

FAMILY WORSHIP GUIDE



April 30, 2020

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the All Saints Presbyterian Church Family Worship Guide. This guide contains ten simple family worship sessions. A new guide is published every Monday on our website.

In this introduction, we want to clarify how to use this guide and provide a few best practices.

First, each session is very simple. Open in prayer, read the recommended Scripture passage, then close in prayer. We even provide the prayers. It will probably take you about 15 minutes.

Second, if you are able, try to do this at the same time and place each day. Consistency will help establish this as a habit. For those with children, it will establish an expectation which, in some cases, will make it easier to do this with your little ones.

Third, if you have already established the habit of family worship in your home, you are welcome to use this guide. However, our intention is not to interrupt your already-established practice. Please feel free to continue your routine!

Fourth, we have intentionally designed this guide with ten sessions that are not linked to a particular day of the week. We hope you will use this guide every day, Monday through Saturday, and even Sunday nights. However, we also recognize that you will at times fail in this. When you do, you have not fallen behind! Just pick up with the next session.

Fifth, guilt and shame and pressure will suck the joy out of this beautiful practice. Family worship brings more relationship with God into your family routine. The goal is to do this daily—family worship is a good thing, and more of it is a better thing! But if you aren't doing it at all now, and you get it in three times this week, that is a win! Family worship is part of a joyful pursuit of Christ. Enjoy the pursuit!

Sixth, let this time reflect the personality of your family. If you have little ones, it may be a little chaotic. If your family is fun-loving, then let this time be more playful. Certainly, we aren't encouraging disrespectfulness, but there is no reason to suddenly become stern and expect something of little children that you hardly expect from them at any other time of day. That only sets you up for frustration and failure. A moody teenager is likely to continue to be moody in family worship. Don't let that discourage you. Press on. Smile. Encourage. Pray and read.

Seventh, involve your family members. Have those who can read help with the reading. Ask one of them to read the prayers aloud for the family. Include everyone as you are able.

Eighth, we have resources on our website to support you in this practice. If you want to do more than we have provided, understand better why we do this, or a resource that provides simple devotions you can read along with the assigned text—all of these things are available on the [Family Worship Resources page](#) of our website.

INTRODUCTION (continued)

Ninth, we are not going to change the format of this guide for the first 60 days. Our goal is to help you establish a solid, habitual practice in your home. After 60 days, we will begin to introduce very simple elements, slowly, over time. For example, we will likely include the Children's Catechism or Shorter Catechism—just a question or two each day. These you will simply read. No need to prepare or be an expert. Once you've established the habit of family worship, we want to build on that. However, we remain committed to keeping it simple and relatively brief.

Tenth, there may be times when you or a member of your family has questions about the reading. If you aren't sure how to answer, we recommend you admit that and then encourage your family member to ask the pastor or an elder. Or you ask us on their behalf and bring the answer back. This models humility and also encourages your family members to go to their pastor or elder when they have questions. No one should avoid family worship just because they might not have all the answers.

Eleventh and finally, family members who are old enough to read should have their Bibles open and follow along as the passage is read aloud. This trains our children to see the words of God for themselves as they hear them read. Seeing the words as they are heard strengthens understanding and establishes a strong bond between the reader and the Word.

That's probably enough for now. Family worship will enrich your time together as a family and is used by God to draw you closer to one another and closer to him. You may not feel that warm glow the first time—or even the first ten times—you do it, but over time, God blesses this practice. Please trust your Session and give this discipline a fighting chance!

DAY 1

Opening Prayer: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! When we consider your great work of creation, we are astounded at the show of power and moved to worship the One who could and did create with such awesome diversity of expression and on a scale that we cannot even comprehend. Truly, you are to be worshiped and served with gladness. As we turn to your Word, this divine gift by which you express yourself to us and teach us our duty, grant that we would be transformed by your Spirit in the reading and hearing of it. We pray all these things in the matchless name of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Reading: 1 Peter 2:1–12

Closing Prayer: Father, we give thanks that though we were not a people, now we are your people; that though we had not received mercy, now we have received mercy. We rejoice that you have called us out of darkness and into your marvelous light. Now, Father, forgive us for our sin. Where we are guilty of malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander, forgive us, we pray, and change our sinful hearts that we would be people after your own heart. Forgive us for not abstaining from the passions of the flesh which wage war against our souls. We pray all of this that the unbelievers of this world would see our good deeds and glorify you on the day of visitation. And we pray in the only name by which men must be saved, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

DAY 2

Opening Prayer: Heavenly Father, you are the everlasting God. You are the God of the all the earth. We come to you now in prayer to know of your steadfast love. We come to delight in your Word and all your promises. We ask, God, that you would attend our worship and the reading of your Word. You have promised that your Word will never return void. Let it be so now as it transforms us into the likeness of your Son. May the Holy Spirit lead us into all truth and knowledge, and may the Word sanctify us. We ask this in the strong name of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Reading: 1 Peter 2:13–25

Closing Prayer: God, we give thanks for your Word. It is better than bread to feed on your Word. We thank you for sending your Son, Christ Jesus, the perfecter and founder of our faith. We pray, Lord, that you would help us die to our sin and live to righteousness. We thank you also for the sufficiency of Christ's work on the cross for the forgiveness of our sin. Would you help us to be quick to repent and quick to believe the good news of the gospel. Watch over us, Lord, and sustain us by your Spirit. We ask this in the name of Jesus. *Amen.*

DAY 3

Opening Prayer: We will give thanks to the Lord with our whole heart. We will recount all of your wonderful deeds. We will be glad and exult in you. We will sing praise to your name, O Most High. You defend your servants so that no matter our circumstances, we are preserved for that promised land, the eternal kingdom of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is enthroned forever and judges the world with righteousness. May we who have believed in this King and his finished work on our behalf rejoice in his Word today. May we who repent of our sins and grieve and hate those sins give thanks for the forgiveness that is ours in him. We offer up this sacrifice of praise in the name of the Alpha and the Omega, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Reading: 1 Peter 3:1–7

Closing Prayer: Father, we have been instructed by your Word this day and reminded of the obedience and love required of husbands and wives. May it ever be true among your people who are married that those marriages would honor you and be a true testimony to the love between Christ and his bride, the Church. Grant that we would be faithful to love one another well, and forgive us when we sin against one another and against you. Father, we pray that you would grant a loving spouse to those among us who desire to be married. Guard us against being unequally yoked, that we would marry only in the Lord. We repent of our sins and lift up these petitions in the name of Jesus Christ, our refuge. *Amen.*

DAY 4

Opening Prayer: Lord, your steadfast love never ceases, and your mercies never come to an end. With the newness of every morning, we see how great is your faithfulness. You satisfy us with your Word, with your provision, and with your presence. Draw near to us now as we turn in your Word to meet with you in worship. We pray that your Word would encourage our faith and provide instruction for our lives. We pray that your Son, Jesus, would be magnified and that the Spirit would aid us in understanding and action. We ask all of this in the matchless name of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Reading: 1 Peter 3:8–22

Closing Prayer: Lord, your Word teaches us about holiness. Your Word reflects your perfect holiness. We pray that you would help us to be holy as you are holy and to desire righteousness above all things. We pray that you would help us to strive after godliness daily. For this, we are insufficient in our own power. Too often, we obey the will of the flesh rather than the will of Christ Jesus. We confess our sin and cling to Christ. We give thanks that your Word tells us that Christ has brought us to God and has made us alive in him. This is our joy. This is our confession. Christ Jesus is Lord, and in him we put our trust. We pray all this in name of Jesus. *Amen.*

DAY 5

Opening Prayer: We love you, O Lord, our strength. You are our rock and our fortress and our deliverer, our God in whom we take refuge, our shield and the horn of our salvation, our stronghold. Everything you do is right, and you do all things well. We praise you this day and give thanks for your love for us, your creatures. We are astounded that you would raise us up and make us fit for fellowship with you. May we never take for granted the privilege of speaking to you in prayer and hearing from you in Scripture. You bless us beyond measure, and we give thanks. Speak to us now as we read, and grant that your Spirit would attend the reading of your Word. We pray in the effective name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Reading: 1 Peter 4:1–11

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, as we read your Word, we are made aware of how sinful we are. We too often live like the world lives and so undermine our testimony. We do not love and serve one another as we ought. We, who are made and are being remade as instruments of your glory, too often revert back to the life of the unbeliever. Forgive us, Father, and cover over our sins with the blood of Jesus Christ. Make us whole and prepare us as a bride. Keep ever before us the wedding day that is coming soon. We pray these things in the beautiful name of the only one worthy to break the seals and open the scroll, the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

DAY 6

Opening Prayer: Lord of heaven and earth, we magnify you today. Our spirit and our whole being rejoice in you, our Savior. We thank you that you are near. We pray that your presence would be made known in the reading of your Word today. And we pray that our hearts would rejoice at the wonder of your glory, the power of your strong arm, and the faithfulness of your Word. We pray that the reading of the Word would be like bread for our souls and that it would nourish and strengthen us, that it would sustain us in trial and in peace. We pray that the Spirit would attend to us now and hide your Word in our hearts. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus. *Amen.*

Reading: 1 Peter 4:12–19

Closing Prayer: We entrust our souls to you now, Lord God. And we thank you that you have called us to be your children, so that in all things, we have the privilege of drawing near with confidence, crying, “Abba, Father!” We thank you that we are called to bear the name of Christ. We pray that you would help us obey the gospel of God; that you would help us be attentive to your commands, desiring holiness and righteousness; and that you would forgive us of all our sins. We thank you, God, that you are compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in love. We pray you would grant us abundant life, meet our daily needs, and consume our thoughts. We ask all of this in the matchless name of Christ. *Amen.*

DAY 7

Opening Prayer: The heavens declare your glory, O God, and the sky above proclaims your handiwork. There is nowhere that we can turn in the beauty of creation that we are not reminded of your awesome power. We praise you, Creator of all things, and we worship you, our Refuge and our God. As we consider your Word this day, may the words of our mouths and the mediations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer. We offer up these prayers in the name at which every knee will one day bow, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Reading: 1 Peter 5:1–14

Closing Prayer: High King of Heaven, we praise your name. To you be dominion forever and ever, indeed. We pray for those elders among us that they would be faithful in the execution of their callings, shepherding the flock of God faithfully. Forgive us, Father, when we have been filled with ungodly pride. Teach us not to be anxious, but to cast our cares on you. Teach us to be on guard against sin and temptation. Forgive us when we fail in this. Restore us, confirm us, strengthen us, and establish us on the Day of Christ Jesus, we pray. *Amen.*

DAY 8

Opening Prayer: Father, we thank you for all the ways that you can be known. We look at the heavens and the earth and see the wonder of your power and wisdom. We see the sun and moon on their courses and find no fault in your sustaining of creation. We see that the earth is watered and the animals are fed for you meet the needs of all your creation. And we know Lord that you do not withhold any good thing from your people. As we read, give us wonder at your Word, seal it in our heart, and sustain us by its truth. We ask this boldly in the name of Jesus Christ and by the power of your Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Reading: 2 Peter 1:1–15

Closing Prayer: Lord, you have instructed us in godliness and life. We pray we would be responsive to what you teach us. When we are out of accord with your commands, will you lead us in repentance and the joy of forgiveness? We thank you that you have not withheld your Son from us and that he has freely given of his body and blood to purchase our salvation. Establish us in the truth we have heard, and seal us for the day of redemption as we long for the return of Christ. Give us recollection of this Word throughout our day. We ask all these things in the wonderful name of Christ Jesus, our Savior. *Amen.*

DAY 9

Opening Prayer: O Lord, to you do we lift up our souls. O God, in you we trust! You, and you alone, are worthy of all our worship. We praise you this day and acknowledge you as King. As we open up the Scriptures, which you have so generously given to us, your people, make us to know your ways, O Lord, and teach us your paths. Lead us in your truth and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation and for you we wait all the day long. Meet us in your Word we pray, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Reading: 2 Peter 1:16–21

Closing Prayer: Our glorious Father in heaven, we rejoice to read this powerful statement of the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ! What a brilliant light in a dark place. Forgive us that we do not more often rejoice in this light and walk by it. Grant us true faith and obedience that we would be hungry for this light and resist the temptation to walk apart from it in darkness. Thank you that your Holy Spirit spoke through the apostles and prophets. But we give even more hearty thanks that you have spoken through your Son in this last day, even Jesus Christ. Fill our hearts with gladness at the news of Christ's imminent return, we pray, in the eminent name of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

DAY 10

Opening Prayer: Our Father in heaven, your name is precious. It is holy and worthy of praise and honor. We pray, God, that your kingdom would reign over all the earth. We bow our knees to you in prayer and worship. We pray that our wills would be aligned with yours. We pray that you would feed us by your Word as you feed us physically. And finally, we pray that you would instruct our lives, transform our hearts and minds, and cause us to see Christ Jesus with eyes unhindered. We pray that the Holy Spirit would lead us in truth. We ask all of this in the matchless name of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Reading: 2 Peter 2:1–10

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, teach us the right way. Instruct us in godly living and help us to know the difference between false teaching and your holy Word. May our lives be aligned with your perfect and infallible Word. Forgive us when we do not conform to your commandments. Lord we thank you that we will not know you in your wrath if we look to Christ Jesus our Savior. May our eyes always be set on the Savior. Lead us in the way of righteousness, and cause us to endure until the coming of Jesus. We thank you for the presence of your Spirit as our help and comfort. With joy we approach in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*