

Family/Personal Worship at Home

What should we/I do during family or personal worship time?

The consistent refrain of those who have made a habit of family worship is this: keep it simple. Many believers are intimidated at the prospects of conducting a worship service in their home. But keeping family/personal worship simple can relieve some of these anxieties. Along those lines, consider including the following simple elements as you worship in your home:

Read

Read a portion of the Word together, either chapter-by-chapter or a selection provided in a devotional guide. If children are present, allowing them to read can be of great benefit to them. Of course, you'll want to explain difficult words and concepts. After reading the Word together, work through a simple process of examining what has been read. First, what did the passage say to the original readers? Second, what does the passage mean for all time? Third, how does this passage apply to us as individuals, as a family, and as a church?

Pray

Of course, there is no set prescription for prayer in family/personal worship. If you have a guide that encourages specific areas of prayer, you may follow that. Alternatively, you may pray through the acronym ACTS, voicing prayers of adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication (prayer for needs). In any event, try to include everyone as you pray, even if this is on a rotating basis. Additionally, you may want to maintain a prayer journal that enables you to keep track of prayer requests and God's answers to those requests.

Sing

Sing together as a family. Again, songs may be suggested through a devotional guide or you may select your own. If someone in the family has musical gifts, they may learn to play several simple songs for family worship. However, if no one in your family is musical, either use a recording or sing a cappella.

Memorize

Whether a verse (or verses) is suggested or selected by a family member, work on it together. The beginning of the week may be spent both understanding and memorizing the verse. By the end of the week, allow everyone to repeat the verse. Review of verses may be carried out over the course of the year.

Additional Resources:

Voddie T. Baucham, *Family Driven Faith: Doing What It Takes to Raise Sons and Daughters Who Walk with God*, 2007. Joel R. Ware, Bruce, *Big Truths for Young Hearts: Teaching and Learning the Greatness of God*, 2009.

David R. Helm, *The Big Picture Story Bible*, 2004.

Susan and Richie Hunt, *Big Truths for Little Kids: Teaching Your Children to Live for God*, 1999.

Sally Lloyd-Jones, *The Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story Whispers His Name*, 2007.

Sally Michael, "Lord, Teach Us to Pray (a sample),"

<https://www.truth78.org/family-devotions>

David Prince, "Family Worship," <http://www.cbmw.org/Resources/Articles/Family-Worship>.

Donald S. Whitney, *Family Worship: In the Bible, in History, and in Your Home*, 2006.

John Younts, *Everyday Talk: Talking Freely and Naturally about God with Your Children*, 2005.