)

## e. God's iron-clad promise to the human race

### God's fall-back plan before the creation of the earth:

Ephesians 1: 3,4 (NKJV)

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

2 Timothy 1:9 Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began. (NKJV)

### God's pledge to Abraham, the father of the Jewish nation:

Genesis 17: 1,2 (NKJV)

1. When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.

2 And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly."

Genesis 12:3. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (NKJV)

Genesis 22:18. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." (NKJV)

### God's pledge to the Israelites at Mount Sinai:

Exodus 19:5. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. (NKJV)

### God's pledge to send the Messiah:

One of the central themes in the Old Testament is the promise of the coming Messiah. There are more than 3000 verses dedicated to this wonderful pledge. The faithful of the Jewish nation longed for this event.

The word 'Messiah' means 'Anointed One' (in Greek 'Christ'). It comes from the Jewish practice of anointing their priests and kings. It points forward to a future King who would be sent from God to save the human race. Here's some texts:

- The Messiah would be the born of a woman and would crush the head of Satan.  
Genesis 3:15. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." (NIV)
- He would be a descendent of Abraham and would bless all the nations on earth.  
Genesis 12:3. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (NKJV)
- He would be born in Bethlehem of Judah

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Micah 5:2. But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.” (NKJV)

- He would be born of a virgin  
Isaiah 7:14. Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. (‘God with us’) (NKJV)
- He would be pierced for our transgression and crushed for our iniquities  
Isaiah 53:5. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. (NKJV)
- He would die among the wicked ones but be buried with the rich  
Isaiah 53:9. And they made His grave with the wicked - But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth. (NKJV)
- He would be resurrected from the grave, for God would not allow His Holy One to suffer decay  
Psalm 16:10. Because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay. (NIV)

## **f. The birth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ**

### The lineage of Jesus the Messiah

Matthew 1:17. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations. (NKJV)

### Jesus' earthly parents and events leading up to His birth: Matthew 1:18-25 (NKJV)

- 18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.
- 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.
- 20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.
- 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”
- 22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”
- 24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife,
- 25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

### The birth of the Messiah – Jesus: Luke 2:1-7 (NKJV)

- 1 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.
- 3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.
- 4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,
- 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.
- 6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered.
- 7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

### Worship: shepherds and angels: Luke 2:8-20(NKJV)

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- 8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.
- 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.
- 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.
- 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.
- 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."
- 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:
- 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"
- 15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."
- 16 And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.
- 17 Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.
- 18 And all those who heard it marvelled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.
- 19 But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.
- 20 Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

Worship by the Wise Men: see Matthew 2:1-12

### **g. The ministry of Jesus Christ.**

Jesus' childhood: Luke 2:39-52 (KJV)

- 39 So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth.
- 40 And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.
- 41 His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.
- 42 And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast.
- 43 When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know it;
- 44 but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and sought Him among their relatives and acquaintances.
- 45 So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him.
- 46 Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.
- 47 And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.
- 48 So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously."
- 49 And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"
- 50 But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.
- 51 Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart.
- 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men.

John the Baptist prepares the way for Jesus' ministry: Matthew 3(NIV)

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- 1 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea
- 2 and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”
- 3 This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

Jesus begins His ministry: Luke 3:23.

23. Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age. (NKJV).

The Baptism of Jesus: Matthew 3 (NIV)

- 13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.
- 14 But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”
- 15 Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness.” Then John consented.
- 16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.
- 17 And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

Why Jesus He came to earth

The word ‘gospel’ means ‘good news’ - God's plan to offer the opportunity for salvation to all humanity. This leads to eternal life in God's Kingdom.

- To spread the good news of salvation:  
Mark 1:14-15(NKJV)  
14 Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,  
15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”
- To save the lost:  
Luke 19:10. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” (NIV)  
John 3:16-18(NIV)  
16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.  
17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.  
18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.
- To do God's will:  
John 6:38. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. (NKJV)
- To be the light of the world:  
John 12:46. I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness
- To fulfil the Law:  
Matthew 5:17-19(NJV)  
17 “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfil.  
18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.  
19 Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.
- To serve:



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Mark 10:42-45(NKJV)

42 But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.

43 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant.

44 And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all.

45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

## Other aspects of Jesus ministry:

- He healed the sick as well as proclaiming the good news  
Matthew 9:35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. (NIV)
- He performed miracles to demonstrate His divine power:  
Matthew 9:5-7(NIV)  
5 Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’?  
6 But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the paralysed man, “Get up, take your mat and go home.”  
7 Then the man got up and went home.
- He used Parables to explain the Gospel in readily-understood terms:  
Matthew 13:33-34(NIV)  
34 Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable.  
35 So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet:  
*Note: See Psalm 78:2 “ “I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world.”*
- He blessed the little children:  
Matthew 19:13-14(NIV)  
13 Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them.  
14 Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”
- He explained what the greatest commandment was:  
Matthew 22:37-40. (NIV)  
37 Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’  
38 This is the first and greatest commandment.  
39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’  
40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”
- He described the ‘new’ commandment:  
John 13:34-35(NKJV)  
34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.  
35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

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- He predicted His death on the cross to pay for our sins:  
John 12:27. “Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour. (NKJV)

Matthew 12:38-40 (NKJV)

- 38 Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.”
- 39 But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.
- 40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

## **h. The death of Jesus Christ on the cross.**

We have only included Matthew's account found in Chapters 26 and 27. It is recommended that you check out Mark 14, 15; Luke 22, 23 and John 18, 19.

Matthew 26 (NKJV)

### The plot to kill Jesus

- 1 Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, that He said to His disciples,
- 2 “You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.”
- 3 Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas,
- 4 and plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him.
- 5 But they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.”

### The anointing at Bethany

- 6 And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper,
- 7 a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table.
- 8 But when His disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, “Why this waste?”
- 9 For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor.”
- 10 But when Jesus was aware of it, He said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me.
- 11 For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always.
- 12 For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial.
- 13 Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.”

### The disciple Judas agrees to betray Jesus

- 14 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests
- 15 and said, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?” And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver.
- 16 So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.

### Jesus celebrates Passover with His disciples

- 17 Now on the first day of the Feast of the Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, “Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?”
- 18 And He said, “Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, “My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.”’”
- 19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover.
- 20 When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve.

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- 21 Now as they were eating, He said, “Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.”
- 22 And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, “Lord, is it I?”
- 23 He answered and said, “He who dipped his hand with Me in the dish will betray Me.
- 24 The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.”
- 25 Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, “Rabbi, is it I?” He said to him, “You have said it.”

### Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper

- 26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.”
- 27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you.
- 28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.
- 29 But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.”
- 30 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

### Jesus predicts that His disciple Peter would deny Him

- 31 Then Jesus said to them, “All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: ‘I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’
- 32 But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.”
- 33 Peter answered and said to Him, “Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.”
- 34 Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.”
- 35 Peter said to Him, “Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!” And so said all the disciples.

### Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane

- 36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, “Sit here while I go and pray over there.”
- 37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.
- 38 Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.”
- 39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”
- 40 Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “What! Could you not watch with Me one hour?
- 41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”
- 42 Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.”
- 43 And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy.
- 44 So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.
- 45 Then He came to His disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.
- 46 Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand.”

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## Jesus' betrayal and arrest in Gethsemane

- 47 And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people.
- 48 Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him."
- 49 Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him.
- 50 But Jesus said to him, "Friend, why have you come?" Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him.
- 51 And suddenly, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.
- 52 But Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.
- 53 Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?
- 54 How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?"
- 55 In that hour Jesus said to the multitudes, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me.
- 56 But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.

## Jesus faces the Sanhedrin

- 57 And those who had laid hold of Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.
- 58 But Peter followed Him at a distance to the high priest's courtyard. And he went in and sat with the servants to see the end.
- 59 Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death,
- 60 but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last two false witnesses came forward
- 61 and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'"
- 62 And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?"
- 63 But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!"
- 64 Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."
- 65 Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy!
- 66 What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is deserving of death."
- 67 Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands,
- 68 saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?"

## Peter denies Jesus, and weeps bitterly

- 69 Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee."
- 70 But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying."
- 71 And when he had gone out to the gateway, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth."
- 72 But again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man!"

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73 And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, "Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you."

74 Then he began to curse and swear, saying, "I do not know the Man!" Immediately a rooster crowed.

75 And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So he went out and wept bitterly.

Matthew 27 (NKJV)

## Jesus handed over to Pontius Pilate

1 When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death.

2 And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

## Judas hangs himself

3 Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!"

5 Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.

6 But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood."

7 And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in.

8 Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day.

9 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced,

10 and gave them for the potter's field, as the LORD directed me."

## Jesus Faces Pilate

11 Now Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus said to him, "It is as you say."

12 And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing.

13 Then Pilate said to Him, "Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?"

14 But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marvelled greatly.

## Jesus takes the place of the criminal Barabbas

15 Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to releasing to the multitude one prisoner whom they wished.

16 And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas.

17 Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?"

18 For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy.

19 While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, "Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him."

20 But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus.

21 The governor answered and said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They said, "Barabbas!"

22 Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!"

23 Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!"

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24 When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it."

25 And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children."

26 Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified.

### The Soldiers Mock Jesus

27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him.

28 And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him.

29 When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

30 Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head.

31 And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.

### The King on a Cross

32 Now as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. Him they compelled to bear His cross.

33 And when they had come to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull, 34 they gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink. But when He had tasted it, He would not drink.

35 Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet:

*" They divided My garments among them,  
And for My clothing they cast lots."*

36 Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there.

37 And they put up over His head the accusation written against Him:

THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

38 Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and another on the left.

39 And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads

40 and saying, "You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

41 Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said,

42 "He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him.

43 He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'"

44 Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing.

### Jesus Dies on the Cross

45 Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land.

46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

47 Some of those who stood there, when they heard that, said, "This Man is calling for Elijah!"

48 Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink.

49 The rest said, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him."

50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.

51 Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,

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52 and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised;  
53 and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

54 So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

55 And many women who followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him, were there looking on from afar,

56 among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

### Jesus Buried in Joseph's Tomb

57 Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus.

58 This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him.

59 When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

60 and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed.

61 And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the tomb.

### Pilate Sets a Guard over the tomb of Jesus

62 On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate,

63 saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.'

64 Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first."

65 Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how."

66 So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.

### **i. The resurrection of Jesus, His ascension to heaven and promise to return**

Scripture references: Matthew 28:1-20; Mark 16:1-20; Luke 24:1-49; John 20:1-21:25.

#### He Is Risen Matthew 28: 1-8 (NKJV)

1 Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.

2 And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.

3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.

4 And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.

5 But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.

6 He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

7 And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you."

8 So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.

#### The Women Worship the Risen Lord Matthew 28: 9,10 (NKJV)

9 And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!" So they came and held Him by the feet and worshipped Him.

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10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."

### The Soldiers Are Bribed Matthew 28: 11-15 (NKJV)

11 Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened.

12 When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers,

13 saying, "Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.'

14 And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure."

15 So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

### The Road to Emmaus see Luke 24:13-34

### Jesus Appears to His Disciples (Luke 24:36-43) (NKJV)

36 Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you."

37 But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit.

38 And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts?"

39 Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

40 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.

41 But while they still did not believe for joy, and marvelled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?"

42 So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb.

43 And He took it and ate in their presence.

### Jesus explains the fulfilment of the Scriptures: (Luke 24:44-48) (NKJV)

44 Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."

45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

46 Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day,

47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

48 And you are witnesses of these things.

### Jesus promises the gift of the Holy Spirit after he ascends into heaven: Acts 1:4-8 (NIV)

4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.

5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

### Jesus ascends into heaven and the promise of His return: Acts 2:9-11 (NIV)

9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.



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- 10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.
- 11 “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

### **j. The Holy Spirit is received and the gospel is preached worldwide**

#### The promised Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost

Acts 2: 1-13 (NIV)

- 1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.
- 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.
- 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.
- 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.
- 5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.
- 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken.
- 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans?”
- 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?
- 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,
- 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome
- 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!”
- 12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”
- 13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

#### Peter Addresses the Crowd Acts 2: 14-41 (NIV)

- 14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.
- 15 These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning!
- 16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:
- 17 “‘In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.
- 18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.
- 19 I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.
- 20 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.
- 21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’
- 22 “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.
- 23 This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.
- 24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

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- 25 David said about him: “I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.
- 26 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope,
- 27 because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay.
- 28 You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.’
- 29 “Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day.
- 30 But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne.
- 31 Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay.
- 32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.
- 33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.
- 34 For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, “The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand
- 35 until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”
- 36 “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”
- 37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”
- 38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”
- 40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”
- 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

### Some more Scripture references that help explain why Jesus died for us.

#### Titus 3:4-7

- 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared,
- 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,
- 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour,
- 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. (NIV)

#### 1 Timothy 1:15-17

- 15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.
- 16 But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.
- 17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. (NIV)

#### Hebrews 4:14-15

- 14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

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15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. (NIV)

Ephesians 2:19-20

19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household,

20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. (NIV)

### The Gospel commission – to tell the world of the good news of salvation

Isaiah 49:5-8 (NKJV)

5 “ And now the LORD says, Who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, To bring Jacob back to Him, So that Israel is gathered to Him (For I shall be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, And My God shall be My strength),

6 Indeed He says, ‘ It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.’”

Matthew 28:18-25(NKJV)

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

### Apostles Paul and Barnabas in action at Antioch

Acts 13:14-52 (KJV)

42 So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath.

43 Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

44 On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God.

45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul.

46 Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, “It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles.

47 For so the Lord has commanded us: ‘ I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.’”

48 Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

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## k. Christ returns to claim His own; those who are alive, and those who are not

### Jesus describes his second coming

John 5: 24-30 (NKJV)

24 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

25 Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.

26 For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself,

27 and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.

28 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice

29 and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

30 I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

### The scriptures describe Jesus Second Coming

- Jesus will return the same way as He ascended to heaven  
Acts 2:9-11 (NIV)  
9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.  
10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.  
11 “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”
- It will be one, huge, worldwide event. No one will miss it.  
Matthew 24:26, 27. (NIV)  
26 So if anyone tells you, ‘There he is, out in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or, ‘Here he is, in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it.  
27 For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.
- It will be visible to everyone.  
Matthew 24:30. Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. (NIV)
- It will be heard by everyone  
Matthew 24:31. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. (NIV)
- The righteous dead will come back to life.  
1 Thessalonians 4:16. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. (NIV)
- The saved – those still alive and those raised from the dead - will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air.  
Thessalonians 4:17. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. (NIV)

## l. Christ's people in heaven and the new earth forever and ever

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## Isaiah's vision of heaven and the new earth Isaiah 1: 6-9 (NIV)

- 6 The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.
- 7 The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox.
- 8 The infant will play near the cobra's den, the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.
- 9 They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

## Paul's encouragement to those who have lost loved ones. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NIV)

- 13 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.
- 14 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.
- 15 According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.
- 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
- 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.
- 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

## John's vision of heaven and the new earth Revelation 7:13-17 (NIV)

- 13 Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?"
- 14 I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
- 15 Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.
- 16 'Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,' nor any scorching heat.
- 17 For the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd; 'he will lead them to springs of living water.' 'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

## John's vision of heaven and the new Jerusalem see Revelation 21:

## John's vision of heaven and the new earth Revelation 22: 1-5(NIV)

- 1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb
- 2 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.
- 3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.
- 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.
- 5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign forever and ever.

# Christian Worship 1 Honour: Trainer's Notes – Complete Version

## REQUIREMENT 2: Describe the modern meaning of the word 'worship' and words of the original Scriptures which have been translated as 'worship'.

The English word 'worship' has its origins in the Old English / West Saxon languages of about the 12<sup>th</sup> century AD. It was originally the noun 'worth-ship' which was comprised of the adjective 'worth' and the suffix 'ship' denoting a state or condition – the condition of being 'worthy', 'of renown' or 'of honour'. Over time, this meaning changed somewhat to refer to 'respect' and 'reverence'. In about 1300, it was used to describe 'reverence paid to a supernatural or divine being'

Sources: <http://www.word-origins.com/> and <http://www.etymonline.com/>

This certainly gives God the recognition He deserves. However, there are other words in the original Hebrew and Greek that give more meaning to the act of Christian worship. Often there are no English words that accurately translate the original meanings.

Consider the Hebrew word '*shachah*' and the Greek word '*proskuneo*'. These are frequently translated as an act of worship. In simple terms, both these words mean 'to bow down'

The Hebrew word '*shachah*' (Strong's no 7812) describes bowing or prostrating oneself, often before a superior or before God. In the ancient Biblical times, people bowed down before those to whom they wanted to show respect or honour. This act of falling down is often translated as 'worship' in the King James Bible. It reveals the feelings of the worshipper; respect and honour towards the one / object being worshipped. In more recent translations is rendered as 'bowed down' as a token of deep adoration.

Exodus 32:8 King James Version (KJV)

They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

Exodus 32:8 New International Version (NIV)

They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, 'These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.'

The Greek word '*proskuneo*' (Strong's no 4505) literally means to 'kiss the hand toward' someone in a token of reverence. In the New Testament, it means kneeling or prostrating oneself to do homage, to make obeisance, to express respect or to make supplication.

Another important term associated with worship is *homologia*. Worshipers frequently spend some or all of their time professing faith, praising God, thanking God and proclaiming truths about God.

# Christian Worship 1 Honour: Trainer's Notes – Complete Version

**EQUIREMENT 3: Choose at least six (6) scripture references which refer to the true worship of God. Briefly describe how each can be applied to your life.**

There are many references in scripture that refer to worship. Here are just a few.

## The Glory of God

2 Chronicles 5:13 (NKJV)

13 indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever," that the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud

Psalms 8: 1-5(NKJV)

1 O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens!

2 Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.

3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,

4 What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?

5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honour.

Revelation 5:13 (NKJV)

13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honour and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

Revelation 14:7 (NKJV)

7 saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

## Enthusiasm

Psalms 100:1-5 NKJ)

1 Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands!

2 Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing.

3 Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

5 For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.

Hebrews 12:28 (NIV)

28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,

## True Thankfulness

Colossians 3:14-17(NKJV)

14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Nehemiah 8:10: Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." (NIV)

Psalms 95:1-7 (NKJV)

# Christian Worship 1 Honour: Trainer's Notes – Complete Version

- 1 Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.
- 2 Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.
- 3 For the LORD is the great God, And the great King above all gods.
- 4 In His hand are the deep places of the earth; The heights of the hills are His also.
- 5 The sea is His, for He made it; And His hands formed the dry land.
- 6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.
- 7 For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand.

## A personal God

Psalm 139: 1-6; 23,24(NKJV)

- 1 O LORD, You have searched me and known me.
- 2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.
- 3 You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.
- 4 For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.
- 5 You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.
- 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.
- 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;
- 24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

## Thankfulness for God's word which is a guide to the Christian life

Hebrews 4:12-16 (NKJV)

- 12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
- 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

Romans 12:1 (NIV)

- 1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

## Our approachable High Priest who understands us

Hebrews 4:14-16(NIV)

- 14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.
- 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet he did not sin.
- 16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

## Ask for the Holy Spirit Luke 11:9-13(NKJV)

- 9 "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.
- 10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.
- 11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish?
- 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?
- 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!

## Rejoice and pray always

1 Thessalonians 5:16, 17 (NKJV)

- 16 Rejoice always,
- 17 pray without ceasing,



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18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

## Our Heavenly Inheritance

Isaiah 51:11(NIV)

11. Those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

1 Peter 1:3-7 (NIV)

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,

5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Hebrews 12:28 (NIV)

28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,

## Not giving into temptation

Matthew 4:10 (NKJV)

10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

## The coming of the Messiah

Matthew 2:1-2 (NKJV)

1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,

2 saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

## **REQUIREMENT 4: Act out at least two of the following and discuss where each was not according to God's will:**

### **a. Cain's sacrifice of the 'fruit of the ground' (Genesis 4:2-8) Source (NKJV)**

2 Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

3 And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD.

4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,

5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

6 So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?"

7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

8 Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

### **b. Worship of the golden calf by the Israelites (Exodus 32) Source NIV**

1 When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."

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- 2 Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me."
- 3 So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron.
- 4 He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."
- 5 When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD."
- 6 So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.
- 7 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt.
- 8 They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, 'These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.'
- 9 "I have seen these people," the LORD said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people.
- 10 Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation."
- 11 But Moses sought the favour of the LORD his God. "LORD," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand?
- 12 Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people.
- 13 Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.'"
- 14 Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.
- 15 Moses turned and went down the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands. They were inscribed on both sides, front and back.
- 16 The tablets were the work of God; the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets.
- 17 When Joshua heard the noise of the people shouting, he said to Moses, "There is the sound of war in the camp."
- 18 Moses replied: "It is not the sound of victory, it is not the sound of defeat; it is the sound of singing that I hear."
- 19 When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain.
- 20 And he took the calf the people had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it.
- 21 He said to Aaron, "What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?"
- 22 "Do not be angry, my lord," Aaron answered. "You know how prone these people are to evil.
- 23 They said to me, 'Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him.'
- 24 So I told them, 'Whoever has any gold jewellery, take it off.' Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!"
- 25 Moses saw that the people were running wild and that Aaron had let them get out of control and so become a laughingstock to their enemies.
- 26 So he stood at the entrance to the camp and said, "Whoever is for the LORD, come to me." And all the Levites rallied to him.
- 27 Then he said to them, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Each man strap a sword to his side. Go back and forth through the camp from one end to the other, each killing his brother and friend and neighbour.'"

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- 28 The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about three thousand of the people died.
- 29 Then Moses said, “You have been set apart to the LORD today, for you were against your own sons and brothers, and he has blessed you this day.”
- 30 The next day Moses said to the people, “You have committed a great sin. But now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.”
- 31 So Moses went back to the LORD and said, “Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold.
- 32 But now, please forgive their sin—but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written.”
- 33 The LORD replied to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book.
- 34 Now go, lead the people to the place I spoke of, and my angel will go before you. However, when the time comes for me to punish, I will punish them for their sin.”
- 35 And the LORD struck the people with a plague because of what they did with the calf Aaron had made.

### c. Nadab and Abihu's big mistake. (Leviticus 10:1-7) Source NIV

- 1 Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, contrary to his command.
- 2 So fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD.
- 3 Moses then said to Aaron, “This is what the LORD spoke of when he said: “Among those who approach me I will be proved holy; in the sight of all the people I will be honoured.” Aaron remained silent.
- 4 Moses summoned Mishael and Elzaphan, sons of Aaron's uncle Uzziel, and said to them, “Come here; carry your cousins outside the camp, away from the front of the sanctuary.”
- 5 So they came and carried them, still in their tunics, outside the camp, as Moses ordered.
- 6 Then Moses said to Aaron and his sons Eleazar and Ithamar, “Do not let your hair become unkempt and do not tear your clothes, or you will die and the LORD will be angry with the whole community. But your relatives, all the Israelites, may mourn for those the LORD has destroyed by fire.
- 7 Do not leave the entrance to the tent of meeting or you will die, because the LORD's anointing oil is on you.” So they did as Moses said.

### d. The Pharisee's and the tax collector's prayers. (Luke 18:9-14) Source NIV

- 9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable:
- 10 “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.
- 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector.
- 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’
- 13 “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ 14 “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

# Christian Worship 1 Honour: Trainer's Notes – Complete Version

**REQUIREMENT 5: Discuss how the instructions and illustrations provided in the Scriptures can be applied to Christian Worship today. Take into account the locality where you worship:**

## **a. When and where to worship**

The Scriptures clearly state that we can worship God any time and at any place. Of course, God has locked in the Sabbath from creation to the end-of-time as a special day to worship Him. We've included just a few texts.

### King David in the Psalms

Psalm 34:1. I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. (NIV)

Psalm 92: 1-2 (NIV)

- 1 It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High,
- 2 proclaiming your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night,

### Jesus example; worship on the special day – the Sabbath:

Luke 4:16: He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, (NIV)

### Apostle Paul's example; worship on the special day – the Sabbath:

Acts 17:1,2 (NIV)

- 1 When Paul and his companions had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue.
- 2 As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures,

### Paul and Silas use creativity to worship God

Acts 16: 23-25 (NIV)

- 23 After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully.
- 24 When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.
- 25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.
- 26 Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose.

### Worship in a quiet place

Psalm 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth! (NKJV)

Psalms 34:3 Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together. (NIV)

## **b. How to worship**

### The blessings and joy of meeting with others of like faith

Hebrews 10:23-26(NIV)

- 23 Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.
- 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,
- 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Psalm 22:22 "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the congregation I will praise you." (NIV)

# Christian Worship 1 Honour: Trainer's Notes – Complete Version

## Worship is to be from the heart

The Christian writer Mrs Ellen White expresses it as follows

*The incense of true worship, which should have been offered to God, has been mingled with the worship of self. In the place of lifting their thoughts to God, in the place of learning to know Him better, men deny Him in their lives. Their attention is taken up with objects that conceal God from their view. {9MR 386.1}*

*Meaning of Words in Songs. As a part of religious service, singing is as much an act of worship as is prayer. Indeed, many a song is prayer. If the child is taught to realize this, he will think more of the meaning of the words he sings and will be more susceptible to their power.--Ed 168. {VSS 432.2}*

*Sing With Spirit and Understanding--The evil of formal worship cannot be too strongly depicted, but no words can properly set forth the deep blessedness of genuine worship. When human beings sing with the spirit and the understanding, heavenly musicians take up the strain and join in the song of thanksgiving. He who has bestowed upon us all the gifts that enable us to be workers together with God, expects His servants to cultivate their voices so that they can speak and sing in a way that all can understand. It is not loud singing that is needed, but clear intonation, correct pronunciation, and distinct utterance. Let all take time to cultivate the voice so that God's praise can be sung in clear, soft tones, not with harshness and shrillness that offend the ear. The ability to sing is the gift of God; let it be used to His glory.--9T 143, 144. {VSS 433.2}*

*Beauty in Singing Not Everything--Many are singing beautiful songs in the meetings, songs of what they will do, and what they mean to do; but some do not do these things; they do not sing with the spirit and the understanding also. So in the reading of the Word of God, some are not benefited, because they do not take it into their very life; they do not practice it.--Ev 508. {VSS 433.3}*

### **d. What topics to focus on.**

The following topics are listed in the Seventh Day Adventist Hymnal

- Adoration and praise
- Dedication
- Communion
- Consecration
- Eternal life
- Faith and trust
- Forgiveness
- God the Father (Love, majesty and power, power in nature)
- Heaven
- Holy Spirit
- Hope and comfort
- Jesus Christ
- Joy and peace
- Judgement
- Meditation and prayer
- Love for God
- Repentance
- Resurrection of the saints
- Sabbath
- Salvation and redemption
- Thankfulness

# Christian Worship 1 Honour: Trainer's Notes – Complete Version

## REQUIREMENT 6: Leadership in worship: Outline considerations and potential pitfalls under the following headings:

The aim of this requirement is to give an introduction to the leadership role in Christian Worship. To many folks, taking a leadership role in a Christian Worship service is a daunting task. Never forget that this leadership role is dedicated to worshipping God and serving His people. Study the scriptures and place yourself in God's hands.

### a. Preparation and prayer

The amount of preparation depends on the occasion. Personal devotions (just you and God) are a different situation to ministering to others, be it a few folks or hundreds. Small groups tend to be more informal than large groups. When you have a leadership responsibility, assess the situation and - with God's help - be prepared.

Praying for God's guidance is essential. This includes the preparation phase and all elements of the Worship Service. Include those leading out and all those attending the worship service. Forgetting to pray is like driving a car with one's eyes shut.

To assist in the preparation process, we have compiled a form - '*Christian Worship Honours: Evaluation Form*'. This aid is also intended to help develop one's talents in the sacred role of leading out in Christian Worship. On this form, we've outlined the elements of a 'typical' Christian Worship Service. There's a check list of things that need to be done and a section on which to reflect on 'effectiveness'.

The following elements of a typical Christian Worship Service tend to be more applicable to large groups of worshippers, but the same principles also apply to small groups. Check it out and see if they can be applied to a small group – say a unit worship at a Pathfinder campout. As an illustration, we'll use '*Paul and Silas use creativity to worship God - Acts 16: 23-25*'. See Requirement 5

- **Worship Title:** The title usually contains key words from the theme or topic. It is often used to inform and create interest. [*Inspiring Tale of Worship in Jail* or '*Praise Him: Whenever & Whatever*' etc]
- **Topic/theme:** This is the topic (or topics) of the Worship Service. [*Worship God, even when things are going terribly against you*]
- **Aim of Service:** This is what we, with God's guidance, would like to achieve [*To help us understand that God is always with us and to be thankful for what He has done, regardless of our circumstances*]
- **The Worship Program:**
  - Call to worship:  
Announce the start of the Worship Service, welcome folks, make introductory prayer, use rousing music and singing, etc.
  - Establish a spirit of worship:  
Make all worshippers feel they are part of the Worship Service and forget other distractions. Involve them in singing, prayer and offerings to the Lord.
  - Set the 'scene' for the presentation of the message or study:  
Maintain the spirit of worship and focus on the theme. Use 'on theme' music, singing, children's story, prayer, scripture readings, special 'item' etc.
  - Present God's message / Study His Word
  - Reflect on the message and its application:  
Give testimony, dedication, commitment, quiet personal reflection and prayer, etc
  - End the Service:  
Make concluding remarks. Use 'on theme' music, singing and prayer. Dismiss worshippers.

# Christian Worship 1 Honour: Trainer's Notes – Complete Version

## b. The worship topic and appropriate music

As this is an introduction to Christian Worship, it is OK to entrust the delivery of the message (ie the sermon or study) to other suitable folks. Often the topic and associated Scripture has been chosen by others. The following notes offer some suggestions for those who have been tasked with selecting a topic.

Deciding on the topic can be a challenge, especially when it is considered in human terms. Always ask for divine inspiration. The life and sacrifice of Jesus should be a central theme. For starters, here are some ideas:

- Study the Scriptures. Never forget that Christian Worship is based on God's word.
- Check out the lives of those who are mentioned in God's word and reflect on how they impact on us today. Reflect on God's promises and the fulfilment of prophesy.
- Study the congregation and reflect on how they can be encouraged, challenged, inspired and have their knowledge and understanding increased.
- Reflect on what is important to you in your Christian experience. Develop this theme. It's surprising how often it will really touch someone else. There's plenty of scope to include a personal testimony.
- Seek advice from others. Many places run a series of programs. All you need to do is fit in.
- Look at the beauty and wonder of the natural world.
- Check out Christian literature. The writings of the Christian writer Mrs E G White are a wonderful source.

The use of appropriate music is often a challenge. Thinking about it, it comes down to who is being worshipped – me/us or God? Never forget that Christian Worship music is a God-given means for all the worshippers to join together in praise and dedication. It is to be 'from the heart' of all worshippers.

Here are a few things to consider:

- Does the mood and pace of the music/singing match the intended spirit of the composer? For example joyous praise is intended to be sung as such.
- Is the music/singing classed as being 'on auto-pilot' – produced as a dreary ritual and played and sung without conviction.
- Is the congregation familiar with the tune and words? If not, has time been taken to 'teach' them and are the words available? Remember to keep a balance between new songs/hymns and familiar favourites.
- Is the volume of the lead singers and musicians so loud that the response of the congregation cannot be heard? Ask the question. "Who is being worshipped: the singers, musicians or the 'oomph' of the public address sound system?"
- Could the singing / music be classed as entertainment rather than participative worship?

## c. The worship 'team' (musicians, speaker/s, deacons, public address people etc)

Everyone in the worship 'team' has an important role. Commitment is crucial. Preparation is most important. Make sure everyone understands what is expected of them. See the Worship Service Checklist on our '*Christian Worship Honours: Evaluation Form*'

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### d. The congregation (ages, language, personal issues, expectations, cultural background etc)

Christian worship leadership is all about being 'used by God' in bringing folks together in worshipping Him.

This may sound overwhelming. Always remember that you are not alone in reaching others. The Holy Spirit is still very active today. Read chapter 2 of the book of Acts. Note: we covered this in Requirement 1, part 'j' *The Holy Spirit is received and the gospel is preached worldwide.*

This is one of those 'common sense' considerations. For instance it would be silly to give a lengthy, learned, theological elucidation on a doctrinal topic to pre-school children. Aim to use words that will be understood by all. Use examples and illustrations. Jesus often spoke in parables - stories.

Remember that folks are at different 'levels' in their Christian experience; some are new to the faith, while others have been on the journey for many years. Some may be going through depressing times while others may be full of joy. We all need to support each other.

### REQUIREMENT 7: Do the following: Complete the Worship Evaluation Form for at least two of each of the following:

#### a. Conduct a series of private (ie just you & God) Christian Worship services

A private Christian Worship service can be held anywhere anytime. There's heaps of information available on personal study of the Scriptures. Here's some suggestions:

- For those new to the Bible: <http://www.biblehistory.com/links.htm>
- On -Line Bible Study: <http://studies.itiswritten.com/?gclid=CPb1s7CVkqsCFQtU4godHCw4CQ>
- List of great Bible Discovery Courses: <http://www.discoverycourses.com/>
- Kids Bible Information: <http://www.kidsbibleinfo.com/>
- List of Bible Study courses & information: <http://www.nadadventist.org/article.php?id=6>

#### b. Be part of the congregation of a Christian Worship service

Give the worship leaders your full support. This means giving your undivided attention as they lead the worship of the Creator. Give them encouragement and be thankful for the effort they have gone to. If you are tempted to consider the service 'boring', think. You (and I) may be the ones with the problem.

#### c. Participate in a worship team

We'll leave this one up to you. Most worship leaders find it encouraging for someone to offer to help.

#### d. Lead out in a Christian Worship service for a group of at least 5 people.

What more can we say except to say 'God Bless You'.