Option B: Umbrella Object Lesson -

Week 1: Understanding Worship
Key Theme: Everything we do should be worship to God.

Things the group leader will need: two or three umbrellas, a Bible

Focus on this week’s theme. (5-6 minutes)

Object Lesson:

With everyone watching, lay all the umbrellas together on a table or in a chair in the front of the room. Explain that each of the umbrellas represents worship to God. Now ask for volunteers. You will need one volunteer more than you have umbrellas.

Ask all but one of the volunteers to pick up an umbrella. Explain that the volunteers are going to simultaneously act out some simple, everyday activities. Now ask those with umbrellas to open them and place them over their heads and keep them over their heads the entire time as they do each of the following activities. The volunteer with no umbrella should also participate in these activities with the other volunteers.

- First, take 20 seconds and shake the hands of a few people in the room.
- Now walk around the room once or twice.
- Carry on a conversation with one of the other volunteers.
- Sit down and act like you are eating lunch.
- Pretend you are in front of your mirror getting ready for work or school.
- Act how you would if you were standing in your church service during the singing time.

Facilitate the discussion time. (7-9 minutes)

Ask for two or three responses to each of the following questions:

- What does each of the activities we just saw have in common?
- What did the umbrellas over each activity show us about worship?
- Why were common, daily activities included as acts of worship just as much as standing and singing in church each week?

Read 1 Corinthians 10:31. Explain that worship is simply bringing glory to God.

- How can our daily thoughts and activities bring glory to God?
- Why is true worship more about who we are on the inside than what we do on the outside?
- How can two people do the very same activities, yet the actions of one of them are counted as worship while the activities of the other one are not considered true worship?

Explain that during our first week of study this past week we learned we are to love God with everything we are every day. As we love Him deeply inside our
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Hearts, all we do and say will naturally reflect that love and adoration for Him. God Himself is the audience of our worship. He alone should be the One for whom we live and breath, work and play. God alone determines whether we are truly worshiping Him, because He alone knows if our hearts are full of worship.

Prayer
Ask each to carefully consider his or her heart before God. Is it on fire for Him and in love with Him? Are the things we do each day demonstrating how much we love Him? Lead everyone in a prayer of surrender to worship God with our whole hearts.

Forecast the upcoming week’s theme and potential impact. (4-5 minutes)
If you are like me, you have already been touched and changed just by going through this first week of Praise More Powerful. If you did not have a chance to finish Week 1, please take time tomorrow to try to catch up. The lessons only take about 20 minutes. To catch up you may need to do a couple lessons back to back one morning. Just be sure to jump in to Week 2 with us this week. Week 2 is a fascinating and eye-opening week about praise. There are eight ways or expressions of praise in the Bible. We are going to discover them this week.