

# Family Worship Guide

## **The Why of Family Worship**

\*“He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.” Psalm 78:5-7

\*“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 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.” Deuteronomy 6:4-7

\*Promote a Culture of Worship: By placing value on worshiping the Lord together in our homes, we glorify God. We help our children identify as worshipers of the one true God. They learn that worship is part of who we are as believers in Jesus, not just something we do for an hour on Sunday mornings.

\*Saturate Ourselves and our Children in a Knowledge and Love of the Lord and His Word: “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Studying the Word of God with our children grounds them in Biblical truth and prepares them to go out into a world that is opposed to the things of God. We fight lies best when we study the truth.

## **The What of Family Worship**

### **\*Read**

Read the Bible together. With smaller children, you may choose to use a children’s story Bible. With a range of ages or older children, you may choose a devotional or you may choose to read through a book of the Bible together in small chunks each time you meet together and discuss it together.

### **\*Pray**

Help your children become comfortable with talking to their loving Creator God by modeling prayer and inviting them into it with you. They can repeat after you or you can prompt them in what to pray if needed. Choose a portion of the scripture that you read together and pray it back to the Lord for yourselves or for someone you know needing the truth of that particular scripture. Some prayer prompts can include: What is something you want to praise or thank God for today? What is something with which you need God’s help today? What is something you want to tell God about today? Who would you like to pray for today? You can also use the acronym ACTS (Adoration/Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication) to guide your family in prayer.

### **\*Sing**

Choose a hymn or praise song to sing together. If someone in your family has musical ability, ask him/her to lead your family in this area. You can also sing acapella or use a worship video through a streaming device like YouTube.

## \*Memorize

Help your family carry scripture with them throughout their days by memorizing it together. Choose a verse or short passage, write it down and read it together each time you meet until it has become committed to memory. Repeat the process with a new verse. \*See resources section for additional ideas.

## **The How of Family Worship**

\*Pray: Ask the Lord for wisdom and favor as you seek to lead your family.

\* Keep it Simple: Don't overcomplicate your family worship time with too many things, and don't make it the exact same thing as Sunday morning. It's easy to fall into the trap of wanting to do all of the good things, but, your family can easily become burned out or lose attention. Stick to the basics listed above and know it's okay to keep family worship time short, especially at first or with small children. Faithfully give the Lord 10-15 minutes each time you meet and then prayerfully watch for Him to bear fruit.

\*Make it a Habit: Find a time of day that works best for your family (around the table after a meal, before bedtime, etc.) and be consistent. Persevere through the wiggles and tangential conversations, the potty breaks and sibling squabbles, the heavy sighs and rolling eyes, the apathy that even you may sometimes feel. "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it." Isaiah 55:10-11.

\*Be Flexible: There are going to be days and seasons where gathering for family worship is harder than others. It's okay if you miss a day or two! If you notice a pattern of missed time together, consider adjusting your family rhythm or find another time of day that will allow you to be more consistent together.

\*Model: Help your children understand the joy and fear of the Lord in your own attitude and expectations. Come to family worship with anticipation and joy. Set the tone by staying focused and reverent yourself and helping your children to do the same.

\*Simple Discussion Questions: You can use these simple questions with any Bible story or scripture you read to help deepen your family's understanding: What does this passage/story tell us about God/Jesus? What does this passage/story tell us about ourselves? How should we respond to what we have learned in this passage/story?

\*The Bible Really is Enough: There are lots of excellent resources available to use during family worship. Several are listed below. But all you really need is the Word of God. This article is an excellent resource that outlines teaching your teenagers how to study the Bible, but the concepts can be applied with younger children as well. <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/teach-teenager-study-bible/>

## **Resources for Family Worship**

### Children's Story Bibles

[The Jesus Storybook Bible](#) (Sally Lloyd Jones) Jill

[The Big Picture Story Bible](#) (David Helm)

[The Beginner's Bible](#) (Zonderkids)

[The Beginner's Gospel Story Bible](#) (Jared Kennedy)

[The Biggest Story](#) (Kevin DeYoung)

[The Big Picture Interactive Bible Storybook](#) (The Gospel Project)

[The Child's Story Bible](#) (Catherine Vos)

[The Gospel Story Bible](#) (Marty Machowski)

#### Bibles for Elementary-Aged and Older Children

[More Than a Story Old Testament](#) (Sally Michael)

[More Than a Story New Testament](#) (Sally Michael)

[The Biggest Story Bible Storybook](#) (Kevin DeYoung)

[The Action Bible](#) (David C Cook)

#### Family Worship Guides

[Family Worship](#) (Donald S. Whitney)

[Our 24 Family Ways](#) (Clay Clarkson)

#### Devotionals

[Everything a Child Should Know About God](#) (Kenneth N. Taylor) (young children)

[Everything a Child Should Know About Prayer](#) (Nancy Guthrie) (young children)

[Everyone a Child Should Know](#) (Claire Heath-Whyte) (young children)

[Making Him Known Series](#) (several individual devotionals through Truth78)

[30 Prohecies: One Story: How God's Word Points to Jesus](#) (Paul Reynolds)

[Long Story Short: Ten-Minute Devotions to Draw Your Family to God](#) (Marty Machowski) (older children, but adaptable for all ages)

[Old Story New: Ten-Minute Devotions to Draw Your Family to God](#) (Marty Machowski) (older children, but adaptable for all ages)

[The Ology](#) (Marty Machowski) (older children, but adaptable for all ages)

[Listen Up: 10 Minute Family Devotions on the Parables](#) (Marty Machowski) (older children, but adaptable for all ages)

[New City Catechism](#) [The New City Catechism Devotional](#)

[Fighter Verses Study Guide](#) (Truth78)

[Lord, Teach Us to Pray](#) (Sally Michael)

[Helping Children to Understand the Gospel](#) (Sally Michael, Jill Nelson, and Bud Burk)

[Glorious God Glorious Gospel](#) (Sally Michael and Jill Nelson)

[Window on the World](#) (Operation World)

[Exploring the Bible](#) (David Murray)

<https://kidsofintegrity.com/> (Lessons from Focus on the Family for helping your children grow in godly character)

### Scripture Memory Resources

[My ABC Bible Verses: Hiding God's Word in Little Hearts](#) (Susan Hunt)

[Foundations Verses](#) (Truth78)

[Fighter Verses](#) (Truth78)

[Slugs and Bugs Sing the Bible](#) (also can be found through YouTube)

[Seeds Family Worship](#) (YouTube)

[Charlotte Mason Scripture Memory Packs and System](#)

### Apps and Podcasts

ESV app (includes good helps and devotionals)

Bible app (includes good helps and devotionals)

New City Catechism App (includes the questions and songs)

Fighter Verses: Memorize Bible App (To be used with Truth78's fighter verses, includes songs)

Solid Joys App (Desiring God daily devotions)

Verses—Bible Memory App (helps with scripture memorization)

Pray the Word with David Platt Podcast (short meditations on God's Word ending with prayer)

Kids Bible Stories Podcasts (short podcast episodes in which Jessica White shares and explains Bible stories for young children)

### Trusted Websites/Ministries

Westminster Bookstore <https://westminsterkids.com>

Truth78 <https://www.truth78.org/>