

S.A.F.E. Homes



*"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD."
Psalms 122:1*

How to Go to the House of the Lord

What should be our approach to going to church? It should be with gladness and desire. We should look forward to every opportunity to go to church. Church should be our "Happy Place!" The book of Psalms is filled with the writings of David as well as others who spoke of the joy of going to the House of the Lord. When the Queen of Sheba saw how Solomon approached the House of the Lord, she was so overwhelmed that she fainted. Others can and will be affected by our enthusiasm for church.

As the writer of Psalms 84:2 wrote, "My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God," so we too should approach the house of the Lord with great longing or desire. A desire to be in God's presence. A desire to hear the Word of the Lord. A desire to fellowship with those of like precious faith.

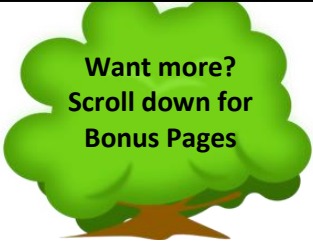
"The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring unto the house of the LORD thy God." (Exodus 34:26) This verse indicates that we should bring something with us to the House of the Lord. Notice it did not say we should 'send' it for that would not require us to be there. God wants your gift but more than that He wants you to come to His house.

Finally, our approach to the House of the Lord should be with desire to renew our covenant to serve the Lord. "Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice." (Psalms 50:5) Re-consecrating ourselves to God that we may be closer to Him in our daily life must be one of the reasons we go to church.

Family Prayer: *God, thank you for the privilege of having a church to attend where I can worship you in Spirit and in truth! Help me to remember that everyone doesn't have this freedom. In Jesus' name, amen.*

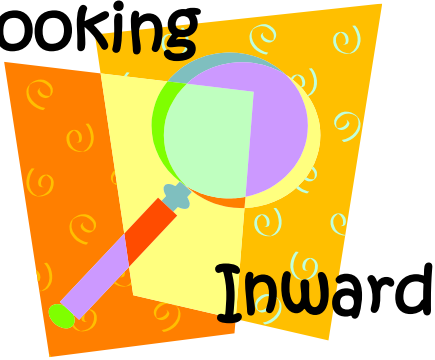


Includes
Family
Activities



Want more?
Scroll down for
Bonus Pages

Looking



Inward

Supply paper and markers to allow everyone to draw an acrostic using the word "Church." Each letter can give an example of what the church represents. You may work as individuals and then compare thoughts or work together as a group. Here's an example:

Comfort

House of God

U _____

R _____

C _____

H _____

Let's talk

The Psalmist stated that he was *glad* when it was time to go to the house of the Lord. What are some ways we can demonstrate gladness about the privilege of going to God's house?

Have you ever found yourself walking into the house of God and engaging in negative conversations concerning work, school, home, etc.? Make a point of not allowing this to happen. Someone has wisely suggested: before church talk to God, after church talk to others.

Looking



Outward

Additional Challenges

Here are a few more thoughts from scripture about the House of the Lord. The Psalmist was serious about this subject!

Psalm 92: 13

“Those that be _____ in the house of the LORD shall _____ in the courts of our God.”

Define these words:

- Planted: _____
- Flourish: _____

Psalm 23: 6

Surely _____ and _____ shall follow me _____ the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD _____.

Good things come to those who stay in the house of the Lord!

Psalm 27: 4

“_____ thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I _____ after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD _____ the days of my life, to behold the _____ of the LORD, and to _____ in his temple.

What does the word “enquire” suggest?

- _____

David was very focused when it came to serving God! We should be too!

Puzzle Page

G C U J T S R R K P A F X L X
A L F Z M B E M R J F A H G Y
S C A L C N A E L O F I D Y Q
B H A D E L S W T P E T J V Z
S S E W N E Z X I K C H Q T Z
P Z P B N E Z H M I T D R O W
K H M C A Y S C D P E V A E N
H Y E J X W U S Q B D O T R G
B C F C O T N A N E V O C I R
O U R L D A V I D E D P Y S P
P Y L U P R L P N P A D M E F
X E N E H T T I C C G N Y D R
F P R G U C K F Z E M W A X Y
A P P R O A C H I W H U P H A
X R V F Y W U E A G F E U C M

AFFECTED
COVENANT
FAITH
GLADNESS
RENEW

APPROACH
DAVID
FELLOWSHIP
PRESENCE
SHEBA

CHURCH
DESIRE
GIFT
PSALMS
WORD

Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
Give thanks to him
and praise his name.
psalm 100:4

