

# Starting Family Worship

## A Guide for Parents

Family worship is the practice of regularly gathering your family to read the Bible, pray, and sing God's praises.

While there is no command in the Bible that you must have family worship every night, Christians have been practicing family worship for centuries. It is an important way to make God the center of your home.

**Why is family worship valuable?** It forms habits — your child will be exposed to God's Word at least once every day. It establishes priority and foundation — your child will never know a day when God's Word is not regularly proclaimed in their homes.

**Make family worship a routine** — do it at the same time and in roughly the same format every day. When you have family worship, invite guests to join as well (e.g., when you have guests for dinner, invite them to family worship), this will lead to great conversations with both non-Christians and Christians.

Our family worship guides have four components. Here's some tips for making the most of each of them.

### “ 1. Read the Bible

No one has to preach a sermon. Just read the Bible. The best way to build Bible literacy in our children is by reading the Bible to them. Never let a day go by without your child having the Word of God proclaimed over them.

Our family worship guides walk through books of the, usually alternating between Old Testament and New Testament books.

### ? 2. Ask Questions

Ask questions to help your child understand and apply what they just read.

In our family worship guides, these questions generally move from comprehension questions (“What did we just read?”) to interpretation questions (“What did it mean? What does it reveal about God”) to application questions (“What does this mean for my life?”). With that in mind, it makes sense to start with your youngest child and work your way up.

For toddlers, you can even ask more basic questions that repeat every day (e.g., “What book of the Bible are we reading now?” “Who wrote this book of the Bible?” “Is this in the Old Testament or the New Testament?”).

Even if your 18-month-old can't answer the questions, you're creating the habit and communicating that God's Word has value, even if it can't be fully understood yet.

### ^ 3. Pray in Response

Someone (usually the father) prays. When you pray, be sure to praise God for what he revealed about himself in the passage of Scripture that was read, pray for God's work in and through your family.

Be sure to pray for the nations. This is something that Christ commanded (Luke 10:2) and compassion demands. We long for people from every tribe, tongue, and nation to worship Christ for eternity (Revelation 7:9–10) and we pray accordingly.

To help you pray for the nations, our family worship guides highlight a different unreached, unengaged people group every month. You can print out the People Group Focus sheet and put it in a prominent place in your home to help remind your children to pray for God's work among the nations.

Our family worship guides have three prayer points for every day: one for your family, one for your local church family, and one for the nations.

### ♪ 4. Sing in Response

Whether everyone in the family is a horrible singer or all of your children are prodigies, God is glorified when we sing to him.

Our family worship guides recommend two song choices each week. Singing the same song for a full week is a great way to help the children learn the words.

You can sing a capella, along with a recording, or along with an instrument (if someone in the family is able to play without being a distraction).