

Aim: To consider the importance of seeing and participating in worship

What are your favourite subjects at school? Why?

Do you prefer subjects where you just sit and listen to the teacher, or where the teacher has things to show you, or where you actually get to do stuff for yourself?

Different people learn better by different methods, but most people learn better when they have something to watch, and even better yet, when they can do something themselves.

The Israelites were no different; they'd grown up in Egypt, some of them worshipping the Egyptian idols, and now that they couldn't see Moses, they didn't know what to do. They wanted something they could see and so they made the golden calf.

God wanted to teach the Israelites; He had told them the Ten Commandments, and written them down for Moses, but it wasn't enough. So God gave the Israelites the Sanctuary; something they could see all the time and they could also participate with some of the sacrifices and offerings. – We will find out more about them in the next few weeks.

Every single part, even the tiniest detail, was designed by God, to teach something about sin or salvation, or about God.

These days, the closest thing that we have to the Sanctuary, is our Church. Our Sabbath School and Church services are made up of many different things; some parts where we just listen, some where we have something to watch, and others where we can all participate.

What are some parts of the Church Service where most people just listen? (Sermon, public prayers etc)

What are some parts where most people watch something? (Special items, sermons with PowerPoints etc)

What are some parts where you get to participate and do something? (Singing, Offering, Sabbath School activities)

What is your favourite part of Church? Why?

Do we actually need to go to Church? Can't we just worship God at home?

Some people don't live near a Church; some people find it hard to get to Church; sometimes people just don't feel like going to Church.

Read Luke 4:16 (It was Jesus custom or habit to go to the Church) – Since Jesus came to earth, not only to save us, but to show us how to live, we should do as Jesus did and, where possible, make it a habit to go to Church.

Read Matthew 18:20 (Where two or three are gathered) – Sometimes people who don't live near a Church have made their own Church with their family or friends.

The Bible doesn't say "You must go to Church on Sabbath" – it says "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy..." but spending the Sabbath day at Church or with other Christians can help us remember to keep the Sabbath holy, without the normal distractions that we have at home. It is something we don't do every day which makes it more special; and spending time with other Christians can also help us to feel God's love for us.

Optional: Read the following verses about the Sabbath and discuss what they mean.

Exodus 20:8-11

Isaiah 58:13-14a (Sabbath a delight / not doing your own thing)

Mark 2:23-27 (Jesus disciples pick grain on the Sabbath)