

Short All Age Worship Service

(ShortAAW006)

**The Big Story of God 6:
“Be holy as I am
holy”**

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THE BIG STORY OF GOD 6

“BE HOLY AS I AM HOLY”

Service Aim:

To teach that God called a people to be holy as He is holy. His call is the same today.

This service can be used on its own or as part of a series of services covering major biblical themes from Genesis to Revelation.

Biblical Reference(s):

Exodus 19:3-6, 20:1-17, Leviticus 11:45, 19:2, Jeremiah 31:31-33, Ephesians 1:4, 1Peter 1:15-16, Matthew 22:36-40

Outline of Service:

Welcome:	Introduce the theme
Opening Prayer:	Matthew 18:20 and prayer
Opening songs:	<u>A couple of songs to draw people into worship</u> (See Appendix 1)
Quiz:	Which team do you belong to? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team we belong to can be seen by what we wear
Memory Verse:	Presentation of “Be holy as I am holy” using white t-shirts
Bible Reading:	Ten commandments (YouTube animation)
Song:	<u>Song about God’s holiness</u> (See Appendix 1)
Talk:	God called a people to belong to Him (ie be holy) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The people were to live differently from those around them • The people’s lives would show who they belonged to • We are called to belong to God. (ie be holy) • Our lives of love will show who we belong to
Response:	“Who do I belong to?” question and “act of kindness” t-shirt cards
Prayers:	Thank you / Sorry / Please
Lord’s Prayer	
Summary:	The Israelites were called to belong to God; so are we. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our lives of love will show who we belong to
Final song:	<u>Song about being holy</u> (See Appendix 1)
Blessing:	Numbers 6:24-26

Notes for the service:

General notes and instructions for the service are in black font.

Prayers or responses said by the congregation together are in bold purple font.

The full script of a talk or other activity is in purple font.

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Welcome:

Welcome everyone to the service. Explain that the theme of the service is God giving His laws. If you are using this service as part of the series: "The Big Story of God", explain that too.

Opening Prayer:

You may choose to open the service with:

- an informal prayer
- a prayer from a book like "New Patterns for Worship"¹ that the congregation can say together,
- or the following verse and prayer:

Jesus said, *"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them"*
(Matthew 18:20)

As you promise to be with us Lord Jesus,
We welcome you here today.

**Help us Lord to worship you,
To listen to your Word,
And to pray in faith,
That we might grow in our love for you and for one another.
Amen.**

Opening Songs:

A couple of songs to draw people into worship as per Appendix 1

Quiz:

The quiz is: "Which team do you belong to?" Project on a screen a few pictures of different sports team shirts (eg. Manchester United football team shirt, Milwall football team shirt, New Zealand cricket team shirt, English cycling team shirt, Australian rugby team shirt etc.) Run a quiz to see which side of the congregation can get the most correct answers. At the end of the quiz say something like:

We can work out what team someone belongs to from the clothing that they wear can't we?

- When someone joins a team, they will be given the team shirt to wear, so that everyone knows that they now belong to the team.

Many hundreds of years ago, God led a nation of people called the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and through the desert until they reached a mountain called Mount Sinai.

¹ Church House Publishing – ISBN 0715120603
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There God called them to be His people, to belong to Him;

- to be His team on earth, if you like.

I wonder what “team shirt” God asked His people to wear so that people would know that they belonged to Him. Our memory verse will show us God’s “team shirt”

Memory Verse:

The Memory Verse is Leviticus 11:45 (“*Be holy, because I am holy.*”) One way of presenting the memory verse would be by having six white t-shirts on which you have pinned the following words:

- Be Holy
- Because
- I am
- Holy
- Leviticus chapter 11
- Verse 45

Invite six volunteers to come and wear these t-shirts so the words can be seen. Repeat the memory verse a couple of times and then turn your volunteers around so the congregation cannot see the words, and repeat the verse again. End with only the words on the first t-shirt showing ie “Be holy”

The “team shirt” God asked his people to wear was the “team shirt” that said, “Be holy”.

- But what does “holy” mean?
- It means “set aside for a relationship with God”
- It means “belonging to God”

God then gave his people the team rules, ways of living so that they and others would know that they belonged to Him. Let’s hear them read now.

Bible Reading:

The Bible reading is Exodus 20:1-17. This could be read from the Message Version of the Bible or from the Good News Version. If you wanted a more child friendly version, you could use “The Bible made easy for kids.”² Alternatively you could show a You Tube animation³ of the Ten Commandments, which has pictures as well as words displayed, to aid learning.

Song:

A song about God’s holiness as per Appendix 1

Talk:

So to recap,

- God called the Israelites to be His people;
- to belong to Him.

If God had given His people a team shirt to wear, it would have had the words, “Be holy” written on it, (*Put on the t-shirt that says, “Be holy”*) which means “belonging to God.”

² You can purchase this Bible from Amazon at www.amazon.co.uk

³ The You Tube animation is called “Learn the 10 commandments” (Living Waters) and can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MhJGrzH4Y9A>

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Belonging to God meant living differently from the other nations living around them.

- It meant living in God's way.
- It meant keeping His Commandments.

By obeying these commandments the people's lives would show who they belonged to.

- Their lives would show what God is really like.

God didn't give the Ten Commandments to His people so that they could earn His favour by keeping them;

- He had already chosen them and had promised to pour out His blessings upon them.
- God gave the people the Commandments so that they would live in a way that was consistent with whom they belonged to.

Let's say the memory verse again:

- *"Be holy as I am holy" Leviticus chapter 11 verse 45.*

Sadly the Israelites often forgot who they belonged to,

- and failed to keep the Ten commandments, which made God really sad.

But God didn't give up on having a people who would belong to Him and be in relationship with Him.

- One day God spoke through one of his prophets, a man called Jeremiah, and said that a day was coming when He would make a new agreement with people.
- He would call a people to belong to Him and instead of writing his commands on tablets of stone, he would write them on people's hearts. (*Illustrate this point with a picture of two tablets of stone and a heart*)

That day began when Jesus was sent to earth over two thousand years ago.

- Jesus called and is still calling a people to belong to Him,
- to be in relationship with Him and to enjoy His blessings.
- Belonging to God still means living differently from those living around us and keeping God's commandments.

When Jesus was asked which was the greatest of the commandments, this is what He said:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:36-40

Jesus said that the Ten Commandments can all be kept by keeping the two commandments of:

- Loving God and
- Loving others

Although it sounds simple enough to love God and love others,

- actually putting that into practice isn't always easy is it?

Fortunately God's people don't have to keep His commandments in their own strength.

- They are given the help and strength that they need by God's Spirit coming to live inside them, when they choose to respond to God's invitation to belong to Him.

And now for the challenging question:

- When people look at us, do they see a people full of love?
- Do they see that we live differently from those around us?
- Do they see from our lives of love that we belong to God?
- Are we wearing the t-shirt of God's team, which is, "*Be holy as I am holy*" (Leviticus 11:45)

Response

The response could be in two parts. In the first part you could give people a moment's silence to answer silently in their hearts the question, "Who do I belong to?"

In the second part you could give people a pen/pencil and a card template of a t-shirt with the words, "Be holy as I am holy" (Leviticus 11:45) with a space left for writing on it— see Appendix 2. You could then say something like:

As people who belong to God, we are to love other people as Jesus commanded.

- Love is a very practical word and is about giving our time or money or effort to someone else.
- Let's all write down one practical thing that we could do this week for someone else;
- an act of kindness that will show that person that they are loved.

It doesn't matter who the person is,

- or what you choose to do.
- The key thing is that you are choosing to live out of the place of knowing who you belong to.

Once everyone has finished writing, invite people to take their cards home and to do the action that they have thought about doing.

Prayers:

Prayers could be led by the service leader or by a family etc.

The first prayer could be a prayer of **thanks** for God's love and invitation to belong to His family. (You might find Ephesians 1:4-7 helpful in informing this prayer.

The second prayer could be a prayer **saying sorry** for where we have broken God's commandments.

The third prayer could be a prayer **asking** God for help to live lives of love. Pray too for any situations or people who need to know God's love.

Lord's Prayer:

End by saying the Lord's Prayer together.

Summary:

Summarize the teaching points of the service ie:

The Israelites were called to belong to God; so are we.

- Our lives of love will show who we belong to.

Final Song:

Song about being holy as per Appendix 1

Blessing:

Pray a simple prayer to end the service, something like the blessing prayer from Numbers 6:24-26 ie:

The LORD bless you and keep you;

The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;

The LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. **Amen.**

[Notices: If your church gives out verbal notices my suggestion is that you do that just before the final song. That way the flow of worship is unbroken]

Appendix 1 - Ideas for Songs and Hymns:

i) Opening songs. Ideas include:

- Bless the Lord O my soul (Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman © 2011 SHOUT! Music Publishing)
- Blessing and honour (Jamie Harvill & Gary Sadler © 1992 Integrity's Hosanna Music)
- Everlasting God (Yesterday, today and forever) (Vicky Beeching © 2002 Thankyou Music)
- From the highest of heights (Jesse Reeves, Laura Story © 2004 Laura Stories)
- Here's a song bursting out (Alan Price, Matt Redman © 1998 Thankyou Music)
- You alone are worthy (Al Gordon, Luke Hellebronth & Hanif Williams © 2009 Thankyou Music)

ii) A song about God's holiness Ideas include:

- God immortal invisible (Lou Fellingham, Mike Busbee, Nathan Fellingham © 2008 Thankyou Music)
- Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God (Lift up his name) (Nathan Fellingham © 1995 Thankyou Music)
- Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty (Reginald Heber)
- Let our praise to you be as incense (Brent Chambers © 1979 Scripture in Song / Maranatha! Music)
- We stand and lift up our hands (Chris Tomlin & Louie Giglio © 2003 sixsteps Music)

iii) Song about being holy. Ideas include:

- Love the Lord with all your heart (Becky Drake, Nick J Drake © 2011 Thankyou Music)
- Purify my heart (Brian Doerksen © 1990 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing)
- Set apart (Tim Hughes, Nick Herbert, Ben Cantelon, Luke Hellebronth © 2014 Thankyou Music)
- Shine from the inside out (Nick Jackson © 2007 Powerpack)
- We are heirs of God Almighty (Stuart Townend © 2002 Thankyou Music)

Appendix 2 – T-shirt Template

