

Year 8 PTE Knowledge Organiser: Unit 1- Worship

Lesson 1- What is Worship?

Worship comes from the word 'worth'. It is a sign that you appreciate or value something. It can be expressed in many different ways. Some worship is religious (e.g. I worship Jesus) but non-religious people can worship people or objects e.g. (I worship David Beckham)

Private Worship- Worship done on your own e.g. praying, reading a holy book

Public Worship- Worship done with other people e.g. singing, going to a holy building

Lesson 2- Where and how do Christians worship?

Christian worship involves praising God in music and speech, readings from scripture, prayers, a sermon, and holy ceremonies (often called sacraments) such as the Eucharist. While worship is often thought of only as services in which Christians come together in a group, individual Christians can worship God on their own, and in any place. Church services on a Sunday divide into two general types: Eucharistic services and services of the Word. Both types of service will include hymns, readings and prayers. Different churches will use very different styles of worship. Some will be elaborate, with a choir singing difficult music, others will hand the music over to the congregation, who sing simpler hymns or worship songs. Some churches leave much of the action to the minister, while others encourage great congregational participation.

Lesson 3- Where and how do Muslims worship?

Muslims worship in a building called a Mosque. Outside every mosque, or just inside the entrance, is a place where worshippers can remove and leave their shoes. There is also a place where they can carry out the ritual washing required before prayer. The main hall of a mosque is a bare room without any furniture. There are no pictures or statues. Everyone sits on the floor and everywhere in the Mosque is equal in status. A niche in one of the walls, called a Mihrab, shows the direction that the worshippers should face in order to face Mecca. Many Mosques have a minaret which is a tall thin tower. A muezzin stands at the top of the tower and calls Muslims to prayer at the five ritual times of the day. Not all mosques in the UK have a minaret. Women can attend the mosque and when they do they sit separately from the men.

Lesson 4- Where and how do Sikhs worship?

Sikhs worship God and only God. Unlike members of many other religions they don't use images or statues of God to help them. Sikh worship can be public or private. Sikhs can pray at any time and any place. A Sikh should wake up three hours before the dawn, take a bath, and worship God. There are set prayers that a Sikh should recite in the morning and evening, and before going to sleep. Although the Sikh God is beyond description, Sikhs feel able to pray to God as a person and a friend who cares for them. Sikhs regard prayer as a way of spending time in company with God. Although Sikhs can worship on their own, they see public worship as having its own special merits. Sikhs believe that God is visible in the Sikh congregation or Sangat, and that God is pleased by the act of serving the Sangat. Public Sikh worship takes place in a Gurdwara. Sikh public worship can be led by any Sikh, male or female.

Lesson 5- Where and how do Buddhists worship?

Buddhists can worship both at home or at a temple. It is not considered essential to go to a temple to worship with others. At home Buddhists will often set aside a room or a part of a room as a shrine. There will be a statue of Buddha, candles, and an incense burner. Buddhist temples come in many shapes and are designed to symbolise the five elements; fire, air, earth, water and wisdom. All Buddhist temples contain an image or a statue of Buddha. Worshippers may sit on the floor barefoot facing an image of Buddha and chanting. They will listen to monks chanting from religious texts, perhaps accompanied by instruments, and take part in prayers.

