

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 6: Ephesians 3:1-13

Often, it is good to think of the world as God's stage, where he is the star actor, center stage. But sometimes the metaphor shifts, where God is the playwright and we are the actors on the stage. The angels, saints who've gone before, and even the demons watch and marvel, as God works out redemption in our lives on his grand stage. One of the most amazing plot twists, other than Jesus' death and resurrection, is that we, as Gentiles, are invited into this story!

DISCUSS:

- What does it mean for someone to be an heir? Why does it matter that Gentiles are included as heirs with Israel?
- In verse 8, Paul says that Christ's riches are "boundless" (NIV) or "unsearchable" (ESV) What does that mean? Why is that important? What would it mean if Christ's riches weren't "boundless" or "unsearchable?"
- According to verse 10, what was God's purpose for the church? What does that mean for us today?

READ:

Ephesians 3:1-13

Memorize: "In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. Eph 3:12 (NIV)

PRAY:

Take a prayer walk together. Spend time praying aloud, blessing God for his beautiful handiwork. Praise him for the green grass, the tall trees, the beautiful butterfly, or anything else you come across during your walk.

SING:

I Sing the Mighty Power of God #128
I sing the mighty pow'r of God
that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad,
and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at His command
and all the stars obey.

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

Sunday Pastor Jonathan spoke about how mundane things can be rebellious acts against the darkness. Simple acts of obedience or kindness, even when no one is looking are still legitimate ways to praise God in view of the heavenly hosts. This week, find a mundane act that you can do to serve someone else. Have your children write and mail cards to elderly friends (contact the church office for mailing address, if needed). Bake bread or cookies together to leave on someone's doorstep who is lonely. Call or video chat with someone you know who is vulnerable.