

SHALLOW WORSHIP (TRIUMPHAL ENTRY)

Luke 19:28–40

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Isaiah 29:13

MEMORY VERSE

The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men. **Isaiah 29:13**

Students head off to camp each summer, attend conferences, participate in worship each week, and seemingly take an active part, by all appearances. But what happens to students during the week? Sometimes there are big differences seen in a student's life at church as apposed to at school. At church, the senior adults may look at a student and say, "Isn't he a fine Christian boy?" At school, the faculty members may say, "Why can't his parents get control of this kid?"

What is worship? Read Luke 19:28–40. Many of Jesus' followers perceived Him to be someone other than who He really was. They saw Him as an earthly Messiah who would save them from the oppression of the Roman government and the legalism of the Pharisees. The obvious worship they displayed as Jesus rode into Jerusalem would melt away when they realized that He would not fulfill their agenda.

Worship is not just a once-a-week experience that hinges on whether we feel like worshiping or not. It is a lifestyle. The true worshipers of Jesus would be those who discovered the plan of God and would see Jesus as the fulfillment of that plan, joining with Him in faith and trust.

Students may find themselves entering into worship of someone whom they believe will fulfill all of their dreams, when in fact, Jesus wants and requires their worship to be a lifestyle lived in faith. His agenda will be done, but it might not always be our agenda.

We become an example for our teenagers by the way we display worship not only in the times we gather with the church, but in the way we live our lives before God at home and in the workplace. When our kids see us seeking after God, wanting to know His heart, they will follow our lead.

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

Family members respond to a quick survey: **How many times each week do you eat a meal together as a family? How many times each week do you pray together? How many times each week do you engage in a family worship time or devotional time together?**

Explore . . .

First, family members answer the question: **What is worship?** Then, a family member reads Luke 19:28–40. Ask: **Who among the worshipers that day were really worshiping? What does worship have to do with a lifestyle as opposed to a one time event or weekly event?**

Transform . . .

The family discusses: **Do we worship God because of who He is, or because of who we are and because of our own needs? One family member reads: The answer to this question may answer why we do or do not practice worship as a lifestyle. When our focus is in knowing God, His heart, and His plan, then our worship begins to show up in the way we live our lives each day. When we focus on our own needs in hopes that He will fulfill each one as we desire, then worship can quickly become a once-a-week activity that we lose interest in over time. Ask: What needs to happen in the life of our family to ensure that worship becomes a daily walk instead of just an event at church?**

Pray that your family members will seek to know who God really is, seek His agenda, and begin living a life that reflects worship.