

# *Sunday Morning Worship*

*April 19, 2026*



FIRSTBAPTIST  
CHURCH  
UPPERMARLBORO

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

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# ***Order of Worship***

*April 19, 2026*

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Silent Prayer**

**Call to Worship — Psalm 19:7-10, 14**

*Song — Speak O Lord*

**Scripture Reading — Psalm 27:1-6; 13-14**

*Song — The Lord Is My Light*

**Pastoral Prayer**

*Song — I Set My Hope on Jesus*

**Prayer of Thanks**

**Worship Through Giving of Tithes and Offerings**

**Message — Zach Schlegel**  
**“Dealing with Doubt”**  
**Luke 7:18-35**

*Song — Victory In Jesus*

**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.

## Call to Worship — Psalm 19:7-10, 14 (ESV)

<sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect,  
reviving the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure,  
making wise the simple;  
<sup>8</sup> the precepts of the LORD are right,  
rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is pure,  
enlightening the eyes;  
<sup>9</sup> the fear of the LORD is clean,  
enduring forever;

the rules of the LORD are true,  
and righteous altogether.  
<sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey  
and drippings of the honeycomb.  
<sup>14</sup> Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of  
my heart  
be acceptable in your sight,  
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

## Speak O Lord

Keith Getty & Stuart Townend

### **Verse 1:**

Speak O Lord as we come to You  
To receive the food of Your holy word  
Take Your truth plant it deep in us  
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness  
That the light of Christ might be seen today  
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith  
Speak O Lord and fulfill in us  
All Your purposes for Your glory

### **Verse 2:**

Teach us Lord full obedience  
Holy reverence, true humility  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
In the radiance of Your purity

Cause our faith to rise  
Cause our eyes to see  
Your majestic love and authority  
Words of power that can never fail  
Let their truth prevail over unbelief

### **Verse 3:**

Speak O Lord and renew our minds  
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time  
That will echo down through eternity  
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises  
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us  
Speak O Lord till Your church is built  
And the earth is filled with Your glory

## Scripture Reading — Psalm 27:1-6; 13-14 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>2</sup>When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.

<sup>3</sup>Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident

<sup>4</sup>One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

*(continued on next page)*

## Scripture Reading — (continued)

<sup>5</sup>For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

<sup>6</sup>And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD .

<sup>13</sup> I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!

<sup>14</sup> Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

## The Lord Is My Light

Lillian Bouknight

### Verse 1:

The Lord is my Light and my salvation,  
Whom shall I fear?

### Chorus:

Whom shall I fear? Whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the strength of my life.  
Whom shall I fear?

### Verse 2:

In the time of trouble He shall hide me,  
whom shall I fear?

### Verse 3:

Wait on the Lord and be of good courage,  
whom shall I fear?

## I Set My Hope on Jesus

Matt Boswell | Matt Papa | Keith Getty

### Verse 1:

When this life of trials test my faith  
I set my hope on Jesus  
When the questions come and doubts remain  
I set my hope on Jesus  
For the deepest wounds that time won't heal  
There's a joy that runs still deeper  
There's a truth that's more than all I feel  
I set my hope on Jesus

### Chorus:

I set my hope on Jesus, My rock, my only trust  
Who set His heart upon me first  
I set my hope on Jesus

### Verse 2:

Though I falter in this war with sin  
I set my hope on Jesus  
When I fail the fight and sink within  
I set my hope on Jesus  
Though the shame would drown me in its sea  
And I dread the waves of justice  
I will cast my life on Calvary  
I set my hope on Jesus

### Verse 3:

Though the world called me to leave my Lord  
I set my hope on Jesus  
Though it offer all its vain rewards  
I set my hope on Jesus  
Though this heart of mine is prone to stray  
Give me grace enough to finish  
'Til I worship on that final day  
I set my hope on Jesus

**Sermon Notes**

**“Dealing with Doubt” :: Luke 7:18-35**

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# Victory in Jesus

Eugene Bartlett

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## Verse 1:

I heard an old, old story,  
How a Savior came from glory,  
How He gave His life on Calvary  
To save a wretch like me;  
I heard about His groaning,  
Of His precious blood's atoning,  
Then I repented of my sins  
And won the victory.

## Chorus:

O victory in Jesus,  
My Savior, forever.  
He sought me and bought me  
With His redeeming blood;  
He loved me ere I knew Him  
And all my love is due Him,  
He plunged me to victory,  
Beneath the cleansing flood.

## Verse 2:

I heard about His healing,  
Of His cleansing pow'r revealing.  
How He made the lame to walk again  
And caused the blind to see;  
And then I cried, "Dear Jesus,  
Come and heal my broken spirit,"  
And somehow Jesus came and bro't  
To me the victory.

## Verse 3:

I heard about a mansion  
He has built for me in glory.  
And I heard about the streets of gold  
Beyond the crystal sea;  
About the angels singing,  
And the old redemption story,  
And some sweet day I'll sing up there  
The song of victory.

## This Week at First Baptist Church

### Sunday, April 19

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

### Monday, April 20

### Tuesday, April 21

### Wednesday, April 22

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

### Thursday, April 23

### Friday, April 24

### Saturday, April 25

6:30 AM Bible Boot Camp (Men's Study)  
8:00 AM Titus 2 (Ladies Study)

### Sunday, April 26

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

## Upcoming Events at First Baptist Church

### 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

### Sunday, July 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.)*

# Praying with First Baptist Church

## A Prayer Guide for the week of April 19

### 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 praise of the Apostle Paul from 1 Thessalonians 2:13 as a specific way to give thanks to God:

*<sup>13</sup> And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.*

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 deepen our desire for prayer as a church family. May we not grow weary or apathetic in bringing our concerns to Him. May God help us to sense His presence and power as we pray. (Rom 12:12, Col 4:2)
- Pray for those in our church family who are going through a significant time of suffering—physically or mentally. Pray for peace. Pray for a keen awareness of God’s presence and a desire to draw near to him. Pray for experiences of joy in Christ and in fellowship with church family. (Is. 26:3-4, Ps. 34:18, Ps. 30:1-5)
- 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, Tony Yuriar (death of father)**

(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.*

## College Student Ministry

**Una Edwards & Ashley Smith :: Ministry Leaders**

We are eagerly anticipating a new group of college/university bound young adults to pursue their future educational/career interests. Some will be attending institutions locally and some will be moving away from home. The process of having to develop new routines and social circles can be daunting. This is a major change and may lead to a great deal of excitement and a lot of concerns. Those who have experienced these changes can remember what it was like to leave home and establish new friendships and take on new responsibilities while adjusting to the changes before you. This is the reason why, the College Students Ministry began. This ministry hopes to provide support and be a connection for the student adults as they seek to navigate the upcoming changes.



This ministry truly provides a link between the church and the college students to help ease the transition through several goals. The first goal is to encourage the students to find a local church and the second goal is for students to set a support system by, perhaps joining a campus Bible study group.

The ministry will also seek church leaders to reach-out to these students to keep the channel of communications open. This encouragement and follow-up on their connections with their chosen local church and/or Bible study group. If no connection has been made the elders will assist by providing recommendations for local Christ-centered churches. The word of God is powerful and being in attendance with Christ-centered worship services will make a tremendous difference in the lives and decisions young adults will make.

## Ministry Spotlight

Scripture tells us that we are not to neglect to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encourage one another. This is extremely important for adult students. Therefore, these are critical connections that will help the students secure a strong foundation on which to continue to grow in Christ.

Our hope is that these connections will bring with it a multitude of blessings as students develop solid and lasting friendships so they do not feel alone. They will have the comfort a brothers and sisters in the faith. These relationships will likely be great support systems as they face worldly challenges. Students will also develop a practice of praying for one another and that builds faith in the Lord.

In addition to these foundational goals, the College Student Ministry, works toward demonstrating Christian love by engaging with the college students with an occasional surprise. They send care packages, by God's grace, that arrive at just the right moment. As the adult student receives the unexpected gift, phone call, card/note or text message, that student knows that their home church cares for them and is praying for them sharing the love of Christ. This is what all of us need, loving support through a Christ-centered ministries like the College Student Ministry.



The College Student Ministry is welcoming all prayers for the college students and for their ministry. If you are seeking a place to serve in our church, this may be the perfect ministry for you. ***Anyone interested in serving or assisting, please reach out to either Una Edwards or Ashley Smith. This is a great time to get involved as we are approaching a new group of graduates preparing to move forward.***

# Announcements

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**1. Young Adult Gathering :: TODAY 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.

**2. “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!

**3. 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.

**4. 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.



If you're giving in person or by mail, please help us accurately identify your gift by legibly printing your first and last name on your giving envelope. Church members with a benevolence request, please contact the church office.

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### Note of Thanks:

To the First Baptist Church of Upper Marlboro. We are deeply appreciative of your expressions of sympathy and grateful for your thoughtfulness to our entire family in our time of grief.

~~ The Hawit Family ~~

### 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.



# The Gospel of Luke: Confidence about Jesus

[Luke 7:18 - 35](#)

“Dealing with Doubt”– April 19, 2026



## Introduction

If you live long enough, you will experience the heart sickness of your expectations and hopes that crash and burn. ([Proverbs 13:12](#)) It's one thing for your favorite team to lose a game, to not get the desired job, to long for a spouse, or to have financial difficulty, but what if your disappointment is solely with God? When God doesn't do what you expect him to do, does your faith waiver? Luke has been making a case since chapter one that Jesus is the Messiah. In the heart-sickness of God not meeting your expectations, how can you be certain that Jesus is the King He claims to be? What do you do when God doesn't show up the way you think He should?

## Sermon Outline

1. Don't be offended by the King's priorities. Vs. 18-23
2. Don't be offended if the King exposes your heart. Vs. 24-35

## Read & Discuss

### 1. Read Vs. 18-23

John the Baptist was struggling with doubt. Would you have ever expected to see that in scripture? He was the one who prepared the way for Jesus, the Messiah. He was brutally honest with people when he preached. ([Luke 3:9](#)) He warned of God's judgement of the wicked. John knew the Messiah – Jesus, who would have a twofold ministry of salvation and judgement. Keep in mind where John was. He was in prison because Herod had put him there after John stood up to him about his sin.

John had heard about all of the miracles of Jesus - healing the sick and raising the dead. What about God's judgement and the vindication of the righteous? Jesus hadn't made any move to get John out of prison or judge the evil Herod, leading John to wrestle with doubt. He didn't see any rescue mission in sight. He sent a message asking if Jesus really was the one. He wondered if he got it wrong. This is John the Baptist. Let that sink in. His birth and mission were foretold. He baptized Jesus. THAT John struggled with doubt. Is this comforting to you?

Real Christians struggle with doubt. When God doesn't do what you expect and you are left to suffer the trial, in your waiting, are you tempted to doubt? Is Jesus who He said He is? Is the Bible true? Doubt doesn't mean that you are not a Christian. You must fight for faith. ([1 Timothy 6:12](#)) The world has its values, thinking, and way of life. It wants to squeeze you into its mold. To follow Jesus, you will go against the flow, and it has a cost. That cost might raise doubts. “Is it worth it?” What does John do with his doubts? He takes them to Jesus. If you have an honest question - ask it! The Bible is truth. It will stand up to your questions. Doubting in the dark is destructive.

Jesus responded calmly, telling John's disciples to go and tell John what they had seen. Jesus quoted from [Isaiah 26:19, 29:18-19, 35:5-6](#). God's word is Jesus' prescription for doubt. Jesus brought scripture to strengthen John's faith and reassure him. John had expectations, and John knew scripture. Jesus' response was that He would come as Judge, but first must come as Savior. He was clarifying His timing, His priority. Salvation first, then judgement when He returns a second time. We wait for His return.

Don't be offended by the King's priorities. He knows the hardship. Hang in there and keep trusting. If you do, you will be blessed. So, why the wait? ([2 Peter 2:9](#)) God is patient. His delay is His mercy and grace, giving people time to hear the gospel and repent. Can you identify with John in the text? Do you wonder when God will right the wrongs in this world? When is the injustice going to be avenged? What do we do while we wait? Here are three applications:

- Feast on God's word. Read it daily. Let His word calibrate your expectations. Let it convince you and lead you.
- Build your life around the local church. Work, sports, and hobbies will not help you in the day of trouble. You need the church. You need to hear each other sing, pray and speak the truth. In this we remind each other of God's word when we are too hurt, discouraged or tired, to open our own Bibles. ([Jude 22](#))
- Share the Gospel. If God's delay is for **all** to reach repentance and if judgement is coming, we should share the gospel with urgency and love. Let this overcome your fear of man. We are not promised tomorrow.

## 2. Read Vs. 24-35

Here, we see those who rejected Jesus as Messiah. Jesus was exposing their hearts. These people had heard John the Baptist preach. Now they were trying to forget John's sermon and move on with their life. Jesus wouldn't let them. He repeatedly asked the crowd, "What did you go out in the wilderness to see?" He asked so that they would remember.

John didn't follow opinion polls. He stood up to Herod. He wasn't a prosperity preacher. They went out to see a prophet - the one with a specific message from God. ([Malachi 3:1](#)) John was to prepare people for the Messiah. This unique privilege led him to literally point people to Jesus. Yet the one who is the least in the kingdom is greater than he (John the Baptist). As a believer, you have a new identity. You are greater than John. If you are in the Kingdom, you experience the forgiveness, presence, and help of God, and you live in the new covenant realities. This is grace. Do you think of yourself that way?

Some would believe, but others were trying to forget John's message. There are only two ways to live. You either trust Jesus with your entire life or you reject Him. You will see both responses in [vs. 29](#) and [30](#). Why did some receive John's message and some reject? John preached a baptism of repentance. ([Luke 3:3](#)) The issue is repentance, but what is repentance? It is a change of mind and heart that leads to a change of direction.

The preaching of repentance is offensive. John preached the message of the need for repentance because of sin. Sinners and tax collectors, who knew they were sin-sick, were convicted and declared God just. They knew they were guilty. In humility and faith, they got into the waters of baptism as a confession of sin and repentance. The Pharisees and lawyers, the religious leaders of the day, rejected the message. They prided themselves in their obedience to the law. They thought that they were good people, so when they were called to repentance, they were offended. They thought John was crazy, unstable or demon possessed. They wrote him off. They felt justified in rejecting John and the person he pointed to. Jesus called it what it was. They rejected the purpose of God for themselves. ([Vs. 30](#)) If the "experts" rejected Jesus, how can we be certain that Jesus **IS** the Messiah that He claimed to be?

Jesus gave His own assessment of the Pharisees and lawyers. While Jesus acted differently than John, they criticized him too. Jesus said that they were like fickle, irrational children who were acting like consumers. They wanted to call the shots and would never be satisfied. The problem was not the message of John or the message of Jesus. The problem was the heart of the person. We see the same thing today. Some people will find fault with any and everything in the church. Remember, The church is made up of sinners who will let you down. No church is perfect. There are countless reasons why people become indifferent to or offended by church. Blessed are those who are not offended. The church is Jesus' body. If you walk away from church, you walk away from Jesus.

If you are not a Christian, what is the reason you have rejected Jesus? Being right with God is not just a matter of liking Jesus or being religious. It's a matter of trusting or not trusting Jesus. What will you do with Jesus? When Jesus doesn't meet your expectations, when He exposes what you would rather keep hidden, will you trust Him anyway?

You can find reason after reason for rejecting Jesus, but in the end you cannot stop the Kingdom. Put down your excuses. Be honest with yourself. Repent. Turn from your sin. Trust in Jesus. When you do, you enter into the Kingdom of God. What will you do with Jesus?

### 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 [www.fbcum.org](http://www.fbcum.org).

**Next week's sermon text:** [Luke 7:36-50](#) "Your Sins are Forgiven"

## Family Guide for week of April 19<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 19<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 23:37-39

Day 2 – Matthew 24:1-14

Day 3 – Matthew 24:15-28

Day 4 – Matthew 24:29-35

Day 5 – Matthew 24:36-51

\*Read Luke 7:36-50 in preparation for church on Sunday, April 26, 2026

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

Pray about one thing you read in Scripture together.

Pray for a few church members on pg. 15 of our church directory. Pray for any specific needs of you and your family.

Ask Jesus to guard you against temptation today. Thank God for His Word—the Bible—which teaches us how much He loves us and wants us to obey Him. Thank Him for the wisdom the Bible gives to help us battle against sin.

### **Sing together**

"The Lord is My Light" – 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 40: What should we pray?**

**Answer:** *The whole Word of God directs us in what we should pray.*

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