

Deity Worship @ Home

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ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry is delighted to welcome you to the Deity Worship @ Home online course.

By establishing a relationship with the Lord through the deity we can easily reawaken our dormant Krishna consciousness.

By learning how to do the rituals of deity worship and understanding their function and purpose, we can more easily develop our loving relationship with the Lord.

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam — 2.3.22 & 7.5.23–24 verses and purports,
11th Canto Chapter 27 verses and purports

Nectar of Devotion — Introduction through to end of Chapter 19

Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Madhya-līlā — 24.330–336 verses and purports

**Essential
Reading**

Learning Goals and Objectives

This course is consistent with the teachings of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda and aims to equip devotees with the necessary knowledge, skills and values that will enable them to worship the Lord at home.

Understanding

The identity of the deity and the role of deity worship in bhakti

Practices

Learn the various procedures used in daily worship

Values

Develop the qualities of a servant of the Lord

Mood of worship

Cultivate the proper relationship with the Lord

Reading

Understand deity worship through careful study of sastra

Confidence

Be confident that your worship at home is authorised.

Course description

Overview

This in-depth training equips you to worship the deities in your home and covers:

- The basic knowledge, skills and values required for the daily worship of deities in your home.
- The balance between the theory and practical aspects of deity worship in your home.
- Concepts that are applicable both in the home and temple worship environments.
- The necessity of cleanliness
- The transcendental nature of the deity.
- Each week will cover different aspects of deity worship practice and philosophy and will build upon the prior sessions.

Structure & duration

Each week there are training videos, assignments, discussion board posts, assigned readings, online quizzes, etc.

There will also be regular live, interactive sessions which will include online discussion debriefs, Q & A sessions, and procedure tutorials.

The course duration is eight weeks.

Course materials

The student handbook "Deity worship @ home," is available as an online only document which you can read online.

There are also downloadable resources, such as this syllabus, course mantras, etc. available in the download folder under the 'Start here' tab.

You are encouraged to read these materials before the course begins.

Live sessions

There will be weekly 90-minute live sessions.

Each live session is broadcast twice, 12 hours apart. Please select a time that works best for you. The Zoom login has been posted to the announcement forum and the WhatsApp group.

The session times are:

North America — Saturdays 8pm & Sunday 8am US EST (GMT-04:00)

Asia Pacific — Sunday 10am and 10pm AEST (GMT+10:00)

Each live session will begin 5 minutes prior to the start time with an introduction video.

Course Schedule

Complete any readings before viewing any of the online content for the week. Changes to the course schedule will be announced in class and in the announcement forum.

Week	Online Topics	Assignments
1	• Why deity worship? • The importance and relevance of deity worship • The mood of worship	17 Videos 15 Readings 11 Quizzes 7 Exercises
2	• Purity • Getting ready for worship • Ācamana	11 Videos 6 Readings 5 Quizzes 3 Exercises 1 Video assignment
3	• Ritual and culture • Offenses • Waking the deities	9 Videos 6 Readings 3 Quizzes 7 Exercises
4	• The form of the Lord • Inviting the Lord into your home and altar setup • Offering food	18 Videos 2 Readings 3 Quizzes 9 Exercises 1 Video assignment
5	• Worship at home and in the temple — a comparison • Standards of worship / finding the balance • Ārati	17 Videos 4 Readings 5 Quizzes 5 Exercises 1 Video assignment
6	• Bathing and dressing the deities • Tulasī	20 Videos 3 Readings 7 Quizzes 5 Exercises
7	• Putting the deities to bed • Travel and deity worship • Children and deity worship	8 Videos 5 Quizzes 4 Forum discussions

Assignments

Assignment	Description
Personal Journals	Each week you are requested to complete a personal journal entry to help you reflect on what you are learning. Journal entries will also assist you tracking your progress in the course.
Videos	Each week there are a number of short videos for you to watch. These videos either introduce the topic, the section, or discuss various aspects of the topic covered in the section. The videos usually are no longer than 5 minutes. However, there are also videos of the various worship procedures, which are sometimes a little longer. The bathing and dressing video has been broken into shorter sections to make it easier for you to watch and digest the information.
Quizzes	Each week you are required to complete several quizzes. The quizzes are simple, single- or multiple-choice questions extracted from the reading and video assignments related to the topic of the quiz. You will only be able to attempt each quiz once. Therefore, we suggest you read the associated reading material and/or watch any videos before attempting the quiz. Once you have read or watched the assigned content, read the quiz questions then read the text or watch the videos again. After this attempt answering the questions.
Forum Discussions	Each topic has forum discussions which ask you to contribute your thoughts or understandings of the content you have been asked to watch or read.
Video Submissions	There are several video assignments for you to complete and upload. These involve recording yourself doing various procedures and uploading the video to the appropriate forum. You will require a device that can simultaneously record video and audio, such as a smartphone and a means to hold the device steady.
Weekly Quizzes	The weekly quiz is designed to deepen and reinforce what you have already learnt from that week.
Reading	Each week there are reading assignments from Śrīla Prabhupāda's books. The reading assignments are listed on page 5 of this syllabus. You are encouraged to read these sections ahead of time, so you are familiar with each topic when it is discussed.

Reading assignments

Week	Reference
1	SB 2.3.22, 4.24.45–46, 7.5.23–24, 7.14.39
	Madhya 15.108
	NoD Ch. 9 & 13
2	Bg 10.12, 13.8–12
	SB 11.21.7–27
	Madhya 24.330–336
3	SB preface, 2.3.22, 3.29.24, 7.5.23–24, 11 Chapter 27
	Madhya 24.336
	NoD Ch. 2 & 8
	NoI 2
	7 purposes of ISKCON
4	SB 3.29.24
	Madhya 5.10–116
5	SB 2.3.22

Grading

Assignments and coursework will be weighted as follows:

Assignment (% of grade)	%
End of week quizzes	20
Specific topic forum discussions and quizzes	40
Ācamana video	10
Food offering video	15
Offering arati video	15
Total	100

The pass mark for the course is 60%

Assignment	Description
Topic Assignments	Each week there are a variety of topics covered. Most topics will have short assignments that will total about 1 to 2 hours each week. The following is a quick overview of the types of assignments given: • Reading from Śrīla Prabhupāda's books and answering simple single-choice, multiple-choice, or matrix quizzes. • Reading and commenting on posts in the appropriate forum. • Upload videos of yourself doing various worship procedures. The topic assignments are due by the end of each week. The final date for submission of all assignments is 30 days after the last class.
Weekly Assessment	At the end of each week, there will be a summative assessment that focuses on the big ideas of the week and serves as a revision exercise. This quiz is designed to be completed in 20–30 minutes. The weekly assessment will be available on the morning of the last day of each week.
Video Assignments	There are 3 video assignments which will help us to assess your worship. You are required to film yourself doing the following tasks. The video assignments are: • Ācamana • Offering food • Offering arati You can film the video with a smartphone or other device and upload them to the appropriate forum.

Tips for Success

Readings

We recommend that you complete any assigned reading before completing any quizzes or attending the live session.

This will help you to successfully complete the quizzes and get more benefit from the live sessions.

Videos

Each week's assignment includes a number of videos.

These videos present the bulk of the course content.

Watching the videos from start to finish will greatly assist you in comprehending the course content.

Managing Your time

Manage your time appropriately during this course.

Allocate sufficient time to complete each assignment. We recommend you develop a time and task management system that works for you.

If you need any help, feel free to reach out to any of the team members.

Personal Tuition

If you need one-on-one time or tuition with any of our team members, please reach out to team members directly, and book an appointment.

Remember, we are here to you to help you succeed in this course and in devotional service in general.

Attendance

You are required to attend every live session.

We will be delving into details of home deity worship in these sessions, and they will also provide you the opportunity to get answers to your questions.

Come Prepared to Live sessions

Come prepared to the weekly live sessions ready to ask questions and engage in small group and class-wide discussions.

Participation in these sessions will help you succeed in the course work and will deepen your understanding of the topics. You will also gain crucial knowledge for your worship at home.

Other Resources

#	Article/Link
1	Deityworship.com
2	Vedabase.io
3	ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry — YouTube channel
4	Learn how to make ghee wicks here
5	Śrīmad-Bhagavatam
6	Caitanya-caritamṛta
7	Nectar of Devotion
8	Śrī Śrī Rukmiṇī Dvārakānātha Deity Installation —July 16, 1969, Los Angeles — audio/transcripts/1969/690716DI-LOS_ANGELES.mp3