

# *Sunday Morning Worship*

*April 12, 2026*



FIRSTBAPTIST  
CHURCH  
UPPERMARLBORO

**7415 SW Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772**

**301-952-0117 :: [www.fbcum.org](http://www.fbcum.org) :: [fbcum@firstbaptistum.com](mailto:fbcum@firstbaptistum.com)**

# ***Order of Worship***

***April 12, 2026***

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Baby Dedication and Prayer**

**Call to Worship — Psalm 8:1-9**

***Song — How Great Thou Art***

***Song — Blessed Assurance***

**Scripture Reading — Deuteronomy 7:1-11**

**Pastoral Prayer**

***Song — Genuine Love***

**Prayer of Thanks**

**Worship Through Giving of Tithes and Offerings**

**Message — Mike Rogers**

**“God Is Greater Than Your Heart”**

**1 John 3:16-24**

***Song — How Deep the Father’s Love for Us***

**Introduction of New Members**

**Benediction**

**Comfort Rooms:** To help accommodate families with small children and individuals with special needs or medical conditions, a live video feed of the worship service is available in rooms 116, 117/118, 119, 120-125.

**Visitors & Guests:** Stop by the Welcome Desk for church information and to receive a welcome packet.

## Baby Dedication Commitments

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### To the parents:

Do you agree to regularly seek after God in His word, thru prayer, and gathering together with the people of God in an effort to honor God as a parent? Do you, with God's help, commit to diligently teach the truths of God's word to your children, to speak of them in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise? Will you regularly pray *for* your children, pray *with* your children, and make clear the way of salvation to them by teaching them the good news of Jesus Christ? Will you, with God's help, seek to be an example to your children to follow in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control? If so, please say ***we do***.

### To those who are members of this church:

In recognizing that we are a church family, do you commit to helping these parents by praying for them and their children, being an example to them in word and deed? Do you commit to teaching and seeking the salvation of these little ones in appropriate ways? If so, church family, please say ***we do***.

## Call to Worship — Psalm 8:1-9 (ESV)

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<sup>1</sup> O LORD, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
You have set your glory above the heavens.

<sup>2</sup> Out of the mouth of babies and infants,  
you have established strength because of your  
foes,  
to still the enemy and the avenger.

<sup>3</sup> When I look at your heavens, the work of your  
fingers,  
the moon and the stars, which you have set in  
place,

<sup>4</sup> what is man that you are mindful of him,  
and the son of man that you care for him?

<sup>5</sup> Yet you have made him a little lower than the  
heavenly beings  
and crowned him with glory and honor.

<sup>6</sup> You have given him dominion over the works of  
your hands;  
you have put all things under his feet,

<sup>7</sup> all sheep and oxen,  
and also the beasts of the field,  
<sup>8</sup> the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,  
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

<sup>9</sup> O LORD, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

## How Great Thou Art

Stuart K. Hine

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### Verse 1:

O Lord my God  
When I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made  
I see the stars  
I hear the rolling thunder  
Thy power throughout  
the universe displayed

### Chorus:

Then sings my soul  
My Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art  
How great Thou art

### Verse 2:

And when I think  
That God His Son not sparing  
Sent Him to die,  
I scarce can take it in  
That on the cross  
My burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin

### Verse 3:

When Christ shall come  
With shout of acclamation  
And take me home,  
what joy shall fill my heart  
Then I shall bow  
In humble adoration  
And there proclaim,  
my God how great Thou art

## Blessed Assurance

David LaChance Jr | Fanny Crosby

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### Verse 1:

Come Holy Spirit my soul assure  
Relieve my fears that I no more  
May doubt the love of Christ for me  
That my debt is paid that I've been made free  
O Comforter in me reside  
When the tempter speaks be my faithful Guide  
Show Your promise is for me secured  
For the battle be my heav'nly sword

### Chorus:

Blessed assurance Jesus is mine  
Oh what a foretaste of glory divine  
Heir of salvation purchase of God  
Born of His Spirit washed in His blood

### Verse 2:

Illumine me with the Savior's light  
To dispel my thoughts in the blackest night  
In darkest hour to my soul reveal  
The wounds which all my sorrows heal  
Impress that seal His image leave  
And by Your pow'r to His grace I'll cleave  
Until faith be sight and prayer be praise  
When beholding Jesus face to face

### Bridge:

This my story this my song  
Born of Spirit washed in blood  
This my story this my song  
In my Savior I belong

## Scripture Reading — Deuteronomy 7:1-11 (ESV)

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<sup>1</sup>“When the LORD your God brings you into the land that you are entering to take possession of it, and clears away many nations before you, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations more numerous and mightier than you, <sup>2</sup> and when the LORD your God gives them over to you, and you defeat them, then you must devote them to complete destruction. You shall make no covenant with them and show no mercy to them. <sup>3</sup> You shall not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons, <sup>4</sup> for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods. Then the anger of the LORD would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly. <sup>5</sup> But thus shall you deal with them: you shall break down their altars and dash in pieces their pillars and chop down their Asherim and burn their carved images with fire.

<sup>6</sup>“For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. <sup>7</sup> It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, <sup>8</sup> but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations, <sup>10</sup> and repays to their face those who hate him, by destroying them. He will not be slack with one who hates him. He will repay him to his face. <sup>11</sup> You shall therefore be careful to do the commandment and the statutes and the rules that I command you today.

# Genuine Love

Eric McAllister

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## **Chorus:**

You have welcomed us into your family  
Bought by blood into this new community  
Teach us love, teach us love,  
teach us genuine love  
So the world may see that you're alive in us  
So the world may see that you're alive in us

## **Verse 1:**

We are many, we are one  
Joined together in the Son  
You have poured your love on us  
Ever fervent in our prayers  
Ever generous to share  
You have poured your love on us

## **Verse 2:**

Songs of thanks and praise we sing  
To the God of grace and peace  
You have poured your love on us  
We're the church of Jesus Christ  
Through his precious sacrifice  
You have poured your love on us

## **Verse 3:**

Near the grieving we are found  
With them still when joy rebounds  
As you form your Son in us  
We will gather, pray, and eat  
Showing honor to the weak  
As you form your Son in us

## **Verse 4:**

Though this world may hate your name  
We will never be ashamed  
As you form your Son in us  
For the church that you have won  
Evil shall not overcome  
As you form your Son in us  
As you form your Son in us  
You will form your Son in us

**Sermon Notes**

**“God Is Greater Than Your Heart” :: 1 John 3:16-24**

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# How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Keith Getty | Stuart Townend

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## Verse 1:

How deep the Father's love for us  
How vast beyond all measure  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure  
How great the pain of searing loss  
The Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory

## Verse 2:

Behold the Man upon a cross  
My sin upon His shoulders  
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers  
It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished  
His dying breath has brought me life  
I know that it is finished

## Verse 3:

I will not boast in anything  
No gifts no pow'r no wisdom  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ  
His death and resurrection  
Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer  
But this I know with all my heart  
His wounds have paid my ransom

## This Week at First Baptist Church

### Sunday, April 12

9:00 AM DiscipleLIFE classes  
10:00 AM Sunday Worship w/ Baby Dedication  
12:00 PM Starting Point Seminar  
6:00 PM Youth Night

### Monday, April 13

### Tuesday, April 14

### Wednesday, April 15

5:45 PM King's Kids Choir  
6:30 PM AWANA  
Elder-Led Bible Study (1 Cor)  
Choir / Band Rehearsal

### Thursday, April 16

### Friday, April 17

### Saturday, April 18

### Sunday, April 19

9:00 AM DiscipleLIFE classes  
10:00 AM Sunday Worship  
6:00 PM Youth Night

## Upcoming Events at First Baptist Church

### Sunday, April 12

Starting Point Seminar — immediately following worship service  
*(Seminar for those interested in church membership. Contact the church office to register or use the Digital Communication Card on the back of this bulletin.)*

### Sunday, April 19

5pm — Young Adult Gathering at the home of Tim and Ashley Smith

### Saturday, May 2

9am — From Service to Celebration Event

### Saturday, May 16

8am — Men's Breakfast

### Sunday, May 31

Members' Meeting immediately following the worship service

# Praying with First Baptist Church

## A Prayer Guide for the week of April 12

### Prayer of the week:

One of the ways we learn to pray is by using the examples in Scripture as a springboard and inspiration for our own prayer life. This week, we encourage you to use the prayer of the Apostle Paul from the book of Ephesians 3:17-19:

*<sup>17</sup> ... [may] Christ dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

We recognize our need for God's help in all the areas of our lives. The categories and requests listed below are intentional ways to pray for each other as a church family. For help in knowing how and what to pray for, look up the Scripture included with each item.

### Ongoing prayer items in the life of our church:

- Pray for opportunities and boldness to share the gospel with loved ones (Matt. 28:19)
- Pray for conversions (John 3:3, Acts 16:14)
- Pray for the children of our church to hear and understand the gospel and be saved. (Luke 8:8)
- Pray for the preaching of God's word – for faithfulness, fruitfulness, and God's glory (2 Tim. 4:2, 1 Cor. 2:4-5, Isa. 55:10-11)
- Pray for increased one to one discipleship relationships in our church family (Matt. 28:19-20)
- Pray for unity in our diversity both on Sunday and through the week (Rom. 15:13, Eph 4:2-3)
- Pray for continued growth and joy in the gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-5, 2 Pet. 1:12)
- Pray for growth in holiness, hatred of sin and growth in humility (Prov. 8:13, 1 Pet. 1:14-16)
- Pray for honest, loving relationships in our church (Col. 3:12-13, James 5:16)
- Pray for families: marriages to thrive, parents to teach/love/discipline carefully, and children to obey (Eph. 5:22-6:4)
- Pray that giving would be faithful, joyful, consistent, and sacrificial (2 Cor. 8:9)

### Prayer items outside our church:

- Pray that our elected officials would fear God, seek His wisdom, have integrity, humility, and work together for the good of society and not self. (1 Tim. 2:1-2, Rom. 13:1-7)
- Pray for fruitful ministry in other gospel-proclaiming churches in our area. (Rom. 15:20, 1 Cor. 16:1-3, Matt. 28:19-20)

- Pray that God would bring a swift end to wars going on throughout the world and establish peace. Pray for protection and care for the many refugees fleeing to safety. Pray that those impacted would trust in God in the midst of their suffering. (Ps. 139:23-24)
- Pray for our ministry partners locally and around the world—Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware (BCM/D), North American Mission Board (NAMB) and International Mission Board (IMB). Pray especially for those we have direct partnerships with: Jeremy McClain (Mercy of Christ Fellowship Church, DC), Joel Kurz (The Garden Church, Baltimore), Daniel and Brandy Spandler-Davison and Susanna Schriever (Bangkok City Baptist Church, Thailand). Pray the gospel would flourish and churches would be planted and strengthened through their work. Pray that God would supply their needs. (Ps 93:4, Col. 1:5-6, 1 Pet. 4:12-17)

### **Particular prayer items in the life of our church:**

- Praise God for the new members recently brought into our church family: Rayce and Sarah Blair, Kirk and Carly Conway, Vivian DeSantis, Matthew & Kanika Willis. Pray that God would unify us in Jesus Christ and that opportunities for fellowship would abound (Rom. 15:5-6, Acts 2:42)
- Pray for federal workers in our church who are effected by the DHS shutdown. Pray that they would trust God to provide for their needs. Pray that God would help them to bear good spiritual fruit even in the midst of difficult circumstances. (John 16:33; Ps. 23:1)
- Pray for good spiritual fruit to come from the recent Women’s Retreat. Pray that God would bless the women of our church family and grant them deep rest in their relationship with their Savior, Jesus Christ. (Matthew 11:28)
- Pray for our young adults ministry. Pray that our young adults would be encouraged and strengthened in their faith. Pray that godly friendships would flourish. (Heb. 10:23-24)
- Pray that God would strengthen and encourage our Deacons and Ministry Team leaders as they work to meet the practical needs of our church family and those in our community (1 Samuel 12:24; Deut. 31:6). See “Ministry Spotlight” pages for highlights and prayer requests.
- Pray that God would help us comprehend his good design for the church and center our lives around it for the sake of his glory being made known. (Eph 3:10; 3:21)
- Pray that God would renew our strength when we’re weary and use our weakness to display His power. (2 Cor. 12:9)
- Pray that a culture of discipleship, joyful hospitality, and care grows in us as a church family (1 Pt 4:9; Col. 3:16)
- The following individuals have expressed particular prayer concerns:

**Brenda Addison, Margaret Austin, John Buchheister, Alice Copeland, Connie Crawford, Jim Ernster, Marjorie Griffin, Kim Haskell, Cheryl Rowland (death of father), Bonnie Trott, Glenn Walker**

(To submit a prayer request, please use the Prayer Request Card available in the sanctuary and drop them in the offering basket or contact the Prayer Room at 301-952-8877.)

# Ministry Spotlight

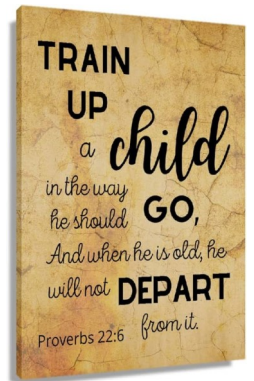
“Ministry Spotlight” aims to highlight active church ministries and programs at FBC Upper Marlboro. We hope these highlights help us all support each ministry in prayer, and also spark interest in your personal involvement in a particular ministry. *Please contact us to learn more about the ministries at FBCUM using the Digital Communication Card on the last page of this bulletin. We also encourage you to pick up a copy of “Places to Serve” in the magazine racks near the exits for information on all the church ministries.*

## Children’s Ministry

**Pam Jensen :: Children’s Ministry Administrator**

The Children’s Ministry is a program of the church that encompasses several areas: ChildLIFE, DiscipleLIFE, Awana, and VBS. Each Sunday morning our Children’s DiscipleLIFE classes begin at 9am for babies through sixth grade. Followed by ChildLIFE at 10am Babies thru Pre-K4. Excited children arrive with their parents and are checked-in to join their classmates and teachers to explore the word of God.

During the academic year from September through May, we provide the Awana program on Wednesday nights. During the summer we also have our VBS (Vacation Bible School) week. Each of these programs keep our children immersed in the word of God and brings encouragement through memorizing scripture and working through materials that brings scripture to life. There is truly nothing more rewarding than to see how children respond when they actually gain understanding in God’s word. Our mission is to ensure that the gospel is heard.



**Children’s DiscipleLIFE:** This is the perfect time to get started. ‘Promotion Sunday’ is the first Sunday in June, children will be promoted to their next grade in DiscipleLIFE, which marks the beginning of their new year. This would be a great time to step up to the plate in DiscipleLIFE. DiscipleLIFE classes begin every Sunday morning at 8:45am and end at 9:50am.

As a teacher you will be equipped and prepared with everything you need to effectively lead the lesson. You will also receive visual supports and activities that will reinforce the lesson. However, if you are not ready for a full-time commitment and would like to serve, consider becoming a substitute teacher. Please note that all classes have two or more adults in the rooms so you will be able to step in without any concern. As a substitute, you may observe a class or two, to get a general feel for the curriculum and class procedure.

# Ministry Spotlight

**ChildLIFE:** The ChildLIFE Ministry is also a wonderful place to serve, particularly if you enjoy working with Babies-PreK-4. This ministry provides a schedule that allows you to serve your fellow members and guests. And if you are a parent of a preschooler, you will likewise benefit from this ministry. Volunteers eagerly arrive at 9:45am and care for our babies thru PreK-4 during the worship service only once every six-weeks or so.



**Awana Clubs:** The Awana club program begins in the fall and meets on Wednesdays from 6:30pm-8pm and follows the academic year for children from PreK 3-Sixth grade. The children are assigned to Awana clubs by age/grade: (Cubbies - PreK 3-4); (Sparks - K-2 Grade); (Truth and Training (T&T) - 3rd –6th Grade). Awana clubs is a great place to serve! As a leader, you are given the curriculum and suggestions which provide children with instruction, guided activities and games. Although this group is drawing to a close on May 20th, this is the perfect time to consider where you might want to serve in the fall. Leaders enjoy seeing the children grow in their knowledge of Christ. This may be the place for you.

**Vacation Bible School:** The VBS theme is 'Illumination Station' which encourages *Shining a Light on Who Jesus Really Is, John 8:12!* VBS is scheduled for the week of June 22 from 8:45am-12:30pm! Are you excited to see how this theme unfolds and work with children? If you answered **yes**, then **you** are invited to volunteer for VBS! Plan ahead to join an enthusiastic team that invests in our future. *(Note: if you have not served in the Children's Division, you will need to have a background check, so it is good to start the process early. Please contact the church office for more details.)*



If you are a church member seeking to serve in any Children's Ministry area, please contact our leaders: **Awana (Commander Ronnie Sweetman); ChildLIFE (Ashley Meekins-Smith); Children's DiscipleLIFE (Pam Jensen); or VBS (Monica Kergel), you may also contact the church office:** [fbcum@firstbaptistum.com](mailto:fbcum@firstbaptistum.com); 301-952-0117; or use the [QR code](#) (on the back of this bulletin.)

# Announcements

1. **Interested in Church Membership? Attend the Starting Point Seminar — TODAY.** Starting Point is a seminar-style meeting open to anyone interested in joining our church family or simply learning more about who we are and what we believe. Meet in rooms 120-125 (Youth Rooms) immediately following the worship service TODAY. A light lunch will be served.

2. **Young Adult Gathering :: April 19 at 5pm :: Home of Tim and Ashley Smith.** Young Adults are invited to a time of fellowship and refreshments. Contact Tre Fields for more info or questions.

3. **“From Service to Celebration” Event :: Saturday, May 2, at 9am.** You're invited to a morning of celebration and vision as we reflect on God's blessings and look ahead to the future of FBCUM. More information is forthcoming. For now, mark your calendar and make plans to join us. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

4. **Men's Breakfast :: Saturday, May 16, at 8am.** Guys... mark your calendar and join us for a time of fellowship and devotional. Registration opens soon.

5. **Giving.** We thank God for the faithful giving of our church family that sustains the gospel ministry here at FBC Upper Marlboro. As a reminder, there are three ways you can give:

- **online:** click the link or scan the QR code,
- **in-person:** designated boxes in the church foyer or during the worship service,
- **by mail:** send to the church office.



## Digital Communication Card



Are you interested in receiving more information about the church, meeting with a pastor, or sharing a prayer need? Scan the QR code to fill in our digital communication card and someone will follow up with you. You're always welcome to contact the church office: 301-952-0117.



# Looking to God Our Provider

[1 John 3:16-24](#)

“God is Greater Than Your Heart”– April 12, 2026



## Introduction

Love is a big word. The world portrays what they think love should look like in songs, movies, books, etc. When we see passages of scripture like this, some may think that they understand and know how to love. Others may be confused about what love is and what it should look like. What is your idea of love - what it means and what should it look like?

Our natural tendency, because of sin, is hatred. You can see this played out in what happened between Cain and Abel in [Genesis 4](#). Yet, one of the clear marks of being a Christian is our love for one another. How can you make sure that your love isn't following cultural norms? What if your love for other believers has grown cold? Does this make you question whether or not you are truly a believer?

## Sermon Outline

1. Define love by God's standard. Vs. 16-18
2. Trust God's love for His children. Vs. 19-24

## Read & Discuss

### 1. Read Vs. 16-18

The Apostle John felt the need to explain what he meant by love. You can know what love is supposed to look like by looking at how Jesus loved. In John 10, John wrote the words of Jesus, saying that the Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. ([John 10:11](#); [15:13](#)) The greatest example of love is laying down one's life for another.

You and I experience the benefit of new life and eternal life as a result of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. The sacrifice made for the benefit of another is where the love is found. Jesus is the supreme example of this. At the end of vs. 16, John said that we should have the same kind of sacrificial love. Jesus commanded His disciples to love each other as He loves. What does John mean? We should be prepared to lay down our lives. While Jesus is an example, we are incapable of accomplishing the same thing as He did with His death on the cross. Jesus was the sinless Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.

What else does John mean? We should be ready to show sacrificial love by meeting the needs of others. The time to practice Christian love is not some potential day in the future - it is NOW. What things can you do to show love to others in need? ([James 2:14-17](#)) There are practical needs that you can meet. Remember, the “doing” isn't enough. “Throwing money” at a situation isn't love. Actions should be motivated by seeing a need **and** emotionally moved to meet the need.

Christian love doesn't just talk - it acts. It functions in deed and in truth. There should be a genuine, heart-felt response to show love. Take stock of your blessings. Where has God given you abundance? Keep your eyes and ears open, so that you will be aware of the need. Will you open your life to others to be aware of needs?

### 2. Read Vs. 19-24

The people to whom John wrote were struggling with doubt. People in the 1<sup>st</sup> century church had left the faith, were stirring up dissension, and trying to get others to join them. John was reminding them that they can know the truth about Jesus now and in the face of future doubts. Have you struggled with doubts?

Here, John was giving a message of confidence. The truth about Jesus can be trusted. You can go to Him in prayer even when your sin, doubt and shame of your heart seem to be crippling you. Jesus knows your heart. He knows when you are overwhelmed. He knows the depths of your heart better than you know yourself. You do not need to be crushed by fear and shame or cower under the claims of the Accuser. Your right standing before God cannot be accomplished by your good deeds. It is only by the precious blood of

Jesus! ([Romans 8:1](#)) God is greater than your heart. Jesus took your condemnation. It was nailed to the cross!

Have you ever been in a situation where you didn't think you belonged? If so, that probably shattered your confidence. However, you can have confidence before God, and come to Him in prayer with boldness. You never have to worry about feeling out of place with God. He knows all about you. It was while we were still sinners that Christ died. ([Romans 5:8](#)) No matter where you stand with God currently, don't you desire to have peace, assurance, and confidence? Do you long to know that you can be loved by God and called His child? Confess that your heart rightly condemns you. Turn from and repent of sin. Trust in Christ only. You can have confidence that is grounded in gospel reality.

This confidence is meant to have the "little children" tone. John referred to the recipients of this letter as in a fatherly way. You can enter this relationship with God, who is a loving Father. The more you lean into this and keep His command, you can pray confidently. Are you leaning into God as Father? What is causing you to lose confidence? Is there something that is condemning you? What needs to happen to restore your confidence?

Declare what is true. Renounce what is false. Continue to go to God with confidence. This practice of going boldly to Him, in spite of our feelings, will increase your confidence. Practice this in your homes with your family, roommates, etc. to serve as a sweet reminder that you can have confidence in the presence of our Heavenly Father.

Not everyone who shows love is a Christian. Belief and love must go together. Right belief is the basis of true love, and true love is the expression of right belief. Remember, Jesus possesses the power that His name suggests. He is the Son of God. He has the power to forgive, help in time of need, and offer eternal life. Claims outside of that are not what John had in mind when he talked about believing even if those making the claims have actions that show love. Belief and love go hand-in-hand. God has given us His Spirit. You can be assured that God loves you and wants a relationship with you.

### **Prayer of Response**

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at.

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| <b>Next week's sermon text:</b> <a href="#">Luke 7:18-35</a> "Dealing with Doubt" |
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## Family Guide for week of April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026

*Deuteronomy 6:6–7 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*



Suggestions on getting started:

- Decide on a time & place (breakfast, dinner, before bed, etc.)
- Start simple and short (ten minutes or less). Start with three things: 1) Read God's word, 2) Pray together and 3) Sing together. Scripture memory and catechism questions are *optional* if you have the time. Better to start small than bite off more than you can chew and give up.
- Be flexible. It doesn't need to look cookie-cutter similar for every family. Know yourself and know your kids: their personality, age, maturity, etc. [For younger kids consider starting with a good children's Bible like [The Big Picture Story Bible](#).]
- If you don't know the answer to a question someone has, don't act like you do! Say something like, "Great question, let me look into that." Study, ask a pastor or Christian friend and get back to them.
- Embrace the chaos. Kids are kids – don't expect it to be a perfect roundtable discussion with quiet, attentive children every time. Be patient and persistent. Patterns and habits help to set expectations over time.
- To learn more about family worship check out Donald Whitney's book (available at our church bookstall): [Family Worship: In the Bible, In History, and In Your Home](#).

## Family Guide for week of April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026

*Deuteronomy 6:6-7* And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.



### **Bible Intake:** (Listening to God)

Day 1 – Matthew 22:34-40

Day 2 – Matthew 22:41-45

Day 3 – Matthew 23:1-12

Day 4 – Matthew 23:13-24

Day 5 – Matthew 23:25-36

\*Read Luke 7:18-35 in preparation for church on Sunday, April 19, 2026

### **Prayer:** (Talking to God)

Pray about one thing you read in Scripture together.

Pray for a few church members on pg. 14 of our church directory. Pray for any specific needs of you and your family.

Thank Jesus for living a perfect life to be our righteousness and for dying on the cross to be our substitute. Thank Him for rising again to show us that we too can have eternal life in Him. Ask God to show you ways you can publicly share your faith with others.

### **Sing together**

“How Deep the Father's Love for Us” – Use the bulletin from Sunday.

### **Memory verses for the month**

**John 1:14** *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

**Psalms 145:10** *“All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you!”*

### **Catechism question for the week<sup>1</sup>**

**Question 39:** *With what attitude should we pray?*

**Answer:** *With love, perseverance, and gratefulness.*

<sup>1</sup> *New City Catechism* (<http://newcitycatechism.com/>)