

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 4: Ephesians 2:1-10

Has your family ever done a remodel or renovation? Or even just reorganizing a room? Did you take before and after pictures? What a major difference! Or have you watched TV shows about home makeovers? Sometimes the before and afters are unrecognizable. That's exactly what the Holy Spirit does in us. He tears out the bad, old stuff and installs new, clean things. It's a process called sanctification and it takes our whole lives. He never gives up working on us and bringing new life to our dead hearts.

DISCUSS:

- Do you have any dead plants in your yard? What are they like? Can a dead plant do anything to save itself? If a gardener revives a dying plant, who gets the credit?
- What are some thoughts, attitudes, or behaviors that God is removing from your life? What good thing is he reinstalling in its place?
- What does verse 7 and 10 say is the end result, the reason for all this renovation in our lives? Review the 4th question from the New City Catechism.



READ: Ephesians 2:1-10

Memorize: For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
Eph 2:8-9 (ESV)



PRAY:

Pray through Psalm 51, David's prayer for a clean heart. Ask the Holy Spirit to remove bad thoughts, attitudes and behaviors and replace them with a clean heart.



SING:

Hymn of Reflection:
Take My Life and Let It Be #597 v3
Take my will and make it Thine,
it shall be no longer mine
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
it shall be Thy royal throne
Take my love, my Lord I pour at Your feet,
it's treasure store
Take myself and I will be ever,
only, all for Thee

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

Find some before and after pictures to compare. If your family has lived through a renovation, reminisce about how hard it was, but how the end result was worth it. If not, find a friend or family member (to make it personal) who has. Alternatively, if your kids' room or playroom is particularly messy after a hard day of playing, take a picture. Then, depending on your child's attention span, spend 10-20 minutes tidying up. Take another picture afterwards to compare. Show them what a difference even their 10 minutes of cleaning can make. How much more can the Holy Spirit do in our hearts?