

HOW TO USE THIS FAMILY WORSHIP GUIDE:

This is a tool to help your family establish and continue worship rhythms and routines together, not just during the Corona Virus Quarantine, but long after as well. While it's not all inclusive, each element corresponds with our Sunday Morning Worship Service. There will be repetition, because that is how we learn. Something we've heard a million times can suddenly hit a different way when the Holy Spirit pierces us with it. Lois Evans calls this a "rainbow word."

Different elements will have varying frequencies. Some, like prayer or song, are daily practices. For those, start simple. Think about the anchors that already exist in your day. What are the constants? Do you always eat breakfast as a family? Gather right before someone leaves for work? Do you assemble for an evening movie or TV show? Perhaps it's naptime or bedtime routines already in place. Whatever it is, pick an anchor that has a little wiggle room to be stretched just a few minutes longer.

Here's what you can expect from each element.



Each week you will find some background information, a highlight, or a summary of the Scripture passage and sermon from Sunday Worship. The passage(s) will be provided for you to revisit as often as needed. Memorize the verse together, as a family, by reciting it together once or even twice a day. Don't forget the reference so you always know where to find it.



The discussion questions are to spur on conversation. Depending on the age of your children, you can break them down and do them separately, or have a single family discussion during the week. It may bring up more questions throughout the week. Feel free to expound on these questions or rephrase as needed.



Each week there will be a prayer emphasis. Using the Lord's prayer as a foundation, we will focus on a different type of prayer (praise, lament, confession, supplication, intercession, etc) or things to pray about. Use these in your daily prayer time attached to whatever anchor works best for your family.



Our brains remember things even better when we sing them. Each week we will include a refrain, a hymn, or other song for you to sing together at a set anchor. There may be some call and response prompts to set the stage for your song as well. Remember, we sing as service to God, not for our own glory. Perfect pitch is not required, just a willingness to participate.

FAMILY WORSHIP

Week 3: Ephesians 1:15-23

Verse 11 says we were chosen before God made the world, so we know our past. Verse 14 says we are guaranteed an inheritance, so we know our future. But what about right now? We have security to live and serve others, just like Jesus did by washing his disciples feet. We can use our security, knowing who we belong to, to give to others, to serve others, and to do things that are “beneath” us, because our reputation is not at stake. We already belong to God, so we don’t have to worry what others will think.

DISCUSS:

- Jesus shocked his disciples by washing their feet, something only the lowliest servant would have to do. Think of some examples of what that might look like today.
- What are some chores no one in your family ever wants to do because they’re “gross” or not fun? Would Jesus volunteer to do those things, in order to serve his family? Could you?
- Thinking in terms of power, Jesus showed his power, not be abusing others, but by serving. Talk about ways we see power being abused in our world and how we can use our own power to serve and protect those with less power.



READ: Ephesians 1:15-23

Memorize: “In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.”

Philippians 2:5-7 (NIV)



PRAY:

The Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)
Focus on praying for our nation and world. There are many big problems that make us feel helpless, but we are not. We can always pray!



SING:

Call to Worship refrain:
Sing to the Lord a new song.
Sing to the Lord all the earth.
Sing to the Lord and bless his name.
Tell of salvation today!

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

Do a family service project. If possible, do it secretly. Mow an elderly neighbor’s yard, or wash their car. Pick up trash on a family walk. Drop off a goody bag for a family in need. Collect gently used toys to donate. Leave a treat for your postal service worker or delivery person. Pay for the person behind you in the drive thru, but make sure to include the kids in the discussion. Better yet, let them make donations to the cause from their own money. Ask your kids for other ideas of people they see in need that they can help.