

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 8: Ephesians 4:17-5:20

This week, Paul writes about putting off our old selves, like an old stinky outfit, and putting on our new selves, like a brand new set of clothes. Much like trying to stop a bad habit, we will never be successful unless we replace it with a good, new habit. For every bad thing we take off of our old selves, we must replace it with something good and new.

DISCUSS:

- Paul gives several specific examples of what to stop doing and what to do instead. (Stop lying and speak truth. Stop stealing and work.) Can you think of other examples of things we, as Christians, shouldn't do, and what we should replace it with?
- Paul mentions speech a lot in this passage. He talks about lying, clamor, slander, corrupting or foolish talk, crude joking. Why do you think he focus so much on this specifically? Talk about what power words have. God created the world with words. Jesus is called the Word. Our words matter.

READ:

Ephesians 4:17-5:20

Memorize: Therefore be imitators of God as beloved children.

-Eph 5:1 (ESV)

PRAY:

Review the Lord's prayer again. Ask your children if they can tell YOU what each line means. Go line by line to review what exactly we pray each Sunday together and hopefully each day at home.

SING:

O Worship the King

Hymn #104

O worship the King, all glorious above,
And gratefully sing His wondrous love;
Our Shield and Defender,
the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor,
and girded with praise.

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

If you have young children have a dress up party. Put on frilly dresses or hero suits. Let them primp by doing their hair or putting on lipgloss. Talk about how first they had to take off their old, plain clothes to put on the fancy clothes. Be sure to share picture on the Facebook Group! If your children are too old for dress up, take time during your back-to-school shopping to talk about that new "first day of school" outfit they probably picked out. Help them make the connection between clearing out old things in their closet to make room for their new clothes and Paul's letter to the Ephesians.