

FAMILY *Worship Guide*

August 2010

ONE GENERATION

shall declare

YOUR WORKS TO ANOTHER,

and shall declare

YOUR MIGHTY ACTS.

Psalm 145:4 (ESV)

⁴“Hear, O Israel. The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

-Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (ESV)

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How to Use this Guide

This Guide to Family Worship contains suggestions for each week in August. There are four elements we recommend that you include in your family worship gatherings (though not necessarily in this order): **Read, Pray, Sing, and Memorize**. Use the key below to learn about what each page's guide includes.

READ

Day: *Family reading* Additional recommended readings for personal worship (If you read on this schedule, you'll read through the entire Bible in one calendar year.)

As you meditate on or discuss these scripture passages with your family, seek to answer these questions: **What does this passage say about God? What does this passage say about me? What does this passage say about the relationship between God and me?**

PRAY

ACTS: Adoration (offer prayers of adoration and praise) – Confession (offer prayers of confession for sins you might have committed individually or as a family) – Thanksgiving (offer prayers of thanksgiving for the blessings God has given you) – Supplication (offer prayer requests for needs and concerns on behalf of yourself, your family, and others; see the requests listed on each week's guide for suggestions). **As you pray, ask God to show you and your family how you can respond to the needs of others.**

Day: A recommended prayer to use during the Supplication time of your prayer.

SING

A song to use for the week. We provide song numbers based on *The Worship Hymnal* published in 2008 by LifeWay Worship. Tracks for each of these songs are available at LifeWayWorship.com. **If you have another hymnal, book of songs or CDs you would like to use instead, feel free to do so.** It's important to note that the Bible commands us to sing; there is no indication anywhere that we are excused from singing "if we can't carry a tune in a bucket." Singing is a both a privilege and a responsibility all of God's children can enjoy.

MEMORIZE

Scripture: A passage of scripture to memorize as a family each week. We'll also be using these passages in other areas throughout the church. Be sure to memorize the scripture reference, too!

Catechism: A catechism is basically a set of questions and answers that outline the basic doctrine and beliefs of a religion. There are lots of them out there (Westminster, Heidelberg, for example); we'll use the "Catechism for Boys and Girls" from *Teaching Truth, Training Hearts*, edited by Dr. Tom Nettles.

Finally, do not feel that you have to structure your family worship times in the order outlined in this guide. Some families might want to begin by singing. Others might want to begin by praying. So you can **Read, Pray, Sing, Memorize** or **Sing, Read, Memorize, Pray**. Do whatever works for your family. And feel free to mix up the order every once in a while.

Be sure to review scripture memory verses and catechism questions from previous weeks!

GATHER YOUR FAMILY AND WORSHIP!

August 1 – August 7, 2010

READ

	<u>Family Passages</u>	<u>Personal Passages</u>
Sunday:	<i>Sermon passage</i>	Job 4-5, Isaiah 25, Psalm 121, John 21
Monday:	<i>Exodus 28:1-5</i>	Job 6-7, Isaiah 26-27, Psalm 122, 1 John 1:1-2:6
Tuesday:	<i>Exodus 28:6-14</i>	Job 8, Isaiah 28, Psalm 123, 1 John 2:7-17
Wednesday:	<i>Psalm 40</i>	Job 9-10, Isaiah 29:1-30:17, Psalm 124, 1 John 2:18-3:3
Thursday:	<i>Proverbs 29:1-17</i>	Job 11, Isaiah 30:18-32:20, Psalm 125, 1 John 3:4-24
Friday:	<i>Matthew 13:44-46</i>	Job 12, Isaiah 33-34, Psalm 126, 1 John 4
Saturday:	<i>1 Corinthians 8</i>	Job 13, Isaiah 35, Psalm 127, 1 John 5

Alternative: Read from a quality storybook Bible or family devotional book. For recommendations, see the **Resource** section at the back of this guide.

PRAY

ACTS: Adoration – Confession – Thanksgiving – Supplication

- Sunday:** Pray that God will be glorified through you in the upcoming week.
Monday: Pray for the adults in your church.
Tuesday: Pray for your local leaders.
Wednesday: Pray for those who are sick and need physical healing.
Thursday: Pray for specific opportunities to share the message of Christ with others.
Friday: Pray for the families in your church.
Saturday: Pray that God will be glorified in tomorrow's worship gathering.

SING

"Praise Him! Praise Him!" no. 149 in *The Worship Hymnal*

MEMORIZE

Be sure to review scripture memory verses and catechism questions from previous weeks!

Scripture: "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength." –Philippians 4:12-13 (NIV)

Catechism:

90. Q. What did God the Father undertake in the covenant of grace?
A. By His goodness and mercy, God the Father elected, and determined to justify, adopt and sanctify those for whom Christ should die (Ex 33:18, 19; Eph 1:3-5; Rom 8:29-33; Gal 4:4-7; Heb 10:9, 10; 1 Cor 1:8, 9; Phil 1:6; 1 Thes 4:3, 7; 5:23, 24).
91. Q. What is election?
A. It is God's goodness as revealed in his grace by choosing certain sinners for salvation (Eph 1:3, 4; 1 Thes 1:4; 1 Pet 1:1, 2).

August 8 – August 14, 2010

READ

	<u>Family Passages</u>	<u>Personal Passages</u>
Sunday:	<i>Sermon passage</i>	Job 14, Isaiah 36-37, Psalm 128, 2 John
Monday:	<i>Exodus 28:15-30</i>	Job 15, Isaiah 38, Psalm 129, 3 John
Tuesday:	<i>Exodus 28:31-43</i>	Job 16-17, Isaiah 39, Psalm 130, Jude
Wednesday:	<i>Psalm 41</i>	Job 18, Isaiah 40, Psalm 131, Revelation 1
Thursday:	<i>Proverbs 29:18-27</i>	Job 19, Isaiah 41, Psalm 132, Revelation 2
Friday:	<i>Matthew 13:47-50</i>	Job 20, Isaiah 42, Psalm 133, Revelation 3
Saturday:	<i>1 Corinthians 9</i>	Job 21, Isaiah 43:1-44:5, Psalm 134, Revelation 4

Alternative: Read from a quality storybook Bible or family devotional book. For recommendations, see the **Resource** section at the back of this guide.

PRAY

ACTS: Adoration – Confession – Thanksgiving - Supplication

- Sunday:** Pray that God will be glorified through you in the upcoming week.
Monday: Pray for the senior adults in your church.
Tuesday: Pray for the leaders in your church.
Wednesday: Pray for those who are homeless and destitute.
Thursday: Pray for the salvation of friends and family members; call them by name.
Friday: Pray for your family members; call them by name.
Saturday: Pray that God will be glorified in tomorrow's worship gathering.

SING

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus,” no. 154 in *The Worship Hymnal*

MEMORIZE

Be sure to review scripture memory verses and catechism questions from previous weeks!

Scripture: “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.” – Philippians 4:8 (NIV)

Catechism:

92. Q. What is justification?
A. It is God's regarding sinners as if they had never sinned and granting them righteousness (Zech 3:1-5; Rom 3:24-26; 4:5; 5:17-19; 8:33; 2 Cor 5:21; Heb 8:12; Ph 3:9).
93. Q. What is righteousness?
A. It is God's goodness as revealed in his law, and as honored in Christ's perfect obedience to that law. (Ex 33:19; 34:6; Ps 33:5; Hos 3:5; Rom 11:22).

August 15 – August 21, 2010

READ

	<u>Family Passages</u>	<u>Personal Passages</u>
Sunday:	<i>Sermon passage</i>	Job 22, Isaiah 44:6-28, Psalm 135, Revelation 5
Monday:	<i>Exodus 30:1-10</i>	Job 23-24, Isaiah 45, Psalm 136, Revelation 6
Tuesday:	<i>Exodus 30:11-16</i>	Job 25-26, Isaiah 46-47, Psalm 137, Revelation 7:1-8:5
Wednesday:	<i>Psalm 42</i>	Job 27, Isaiah 48-49, Psalm 138, Revelation 8:6-9:21
Thursday:	<i>Proverbs 30:1-17</i>	Job 28, Isaiah 50, Psalm 139, Revelation 10
Friday:	<i>Matthew 13:51-53</i>	Job 29, Isaiah 51:1-52:12, Psalm 140, Revelation 11
Saturday:	<i>1 Corinthians 10:1-13</i>	Job 30, Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 141, Revelation 12

Alternative: Read from a quality storybook Bible or family devotional book. For recommendations, see the **Resource** section at the back of this guide.

PRAY

ACTS: Adoration – Confession – Thanksgiving – Supplication

- Sunday:** Pray that God will be glorified through you in the upcoming week.
Monday: Pray for the children and youth in your church.
Tuesday: Pray for the leaders of our nation.
Wednesday: Pray for missionaries spreading the message of Christ throughout the US.
Thursday: Pray for the men and women serving in the US military.
Friday: Pray for specific opportunities to bless others.
Saturday: Pray that God will be glorified in tomorrow's worship gathering.

SING

"Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners," no. 156 in *The Worship Hymnal*

MEMORIZE

Be sure to review scripture memory verses and catechism questions from previous weeks!

Scripture: "Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall."
–Psalm 55:22 (NIV)

Catechism:

94. Q. Can anyone be saved by his own righteousness?
A. No. No one is good enough for God (Pr 20:9; Eccl 7:20; Rom 3:10-23; Eph 2:8-10; Ph 3:8, 9).
95. Q. What is adoption?
A. It is God's goodness in receiving sinful rebels as his beloved children (Jn 1:12; Eph 1:5; Eph 5:1; Gal 4:7, 31; 1 Jn 3:1-3).

August 22 – August 28, 2010

READ

	<u>Family Passages</u>	<u>Personal Passages</u>
Sunday:	<i>Sermon passage</i>	Job 31, Isaiah 54, Psalm 142, Revelation 13
Monday:	<i>Exodus 30:17-21</i>	Job 32, Isaiah 55, Psalm 143, Revelation 14
Tuesday:	<i>Exodus 30:22-33</i>	Job 33, Isaiah 56-57, Psalm 144, Revelation 15
Wednesday:	<i>Psalm 43</i>	Job 34-35, Isaiah 58, Psalm 145, Revelation 16
Thursday:	<i>Proverbs 30:18-33</i>	Job 36:1-21, Isaiah 59, Psalm 146, Revelation 17
Friday:	<i>Matthew 13:54-58</i>	Job 36:22-37:24, Isaiah 60, Psalm 147, Revelation 18
Saturday:	<i>1 Corinthians 10:14-32</i>	Job 38, Isaiah 61-62, Psalm 148, Revelation 19

Alternative: Read from a quality storybook Bible or family devotional book. For recommendations, see the **Resource** section at the back of this guide.

PRAY

ACTS: Adoration – Confession – Thanksgiving - Supplication

- Sunday:** Pray that God will be glorified through you in the upcoming week.
Monday: Pray for the college students in your church.
Tuesday: Pray for the leaders of your state.
Wednesday: Pray for those who are homebound and for their caregivers.
Thursday: Pray for missionaries spreading the message of Christ throughout the world.
Friday: Pray for the marriages in your church.
Saturday: Pray that God will be glorified in tomorrow's worship gathering.

SING

“Amazing Love,” no. 168 in *The Worship Hymnal*

MEMORIZE

Be sure to review scripture memory verses and catechism questions from previous weeks!

Scripture: “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” –John 16:33 (NIV)

Catechism:

96. Q. What is sanctification?
A. In sanctification God makes sinners holy in heart and conduct so that they will demonstrate his goodness in their lives (Jn 17:17; Eph 2:10; 4:22-24; Ph 2:12-13; 1 Thes 5:23).
97. Q. Is this process of sanctification ever complete in this life?
A. No. It is certain and continual, but is complete only in heaven (Ph 3:12-15; 2 Pet 1:4-8; 1 Jn 3:1-3).

August 29 – September 4, 2010

READ

	<u>Family Passages</u>	<u>Personal Passages</u>
Sunday:	<i>Sermon passage</i>	Job 39:1-40:5, Isaiah 63-64, Psalm 149, Revelation 20
Monday:	<i>Exodus 30:34-38</i>	Job 40:6-42:6, Isaiah 65, Psalm 150, Revelation 21:1-22:5
Tuesday:	<i>Exodus 31:1-11</i>	Job 42:7-17, Isaiah 66, Psalm 90, Revelation 22:6-21
Wednesday:	<i>Psalm 44</i>	} Genesis 1-24
Thursday:	<i>Proverbs 31:1-9</i>	
Friday:	<i>Matthew 14:1-12</i>	
Saturday:	<i>1 Corinthians 11:1-16</i>	

Alternative: Read from a quality storybook Bible or family devotional book. For recommendations, see the **Resource** section at the back of this guide.

PRAY

ACTS: Adoration – Confession – Thanksgiving – Supplication

- Sunday:** Pray that God will be glorified through you in the upcoming week.
Monday: Pray for the adults in your church.
Tuesday: Pray for your local leaders.
Wednesday: Pray for those who are sick and need physical healing.
Thursday: Pray for specific opportunities to share the message of Christ with others.
Friday: Pray for the families in your church.
Saturday: Pray that God will be glorified in tomorrow's worship gathering.

SING

"What Wondrous Love Is This," no. 169 in *The Worship Hymnal*

MEMORIZE

Be sure to review scripture memory verses and catechism questions from previous weeks!

Scripture: "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." –Psalm 139:14 (NIV)

Catechism:

98. Q. What hinders the completion of sanctification in this life?
A. The Scripture says, "The flesh lusts against the Spirit so that you cannot do the things you would" (Gal 5:17).
99. Q. Since we are by nature sinful, how can one ever desire to be holy and to gain heaven where God lives?
A. Our hearts must be changed before we can be fit for heaven (Eph 4:17-24; Col 3:5-12).

Questions & Answers about Family Worship

What is family worship?

Just as we come together each week for a time of corporate worship as a local body of believers (the local church), our families are to gather for a time of family worship. Much of the same aspects apply, although they will likely look a little different from family to family and from the typical corporate worship service. Patrick Kavanaugh equates family worship to family meal time; just as we come together to eat a meal, we should also come together to worship the Lord. Unfortunately, both are increasingly rare in modern times.

Why should we participate in family worship?

We are commanded to teach our children about God (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). We are instructed to teach our children the words of God and to talk to our children about God and his ways day and night. A focused time of family worship allows us to do that with intentionality. It allows them to see that God is glorious and that their parents value their own relationship with Him.

Can't the church do a better job than I can?

No. God never intended for the church to take over our parental responsibilities. The church can certainly help (that's what this guide is for), but the job of raising children lies with parents.

When should we have family worship time?

Scheduling family worship time will be different from family to family because of the many different activities each of us engages in. For some families, mornings will work best; for others, the evening will offer more consistency. However you schedule your family worship times, be consistent!

Where do we find the time?

We set aside time for those things that are important to us, those activities we value. If you recognize the importance and necessity of family worship, you'll make it a priority above other activities. With all of the competing activities vying for a family's time, finding a time where everyone can sit down together and worship is going to be a definite challenge. Ask yourself this question: Out of all the possible activities we can be involved in, which ones have eternal significance? Do sports have eternal significance? School activities? Civic meetings? Another question to ask yourself might be: What does the Bible command us to do?

Who should lead family worship times?

Dads, the Bible teaches that you are your family's spiritual leader (Ephesians 6:4, 1 Timothy 3:4-5); therefore, it's up to you to lead the times of family worship. This doesn't mean that you can't delegate it out every once in a while. But it's your responsibility to make sure it happens. For families without dads in the home, moms will need to lead the worship time. If both parents are in the home and one refuses to participate in family worship gatherings, the willing parent should proceed without guilt or shaming the unwilling parent. Don't force the issue; doing so could cause irreparable damage to your marriage relationship and could cause further animosity toward Christ. Pray for the unwilling parent. But take heart in knowing that you are raising your children in a way that glorifies God.

What should we include in family worship time?

You'll notice that each week in this guide includes four sections: **Read, Pray, Sing, and Memorize**. We recommend you include these elements regularly in your family worship times. Leaving one section out on occasion is okay if necessary; just don't neglect it altogether.

How long should our family worship times last?

This really depends on the age and attention span of your children, but family worship times can be as brief as 10 to 15 minutes or as long as 30 minutes. Young children won't last as long as older children. So try to strike a

balance between training and disciplining (i.e., “discipling”) your children to focus and asking them to do something they’re just not ready to do yet.

How do we effectively involve the wide range of ages in our home?

Keeping the activities varied will help keep the interest of younger children while minimizing the boredom older children sometimes perceive they are experiencing. Often, when children complain of boredom, it’s because they’re not physically *doing* anything. While asking children to sit still and listen is appropriate and necessary at times, physical movement is also important because it fits with how children learn and assimilate information. Singing is an excellent way to actively engage children of all ages. Having younger children draw and older children write about how a particular Bible story applies to their lives is another way to develop a family worship time that engages many ages.

Another way to involve older children is to allow them to read the Bible passage or a story from a children’s story Bible during your family gathering. Make sure you’ve read through it first and know that your child can read it relatively well without stumbling over every word (perfection is by no means what you’re after here; but you don’t want to make the experience frustrating for the reader or the hearers). This will give your children confidence to lead in the public reading of God’s Word. Have older children take an active role in leading the prayer time. This will serve as an opportunity for you to teach your children how to pray meaningful prayers.

What do I do if my children seem disinterested?

There will be times early on in your journey into family worship (perhaps more often than not) that your children would rather play video games or ride their bikes than join in a family worship time. The key to successful family worship is consistency and diligence. Eventually, your children will come to realize that family worship is a part of their routine and they will come to expect it. Varied activities will serve to focus children’s attention while allowing them to have multiple ways to interact with the grace of God as it is relayed in scripture.

Do we need to read the Scripture passages word-for-word?

If possible, it’s a good idea to read the passages as you have them in your Bible. We *strongly* recommend that the family worship leader read the family passages prior to the worship time. If you think the passage is too long for your young children’s attention span or too difficult for your children to grasp, you can summarize the story and its principles. But be as faithful to the passage as possible. Remember, the Bible was originally passed down orally from generation to generation.

Does it matter what Bible translation we use?

No. Use the one you regularly use. As a general rule, we recommend using a translation that is as faithful to the original languages as possible. Therefore, we would not recommend using versions such as *Today’s New International Version* (TNIV) or paraphrases such as *The Message* for family worship times.

What if we’re travelling?

As we stated before, consistency is very important. We recommend that you maintain your family worship schedule even when you’re away on family trips. If one of the parents is travelling for business, the other parent can lead the family worship time. If their travel and work schedule allows, some travelling parents even make a commitment to call home so they can participate in the time with their family.

What if we have guests visiting in our home?

Include your guests in your family worship time. You never know what impact you might have on someone’s life by allowing them to participate with you.

Resources

Bibles

English Standard Version

Holman Christian Standard Bible

New American Standard Version

New King James Version

Storybook Bibles and Other Devotional Resources

The Big Picture Story Bible by David R. Helm and Gail Schoonmaker

Child's Story Bible by Catherine Vos. This book can serve as an intermediate step between a storybook Bible for younger children and a full text Bible for older children.

ESV Children's Bible Includes the full text of the English Standard Version with lots of full color illustrations.

Handbook to Renewal: Renewing Your Mind with Affirmations from Scripture and *Handbook to Prayer: Praying Scripture Back to God* by Kenneth Boa. Excellent little books that walk the reader through times of prayer and personal worship. The books have three months of material, after which you read through them again.

Holman Christian Standard Bible Read to Me Bible for Kids by Holman Bible Publishers. This Bible contains the entire text of the Bible (Holman Christian Standard Bible translation) but also 41 Bible stories with illustrations.

The Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story Whispers His Name by Sally Lloyd-Jones. This is an excellent resource that shows how Jesus Christ plays a role even in the stories of the Old Testament.

A Year with Your Children in the Bible by Jim Cromarty. A daily devotional resource that provides a passage of Scripture to read and then a devotional thought to discuss.

For the Advent season: *Jotham's Journey* by Arnold Ytreeide. Specifically for reading during the season of Advent. An exciting fictional adventure story that follows the journey one little boy takes to find the true Messiah. Each reading concludes with a passage from scripture and a devotional thought tied to the day's reading. The story continues in parts two and three of the Jotham Trilogy, *Bartholomew's Passage* and *Tabitha's Travels*.

Music

Awesome God and *To Be Like Jesus* by Sovereign Grace Music (<http://sovereigngracemusic.org>)

Cross-Centered Worship by David Ward (<http://reformedpraise.org/store/albums/cross-centered-worship>)

Seeds of Courage, Seeds of Faith, Seeds of Praise, Seeds of Purpose, and The Power of Encouragement by Seeds Family Worship
<http://www.seedsfamilyworship.net/>

More Information on Family Worship

http://www.seedsfamilyworship.net/fam_activities.php

<http://www.sojournkids.com/just-for-parents> (Specifically a resource for parents of Sojourn Community Church in Louisville, Kentucky, but their Family Worship Guide, which is available as a PDF file, is an excellent resource.)

“Family Worship: In the Bible, in History & in Your Home” by Donald S. Whitney

“Rediscovering the Lost Treasure of Family Worship” by Jerry Marcellino

Big Truths for Young Hearts by Bruce A. Ware

Family Driven Faith by Voddie Baucham

The Family Worship Book by Terry L. Johnson

Pastor Daddy by Lindsay Blair and Bobby Gilles