

Illustration: **Get To – Got To**

Discussion: **Do you GET to worship or GOT to worship?**

YOU WILL NEED: No items needed.

What Is Worship?

SAY: The most frequently used word for “worship” in the New Testament paints a picture for us of what worship really means. It literally means “to turn to kiss.”*

ASK • Have you ever had to kiss someone you didn’t want to? Perhaps, it’s Aunt Gertrude who always pinches your cheeks, and every time you leave her house, she asks for a kiss. Worst of all, you have to give it to her because everyone is staring at you. Why would you dread this? Obviously, because your heart isn’t in it. Or, perhaps you don’t have affection for that person.

SAY: This is how many people treat worshipping God. Instead of something they *get* to do, it’s something they *have* to do.

SAY: I am going to say 1-2-3-Go. When I say “Go”, I want you to find at least one other person who has the same chore or responsibility at home as you.

Once they are grouped up, have them sit down together and ask each group what their chores are. Then choose one and use it in the following illustration:

SAY: So those of you who take out the trash, when mom turns to you and says, “Johnny, take out the trash.” How do you feel? Do you say, “All right! I get to the take out the trash.” Or, “Mom, do I have to?!”

Many Christian treat God the same way. Instead of “I *get* to go to church.” Or, “I *get* to read my Bible.” Or, “I *get* to tell someone about Jesus.” They say, “I’ve got to go to church. I’ve got to read my Bible. I’ve got to do this or that.”

KEY: Instead God wants you to desire to be with Him and to worship Him.

ASK: How did you feel the first time you “fell in love”. (Actually, I don’t believe people fall in love. I think they fall in ditches, but let’s say you fall into a deep state of LIKE.) How did you feel?

After several answers, **SAY: You wanted to talk to that person, to be around that person, to think about that person, to tell others about that person, and to tell them how wonderful and handsome and beautiful they were. Right? It’s the same with God. When you fall in love with Jesus, you *want* to talk to Him, to spend time with Him, to tell others about Him, to tell Him how wonderful He is. *This* is worship—not a church service or songs. It’s how you live—where your heart is. Worship is turning to give God a kiss, and sincere worship is born out of sincere affection for Christ.**

Teacher Skillbuilder

Keep your teaching fast-paced. This is hit and run. Hit your illustration, make your point and move on. Remember your key point: Many Christians treat worshipping God like something they've *got* to do instead of something they *get* to do.

Other Options: You could share a brief personal experience about the first time you “fell in love”. Or, you could ask a respected couple that is dating in the youth group how they feel about each other (i.e., Do you like talking to each other? Do you like spending time with each other? Etc.) Or, you could use two volunteers, a boy and a girl. Give them different names: Rufus and Helga. Stick a wig on her head, slap a pair of outdated sunglasses on him, and talk about how they fell in love. (She looked at him and said nice tie. He said, “That’s not my tie, that’s my tongue.” He was in love. He wanted to be with her, to talk about her, to think about her, and so forth.) Then make your point: Would he treat time with her as something he *had* to do or something he would *get* to do... Many Christians treat worshipping God like something they've *got* to do instead of something they *get* to do, but sincere worship is a result of sincere affection for Christ.

*Spiros Zodhiates, TH.D., ed., *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, Iowa Falls, Iowa: Word Bible Publishers, Inc, pp. 1233-4.)