

Sunday Morning Worship

August 9, 2026



FIRSTBAPTIST
CHURCH
UPPERMARLBORO

7415 SW Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

301-952-0117 :: www.fbcum.org :: fbcum@firstbaptistum.com

Order of Worship

August 9, 2026

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Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship — Romans 6:1-4

Celebration of Baptism

Song — Christ Our Hope in Life and Death

Song — Blessed Assurance

Song — My Worth Is Not in What I Own

Scripture Reading — Psalm 138:1-8

Pastoral Prayer

Song — God Moves in a Mysterious Way

Prayer of Thanks

Worship Through Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Message — Vince Butler

“Approving What Is Excellent”

Philippians 1:3-11

Song — In Christ Alone

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 103:1-5 (ESV)

¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!

² Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,
³ who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,

⁴ who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
⁵ who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Christ Our Hope in Life and Death

Jordan Kauflin | Keith Getty | Matt Boswell | Matt Papa | Matthew Merker

Verse 1:

What is our hope in life and death?
Christ alone, Christ alone!
What is our only confidence?
That our souls to Him belong.
Who holds our days within His hand?
What comes apart from His command?
And what will keep us to the end?
The love of Christ in which we stand.

Chorus:

O sing, hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal
O sing, hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death

Verse 2:

What truth can calm the troubled soul?
God is good, God is good!
Where is His grace and goodness known?
In our great Redeemer's blood.
Who holds our faith when fears arise?
Who stands above the stormy trial?
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh
Unto the shore the rock of Christ?

Verse 3:

Unto the grave what will we sing?
Christ He lives, Christ He lives!
And what reward will heaven bring?
Everlasting life with Him.
There we will rise to meet the Lord.
Then sin and death will be destroyed.
And we will feast in endless joy
When Christ is ours forevermore.

Blessed Assurance

Fanny Crosby | David LaChance Jr.

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

My Worth Is Not in What I Own

Keith and Kristyn Getty

Verses 1 & 2:

My worth is not in what I own
Not in the strength of flesh and bone
But in the costly wounds of love
At the cross
My worth is not in skill or name
In win or lose in pride or shame
But in the blood of Christ that flowed
At the cross

Chorus:

I rejoice in my Redeemer
Greatest treasure
Wellspring of my soul
I will trust in Him no other
My soul is satisfied in Him alone

Verses 3 & 4:

As summer flowers we fade and die
Fame youth and beauty hurry by
But life eternal calls to us
at the cross
I will not boast in wealth or might
Or human wisdom's fleeting light
But I will boast in knowing Christ
At the cross

Verse 5:

Two wonders here that I confess
My worth and my unworthiness
My value fixed my ransom paid
At the cross

Scripture Reading — Psalm 138:1-8 (ESV)

¹ I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;

² I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast
love and your faithfulness,
for you have exalted above all things
your name and your word.

³ On the day I called, you answered me;
my strength of soul you increased.

⁴ All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks,
O LORD,
for they have heard the words of your mouth,

⁵ and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD,

for great is the glory of the LORD.

⁶ For though the LORD is high, he regards the low-
ly,
but the haughty he knows from afar.

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve my life;
you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my
enemies,
and your right hand delivers me.

⁸ The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

God Moves

William Cowper | Bob Kaulfin

Verse 1:

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform
He plants His footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm
Deep in His dark and hidden mines
With never failing skill
He fashions all His bright designs
And works His sovereign will

Chorus:

So God we trust in You
O God we trust in You
So God we trust in You
O God we trust in You
When tears are great
And comforts few
We hope in mercies ever new
We trust in You

Verse 2:

Oh fearful saints new courage take
The clouds that you now dread
Are big with mercy and will break
In blessings on your head
Judge not the Lord by feeble sense
But trust Him for His grace
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face

Verse 3:

God's purposes will ripen fast
Unfolding every hour
The bud may have a bitter taste
But sweet will be the flower
Blind unbelief is sure to err
And scan His work in vain
God is His own interpreter
And He will make it plain

Message :: “Approving What Is Excellent” :: Philippians 1:3-11

In Christ Alone

Keith Getty | Stuart Townend

Verse 1:

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground
Firm through the
fiercest drought and storm

What heights of love
What depths of peace
When fears are stilled
When strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

Verse 2:

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save

Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

Verse 3:

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again

And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious
blood of Christ

Verse 4:

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny

No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

This Week at First Baptist Church

Sunday, August 9

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

Monday, August 10

Tuesday, August 11

6:30 PM Elders Meeting

Wednesday, August 12

Thursday, August 13

Friday, August 14

Saturday, August 15

Sunday, August 16

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

Upcoming Events at First Baptist Church

Wednesday, August 19

7pm — Summer Seminar #3: “Deacons, Part 2: Church History and FBCUM History”

Sunday, August 23 — Members Meeting following worship

Wednesday, September 9

Regular Wednesday Evening Activities Resume

Saturday, September 12—Men’s Breakfast

Sunday, September 13 — Church Potluck Lunch following worship

Sunday, November 8 — Staring Point Seminar following worship

Starting Point is the first step for anyone interested in becoming a church member or simply finding out more about who we are and what we believe here at FBCUM

Friday, November 13 & Saturday, November 14 - Men’s Retreat - Save the Date

Location Camp Wabanna

Ministry Spotlight

“Ministry Spotlight” highlights church ministries and programs at FBC Upper Marlboro. We hope you’ll consider how you can pray for and support these ministry efforts. Pick up a copy of “Places to Serve” in the magazine racks near the exits for information on all the church ministries.

Praying & Crocheting Ministry

Tanya Joy, Ministry Team Leader

From the humble beginning, a class project to visualize *“The Scarlet Thread,”* through scripture, led to the creation of the Praying & Crocheting Ministry. Dee Peltier, led the group by providing instructions for crocheting 6” granny squares with step-by-step diagrams. These squares were completed and stitched into a beautiful afghan. The ladies, in the class, were excited about working together and learning more about crocheting. Even though the quarter ended and the afghans were completed, the ladies desired to continue, so they did. The next question was, *what shall we make and who may be blessed with our creations.*

Dee made inquiries about members that were unable to attend church or those that may had medical challenges. She suggested we make lap afghans. These were useful for wheelchair bound and/or folks with mobility challenges and *they were very much appreciated.* Having achieved this we moved forward. We volunteered to make hats and scarves for a Christmas store. *(An event that provided gifts for needy children. This event allowed our church to minister to the whole family and share the gospel.)* That was a lot of fun. Learning how to make hats and scarves by reading, following patterns, and learning new stitches. *(See the picture of the hats and scarves some also included mittens.)* We continued to, by God’s grace, grow in our faith and in our skills.

The Lord provided Randy Fishter, who stepped up as our experienced expert in crocheting. Randy Fishter, Marjorie Griffin, and Regina Flowers had major experience in crocheting.

Ministry Spotlight

The newbies (*like me*) developed more confidence as we learned to understand tension, different stitches and how to read and follow patterns. Deborah Harding delivered our first corner-to-corner stitched afghan, *amazing*. I personally, have a lot to learn and I marvel at the things that others make.

This is a lot about our growth and experience as *crochet-ers* but we are also sisters in Christ. Like everyone else, we have faced many trials and challenges in our lives. When we began meeting together, we chose to read through the Book of Psalms and share prayer requests. This continues to encourage us to support one another in God's word. Having faith in God helps us focus on the next stitch and not let life's distractions hinder us from our goals. With God all things are possible and we have learned to trust God daily. Each time we were challenged in getting things done by a certain deadline, the Lord made a way. My heart marvels at the work He has done in us and through us.

If you are interested and do not crochet, that's okay, we are also seeking cross-stitchers, creative greeting card designers. We are open to learning other ways we can not only bless those in the church (*Youth Ministry/Grief & Bereavement*), but also in outreach organizations (World Vision, Crisis Pregnancy Centers, Operation Christmas Child), just to name a few.

Please meet us on the first Tuesday, of the month 12:30pm - 1:30pm to brainstorm together and begin our creative projects. Contact me (Tanya Joy) in the church office at 301-952-0117 or by email at fbcum@firstbaptistum.com. I am so excited to see who God will bring to this ministry and what we can create under His divine leadership. ***If you have questions, please contact Tanya Joy for more details.***

(If you are unable to attend in person, but would like to support the efforts of this ministry, you are welcome, please reach out to me.)



Praying with First Baptist Church

A Prayer Guide for the week of August 9

Prayer of the week:

Consider using the Apostle Paul's prayer from the book of 1 Corinthians 1:4-7a as a springboard for your own prayer time this week. If you're praying through the church directory, this is a great prayer to give thanks to God for the work He has done in the brothers and sisters in Christ in our church family.

"I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—so that you are not lacking in any gift..."

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 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 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 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 (Bangkok City Baptist Church, Thailand), and Tommie van der Walt (Imprint, South Africa). Pray the gospel would flourish and churches would be planted and strengthened through their work. Pray God would supply their needs. (Ps 93:4, Col. 1:5-6, 1 Pet. 4:12-17)
- Pray for those effected by recent natural disasters (earthquakes in Venezuela, wildfires in western USA). Seeing the fragility of this life, pray that many would look to God for eternal hope. Pray for safety and diligence of emergency response personnel as they work to preserve life. Pray for leaders to make wise decisions. Pray for comfort for those who have lost loved ones. (Ps 46:1-2; John 14:27; Is 43:2)
- Pray for the persecuted church around the world; bombings of Christian churches in Sri Lanka, the ongoing killing of Christians by Islamic terrorists in Nigeria. Pray that God would bring peace and comfort to those grieving. Pray that these local churches would continue to flourish in their faith even in the midst of persecution. (1 Peter 1:3-7; 1 Thes 4:13; Ps. 2)

Particular prayer items in the life of our church:

- Pray for our upcoming Members Meeting on August 23 after worship. Pray that God would continually help us to grow in unity and service to one another as fellow believers here at FBCUM and help us work together for kingdom purposes. (Eph 4:2-3)
- Pray for teachers and students in our church family who are going back to school in the coming weeks. Pray they would depend on God and trust Him as they start a new school year. Pray that learning and teaching would be done with excellence to the glory of God (Prov. 3:5-6; 1 Cor. 10:31).
- Pray that our Summer Seminar series led by the elders would be helpful, informative, and productive as we consider the following topics; Marijuana and the Christian (June 17), Deacons and the Bible (July 22), and Deacons in church History and Our History (August 19).
- Pray God brings good spiritual fruit in the lives of our children and students this summer through Vacation Bible School (June 22-26) and Youth Summer Camp (July 13-18). (Gal 5:22-23)
- Pray God would guard our church from fear, anxiety, and disunity. Pray we would trust that God is good and be assured that He is in control. (John 13:34-35)
- Pray that we know a profound contentment no matter what circumstances we find ourselves in – a contentment from knowing God is our help. (Heb. 13:5-6)
- 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)
- The following individuals have expressed particular prayer concerns:

Marjorie Griffin, Jackie Jones, Eileen Kessler, Nikki Crawford's Family (death of their father)

[Consult the church directory for a list of those who are homebound and unable to attend.]

(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.)

Announcements

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**1. Summer Seminar #3 :: “Deacons and the Bible” — August 19, 7-8pm.** Join us for the final Summer Seminar as we seek to understand how Deacons and the role of deacons are described in church history and in our history here at FBCUM. Q&A will follow.

**2. Church Members Meeting :: Sunday, August 23 after worship.** Church members, make plans to attend our regularly scheduled Members Meeting. Minutes from the previous meeting will be available in the church office on August 16.

**3. Mark Your Calendar :: Regular Wednesday Evening Activities Begin September 9.**  
Regular Wednesday evening activities (AWANA, Elder-led Bible Study, Choirs and Band Rehearsals) will begin again on September 9.

**4. Saturday, September 12 - Men’s Breakfast**

**5. Save the Date — Church Potluck :: Sunday, September 13 after worship.**

**6. 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.





## **Fall 2026 (Sept. - Nov.) DiscipleLIFE Classes for adults:**

### **Beginning Sunday, September 6 @ 9 am**

To help us prepare for this quarter, we are asking that everyone sign up for the class they wish to attend. You can sign up using the back of this form or by scanning the QR Code.

#### **Explore the Bible – Romans**

In Paul's letter to the Christians at Rome, his systematic and logical explanation of the gospel left no doubt about the world's need for a Savior and our responsibility as Christ followers. By studying his words to the Romans, we can gain a better understanding of who God is, what God does, and the impact it should have on our lives each day. (13 sessions)  
(Books will be available in room 114 Sunday, August 23rd.)

- Explore the Bible (Coed) - Room 114 Teachers :: TBD
- Explore the Bible (Women) — Room 115 Teacher :: Tanya Joy

*If you are remaining in your current Explore the Bible Class, there is no need to sign up again.*

#### **Elective Class: The Practice of Stewardship**

We are launching a 13-week foundation in financial discipleship designed to help every believer grow in biblical stewardship, find freedom from debt, and honor Christ with their resources. Where our earlier class on Biblical Stewardship taught the doctrine, this one puts it to work.

As part of our FBC Stewardship Pathway, you'll learn how to budget wisely, escape debt, cultivate generosity, strengthen your marriage or navigate money decisions on your own, and plan for the future — all through the lens of God's Word.

Please sign up now to reserve your place. Materials and class details will follow in the weeks ahead.

- Room 117/118 Teachers :: Tyrone Moorehead & TBD

*There are DiscipleLIFE classes for all ages that meet every Sunday morning at 9am.*



# Living By God's Word

[Philippians 1:3-11](#)

"Approving What is Excellent"— August 9, 2026



## Introduction

When you think about excellence, what comes to mind? Do you think about achievement or success as the world defines it? Schools, businesses, etc. establish standards so that the people representing them will know what is expected for excellence. God views excellence differently. He has different standards. If you look to the world for standards, you will be discouraged. Opposition to the standards of God can also lead to discouragement. You must keep your eyes on God, study His word and strive to obey the truths of God's word.

## Sermon Outline

1. Thank God for partnership in the gospel. Vs. 3-5
2. Trust God to complete His work. Vs. 6-8
3. Pray for discerning love and righteous fruit. Vs. 9-11

## Read & Discuss

### 1. Read Vs. 3 – 5

Paul gives thanks to God for the work He was doing through the Philippians. Even in prison, he remembered the church, thinking of them with joy. Prison did not break Paul. He was not consumed with his own suffering. What are your thoughts amid hard times? The world would tell Paul to look at himself, yet his thoughts were on God's people. The church at Philippi was in partnership with Paul. The church is more than a gathering. It is a shared experience that often occurs in suffering. Do you consider your walk of faith to be in partnership with others in the church? The church is created and sustained by the work of Christ. Our purpose is to share the gospel and make disciples. We are fellow workers (partners) in the gospel. Does this change your perspective? If so, how will it change your priorities?

The Philippians shared in Paul's suffering by partnering with him in his work. Who needs your encouragement, prayer, or exhortation today? ([Hebrews 3:13](#)) God can and will use your encouragement in another person's life. Work done for Christ matters. A phone call matters. Prayer matters. A visit matters. Truth spoken at the right time matters. Giving to further the work of the gospel matters. God sees **this** as excellence. You may never see or understand the value of this on this side of Heaven, but God sees.

Who are the people whose faithfulness causes you to thank God? Have you told them? Don't wait – encourage them today. Pray to experience God's joy despite circumstances. Point out evidences of grace in others.

### 2. Read Vs. 6 – 8

Paul's confidence was not based on the ability of the Philippians themselves. He trusted God for the work that He would complete in them. You participate in this by reading, studying and doing God's word, by confessing sin, and by serving Him faithfully.

Sometimes, God allows trials to come into your life. These are things over which you have no control and often do not understand. He is sovereign. You can be sure that He is working for His glory and the good of His people. You can have confidence in the God who keeps His promises.

When you serve in a ministry, do you do it for the Lord and His glory? Doing things for yourself will not bring God glory. The Philippians had demonstrated Christian faith in their partnership in the gospel with Paul. Even though Paul was in prison, they didn't consider his or their ministry to be over.

You are made right with God by repentance and faith – not by works. As you are on the walk of faith, trust God to complete His work in you. Do not be discouraged. Consider that circumstances do not define your success as a Christian. Godly fruit of the Spirit is the result in the life and spiritual growth of every Christian. Does your spiritual growth seem slow? Do you struggle with the same sins? Don't give into despair. Repent. God will continue His work in you. That is His promise.

### **3. Read Vs. 9 - 11**

Paul experienced the love of the Philippians, and he prayed that their love would grow. You should always be growing in your love and faith. Paul also prayed for their love to be discerning. Love without truth can be overly emotional. Truth without love can be harsh. Love with discerning truth is the kind of love that you must express.

Discernment helps you choose what is wise, holy, and pleasing to God. This comes from a transformed mind. ([Romans 12:1-2](#)) It is not always easy to make the right choices. If you see someone aimlessly headed off a cliff, you want to warn them or even stop them. The same is true when you see a brother or sister in Christ making sinful choices. You must lovingly and truthfully redirect them. Love must be grounded in knowledge and discernment to prove what is excellent. Loving, discerning, correction must come with humility. ([Philippians 2:3-5](#)) You will learn to love and value what God values and reject what God rejects. Focus on God and what He would direct you to do. Depend on Christ. Do you know how much you need Him? Your confidence must be in Christ alone.

What you believe about Jesus will affect every decision you make and will affect eternity. Do you see the love of God? How will you respond? God will not turn you away. He wants your life to produce fruit that is through Jesus – not human effort. God works in those who put their faith in Him. When the fruit of the Spirit is evident in your life, God is glorified.

Do you have mature Christian friends? Do you see evidence of fruit in their lives? Who has helped you in your walk with God? Give God the glory. Let us thank God for evidence of grace in others and in ourselves. Pray, asking God for discerning love. Gather with other believers. Encourage others with truth in love.

#### **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 10:25-37</a> "Who is My Neighbor" |
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## Family Guide for week of August 9<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 August 9<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 – 1 Samuel 29:1-11

Day 2 – 1 Samuel 30:1-6

Day 3 – 1 Samuel 30:7-10

Day 4 – 1 Samuel 30:11-15

Day 5 – 1 Samuel 30:16-31

\*Read Luke 10:25-37 in preparation for church on Sunday, August 16, 2026

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

Pray about one thing you read in Scripture together.

Pray for a few church members on pg. 31 (page beginning with Cody Slaughter) of our church directory. Pray for any specific needs of you and your family.

Take a moment to thank Jesus for being powerful and compassionate. Ask Him to help you trust His care for you today, even in hard or scary situations.

## **Sing together**

"My Worth is Not in What I Own" – Use the bulletin from Sunday.

## **Memory verses for the month**

**Jeremiah 29:13** "You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart."

**Psalms 145:15** "The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due season."

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

### **Question 4: How and why did God create us?**

**Answer:** God created us in his own image to know him, love him, live with him, and glorify him

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