

# Lesson 2: Committing to God's Kingdom

Resources Needed: "Cinderella" scroll

## Vocabulary

**Confession** – An admission or declaration of what is true

**Sin** – Any thought, word or deed that breaks God's Law

**Steward** – Someone appointed to look after another person's stuff

**Creed** – A statement of belief to guide one's actions.

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## Introduction

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So who knows why we are here right now? *(to learn about worship)* Right! Because everyone worships right? But as humans, we were created, shaped to worship God. And in order to worship God, we need to know God. We need to know what he says in his Word, the Bible. So far, we have talked about how we enter God's presence. He's a King so we ENTER with AWE and with our eyes and ears open, expecting to see and hear what He is doing. We also talked about how once we ENTER, we realize we need to be sure we are wearing Jesus and when we think about the ways we haven't worn Jesus in our living, we CONFESS that sin. Then, we share the PEACE we have with God with others! Remember all of that? What do you think comes next in our CORPORATE Worship? (let children take guesses)

Let me tell you a story. It is a story that Jesus told, called a parable. One of his followers named Matthew, wrote it down because he knew it would be very helpful for all of Jesus' followers – even you and me all these years later. I think this story will help us understand what the next part of worship is about.

(Tell or read the story of "The Parable of the Talents" from Matthew 25:14-30. If you read it, be sure to replace the pronoun "it" in verse 14 with "the Kingdom of heaven" to which it refers.)

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## Confession of Faith

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The workers in this story all CONFESSED something with their actions. Do you remember what that means? To CONFESS means to say what is true. Last week we talked about CONFESSING our sin because that is what is true about us right? But after we CONFESS our sin, we CONFESS something else. We CONFESS what is true about God. The first 2 workers in this story CONFESSED not just with their words, but with how they acted that they knew the king to be good and trustworthy. This is similar to what we do in CORPORATE WORSHIP each week.

The CONFESIONS we say aren't just made up words that we think sound good. Sometimes they are straight from God's Word and sometimes they are CREEDS that were written a long time ago by men who loved Jesus and got together to study all of the things Jesus said and all that His Apostles and Prophets wrote down about Him. They wrote these words carefully to help everyone who calls himself a follower of Jesus understand more about His Kingdom. Listen to this CREED that we often say in our worship. It is called "The Apostles' Creed"

(say or read it slowly first, then say it one line at a time letting the children repeat each line after you)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
the Maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He arose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit;  
the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

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### Kingdom Proclamations

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Now, if we are going to **CONFESS** that we love and want to serve King Jesus, do you think it is important that we know what is going on in His Kingdom? It is important! So after we **CONFESS** what is true about God, we take a moment to listen to His **KINGDOM PROCLAMATIONS**.

Have you ever seen Cinderella? Do you remember how the King made an important announcement to the whole kingdom? (unroll the scroll and read the king's proclamation. Ask the children why the people of the city would be excited to hear this news. Would it make them want to do something? Would it cause them to think about what they need to do?) **Announcements in worship are like this. They are bits of news from the King about His Kingdom intended to make us think about how we can get involved.**

While we are gathered, in His throne room, the King gives us news about what's going on in places throughout the Kingdom because the Kingdom is so big that the people who live way up in the north might not know what's going on down way down in the south. So this is the time that we listen to the Kingdom news. Hearing the news of the Kingdom reminds us that we are not alone and encourages us to keep each other in our prayers and our thoughts even when we are scattered throughout the week. Sometimes its news about what King Jesus is doing through His people who live far away in other countries. Sometimes its news about what's going on right here in our own city. (Give examples like play groups meeting and explain that they wouldn't know about times for their parents to get together and for them to see their friends if we didn't give the announcement about it) **And sometimes its even the news of something God did long ago that was written down in His Word and is read straight from the Old and New Testaments to remind us of who our King is, what His Kingdom is about, and how people in His Kingdom live and trust Him.** (Give a brief example of an OT Scripture story such as the fiery furnace and explain that we are to remember the God who rescued is still The King today.) **No matter what the news is, it is always important to listen to all that has happened and all that is still going on throughout The Kingdom.**

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## Kingdom Prayers

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Have you ever noticed that we pray a lot in worship? Have you ever wondered why? We pray because prayer is just talking to God and since we are in His throne room, it makes sense that we would do a lot of talking to him right?

Once we hear all the Kingdom proclamations, we talk to God (that is we pray) specifically about the things we have just heard. If you listen closely to the pastor as he voices the prayer for all of us, you will hear that he is praying about all of these Kingdom Proclamations. He talks to God about the things we heard are going on in our church, then things going on in our city, our state, our nation and then the things in the whole world. This prayer, this conversation we have with God helps us remember that God's Kingdom includes the whole earth! But it also reminds us that he has called us to serve in this small part of it. And at the end of this Kingdom prayer, we join our voices praying together. There are many different prayers we pray together but one of them is the prayer Jesus used when he taught his disciples to pray. Let's practice that one together:

*Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name.  
Your Kingdom come,  
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen*

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## Kingdom Giving

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There is one more thing we do during the time of "Committing to God's Kingdom" in our service. Do you know what it is? What do we do after we pray together about the things going on? (give them a minute to see if they can recall)

We pass a... plate? Have you ever wondered why we pass a plate during worship? Why do we put money in there? (let children guess)

Remember that our corporate worship is all about our King. And King Jesus once said, "You can't serve God and mammon." Do you know what "mammon" is? (let children guess). It is actually just a word for "stuff."

If we come into God's presence when he calls, CONFESS our sin, hear all about God's Kingdom, and CONFESS that we love him and want to be part of His Kingdom, then we will want to give everything we've got to serve His Kingdom. We spend the first part of worship hearing that God's Kingdom is one of love that has the power to fix all that is broken and then we have the opportunity to give all that we have to it. If we really believe that God is King and His Kingdom rules over all, then we will want to think of all the things we have – our money, our talents, our thoughts, our hands, our feet, our voice – as His things that He gave us to STEWARD. Have you heard that word before? Do you know what a STEWARD is? Remember the men in the story from the beginning? The king called them to himself, he entrusted them with his stuff and then they went out and lived their lives using his stuff in a way that took really good care of it so that when he came back, they still had what was his and had added to it! They were good STEWARDS.

We pass the plate in worship to give everyone an opportunity to put in the money they have earned by STEWARDING the stuff God gave them so that it can be used for building His Kingdom. Does it sound exciting to think that you get to help build God's Kingdom?

And because singing is what we do when words just aren't enough to express what we feel inside, as we are giving we sing!

Have you ever gotten a gift from someone? And when you did, what did your mom or dad tell you to say? (let kids answer and someone will come up with "thank you.") Yes! We say "thank you" and then we show "thank you" by using it well!

The song we sing in worship after we share the gifts we have earned as we STEWARDED God's stuff is like that. It's a song of thanks to God. Then once everyone has had a chance to share their gifts, we stand and sing together to tell God we are thankful and to remind each other that ALL the things we have to give were gifts from God in the first place! Listen to what the God's Word says, (Read James 1:17).

I bet you all know the song that we sing to thank God for His gifts and for letting us share them with others. It's called The Doxology. Let's practice singing it together.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!  
Praise Him all creatures here below!  
Praise Him above ye heavn'ly hosts!  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!  
Amen.