

Simple Guide to Family Worship

Family worship can sound a bit intimidating, but it's not meant to be complicated. It doesn't require tons of preparation time but comes out of your own personal worship with the Lord.

We know fathers are given the responsibility to provide spiritual leadership for the home (and in the absence, the mother), and one method to live out this command is to practice family worship. (Deut. 6:6-7, Psalm 78:5-7, Ephesians 6:4, Ephesians 5:26).

Benefits of Family Worship:

Family worship brings glory to God. God is most glorified when His people value Him above all other things. A home where the worship of the Lord is central, will be a home where the love of Christ will more easily abound. By the time children have left your home, they will have heard thousands of bible verses, watched their parents make God's Word and prayer a priority in their lives, sang many songs of the faith, and heard the gospel hundreds of times. We don't know the fruit this may bear in the lives of our children.

Who Should Participate in Family Worship?

All who constitute a family. It would be a husband and wife with or without children, single-parent households, singles, widows, and widowers. If they are open to it, include unbelieving spouses too. Everyone in the home will benefit spiritually from this time of worship together. Family worship is a great training tool in helping your children to learn to sit in the weekly church service, and they are learning the priority of worship in their lives.

Key Elements of Family Worship:

Read the Bible Together: - This is the cornerstone of your time in family worship. Read a passage of scripture appropriate for the length of time that works for your family. Discuss the passage together and utilize the help of a good study bible or commentary if needed. Ask a few questions on the passage to make sure your children are comprehending the meaning of the text. This can take as little or as much time as you have.

Pray: Mom or dad can pray and maybe one or all the rest of the family members too. Pray about the passage of scripture you just read. Utilize an acronym like ACTS to pray (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication). Again, it does not need to be complicated, simply pray together.

Sing: This is a great time to work through some of the great hymns of the faith. If your family is musical, play music. You can sing a cappella or sing along to a recording. If you don't have access to a hymnal, you can find lyrics to most hymns right online.

Quick Recap: Read, pray, and sing. Start simple, and if you keep it simple, you will keep up with it. If you miss a day, start right back where you left off the next day. These moments of family worship will draw your family closer to the Lord together as you study the Word, pray, and worship Him together as a family.

Some additional ideas:

- Memorize scripture together.
- Work through a catechism to learn the doctrines of the faith.
- Read good Christian books together as a family (Biographies of missionaries make a great read-aloud).
- Having family worship already established in your home makes it an easy evangelistic tool when you have others over for dinner. It is a habit already established, and you can invite your guests to participate with you.
- Keep Bibles, hymnals, and other supplies handy in a basket or special place near the dinner table.

Links & Resources:

[The Family Worship Book](#) by Terry Johnson

[Family Worship 101](#) @Ligonier

[Hymns of Grace](#)

[Family Worship Bible Guide](#) by Joel Beeke ([You can get a preview of the book here.](#))

[How Do You Do Family Worship?](#) – Short video from Donald Whitney

[The Puritan View of Worship](#) – Joel Beeke, G3 Conference 2020 message. (Helpful panel discussion on [Family Worship from the same conference here.](#))

