

# FAMILY WORSHIP GUIDE



May 10, 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, you are our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear? You are the stronghold of our lives; of whom shall we be afraid? One thing we ask this day and seek after: that we may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of our lives to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and inquire in his temple. This morning, we approach you boldly by faith and in repentance, inquiring of your Word by your Spirit. Speak to us in this Word, and shape us as clay on the potter's wheel, that we may be used for the good of the Kingdom. We offer up this prayer of praise and petition in the name of Jesus Christ, our King. *Amen.*

*Reading:* 2 Peter 2:10b–22

*Closing Prayer:* Our Father in heaven, protect us from the lies of false prophets, and protect us from speaking false words. Grant that we would guard our tongues and speak instead the words of life to all who will listen. We repent of our faithlessness and unwillingness to speak. We repent that we are too often quick to listen to false prophets. Forgive us of our sin, and grant us repentance daily and hourly. Make us grieve and hate our sin. And may the trouble of this life and the struggle between the Spirit and the flesh make us cry out more and more, “Come, Lord Jesus!” We pray these things in the name of our Passover Lamb, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

# DAY 2

*Opening Prayer:* Heavenly Father, we seek your face. We give thanks that you are near and attentive to our needs. We thank you that you ask us to seek and knock, and you will answer. We come to your Word today with the expectation that you will teach us. Help us as we seek to know what your Word teaches about you and how it instructs us in the way we should live. We ask that the Spirit would lead us in all truth. In the name of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Reading:* 2 Peter 3:1–13

*Closing Prayer:* God, you have instructed us by your Word. You have called us to be aware of falsehood and false teachers. Help us to know your Word and by it to know truth. Forgive us when we abandon truth and return to sin. Bring us quickly to repentance and forgiveness. Comfort us with the assurance that we have in the finished work of Jesus Christ. Prepare us even now as we await the coming of Christ Jesus, and find us as a people ready to receive him. Help us to desire righteousness and fellowship with Christ Jesus above all things. Come quickly, Lord Jesus. *Amen.*

## DAY 3

*Opening Prayer:* We wait patiently for you this day, O Lord. Incline to us and hear our cry. Put a new song in our mouths, Father; a song of praise to our God! May many see and fear and put their trust in the Lord. Do not restrain your mercy from us! May your steadfast love and faithfulness ever preserve us! As we seek you today, may we rejoice and be glad in you. May we who love your salvation say continually, “Great is the Lord!” You are our helper and our deliverer. Now sing over us in your Word and by your Spirit the words of life and peace that we may ever after sing your praise. We pray these things in the matchless name of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Reading:* 2 Peter 3:14–18

*Closing Prayer:* Father, as we wait for the new heavens and the new earth, grant us patience. Work in us a hunger for your Word, and illuminate our hearts that we would understand that Word rightly. Forgive us when we misuse your Word and twist it to our own ends. Show us where we have sinned in this way, and grant us repentance that we would turn from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit in us. We praise your name and acknowledge that you are Lord of all. Work submission in us for your glory, our good, and the good and glory of your perfect kingdom. We pray all this in Jesus’ name. *Amen.*

## DAY 4

*Opening Prayer:* How awesome is your power, God. The earth is yours and the fullness thereof. You set the boundaries of the water and the heights of the heaven. What is man that you consider him? We come in prayer this morning, knowing that you Word says that neither height nor depth nor anything in all the earth can separate us from your love. We pray that your Word would instruct our hearts this morning and that you would plant us firmly in the Word, like a tree that is planted by the waters. Help us to trust your promises, endure in the faith, and take joy in the salvation that is ours in Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Reading:* 1 John 1:1–10

*Closing Prayer:* Father, you have shown us eternal life in Christ Jesus. We give thanks for the fellowship that we have with Jesus and each other. May it be our complete joy to revel in the treasure of the gospel and the completed work of Jesus in our behalf. Help us, God, to continually walk in the light. Forgive us when we walk in darkness and do not practice truth which is sin. And give us a continuing assurance of our salvation as we confess our sins. Jesus, you are faithful and just to forgive us of all unrighteousness. May your Word abide in us richly. We pray in all this in the name of Jesus our Savior. *Amen.*

## DAY 5

*Opening Prayer:* O God, we have heard with our ears, your Word tells us, what deeds you have performed in history, in the days of old. You are our King and you have ordained salvation for us! May we never put our confidence in our own power, but boast only in you continually and give thanks to your name forever. May our hearts never turn back, nor our steps depart from your way in the day of our trouble. You have risen up. You have come to our help. You have redeemed us for the sake of your steadfast love. Now teach us your way as we read your Word. Make it to sink deeply into our hearts and minds, we pray, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Reading:* 1 John 2:1–14

*Closing Prayer:* Our great God and Father, we give thanks this day because we have an Advocate in heaven, even Jesus Christ. Forgive us of our sins for his name's sake, O God, and grant that we would keep your commandments and walk as Jesus Christ walked. Forgive us, Father, for not loving our brothers as we should and too often hating those we should love. Rather, open our eyes to see the light of the love of Christ, that we would love even as we are loved. We rejoice that our sins are forgiven, and we are thankful that this is so and that you have told us. May we treasure this forgiveness and the Christ who gives it. We pray all this in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

## DAY 6

*Opening Prayer:* God, we come in prayer, giving praise to you, acknowledging your power and wisdom. We ascribe to you the glory that is due your name. As we approach your Word we pray that you would seat its application and power in our minds and hearts. We pray that we would be more than hearers of the Word, but also doers. Draw us up into your presence and meet us now by your Spirit as we long for fellowship with you. We ask this in the name of your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Reading:* 1 John 2:15–27

*Closing Prayer:* Our loving Father in heaven, we pray that you would cause your Word to abide in us as we learn to love you more than this world. The desires of our flesh so often arise and seek to rob of us of the life that we have in Jesus Christ. Forgive us of our sins and cause us to desire the will of God in all areas of our life. Protect us from falsity and deception. We thank you for the presence of your Holy One, the Spirit, who guards us until we receive our eternal inheritance in Christ Jesus. By the name of Christ, we appeal to you. *Amen.*

## DAY 7

*Opening Prayer:* Our hearts overflow with a pleasing theme and we address our praise to you, our King. Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness. The splendor of your perfect righteousness draws praise from our mouths. The salvation that is ours because of that righteousness inspires our thanksgiving. May we ever love you, our King, for the sake of your righteousness and perfection more than we love the gifts that you give. And may the promises of this world and its counterfeit beauty ring false in our eyes and our ears as we pursue hard after Christ, whom we love. Prepare us even now as we read your Word, we pray, in the name of our bridegroom, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Reading:* 1 John 2:28–3:10

*Closing Prayer:* Father, what great love you have shown us that we are called your children! Now grant that we would live as those who are loved by you. Forgive us our sins and grant that we would abide in you, preferring in our hearts the truth of your Word and the light of your love over the false and empty promises of the world and the natural desires of our hearts which so constantly stray from the truth. We worship you for your perfections and acknowledge that you are the very definition of righteousness. Now work that righteousness in us by your Spirit for our good. We pray this in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

## DAY 8

*Opening Prayer:* Heavenly Father, we come to you this morning in prayer because we depend on you. We live and move and have our being in you. Your words to us are sweeter than honey and sustenance for life. Let your Word be our daily bread for it is better than food. Let it fill up our day with its consideration and application. We pray it would have its full effect in us. May it enliven our souls and call us to action. We pray that it would endear us to your son, Jesus. We pray this in his matchless name. *Amen.*

*Reading:* 1 John 3:11–24

*Closing Prayer:* Our Father who art in heaven, we give thanks for what we have read in your Word. We thank you that you did not withhold your only Son for the purchase of our salvation. There is no greater love than that of your own Son who laid down his life for us while we were sinners. Forgive us of our sins, and bring us into mutual love for each other as Christ so loved us. And may we walk in obedience, abiding in Christ and this Word that we have read. Spirit of God, bring us always to repentance and joy in our salvation. In Jesus name *Amen.*

## DAY 9

*Opening Prayer:* Great are you, O Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God! The city which you are establishing will last forever and ever. You are making a people for yourself, to be your bride, and we look forward to the day that we sit at the wedding supper of the Lamb, our Savior, Jesus Christ! May the news of this city and this wedding be on our lips. May we tell it to our children! And may our children know that this is God, our God, forever and ever. Now guide us this day and forever by your Word as we take up and read. May your Spirit that lives in us open our hearts and minds to the grace and mercy that are ours in Christ Jesus, in whose name we pray. *Amen.*

*Reading:* 1 John 4:1–6

*Closing Prayer:* Father, we rejoice to read that you are greater than the adversary, Satan, who is in the world. And we give thanks that you dwell in us by your Spirit so that we have life and are free from slavery to sin! Forgive us for our fear as we live in this world and forget your power and strength and promises and faithfulness and instead find ourselves believing that the world and the one who is in it is more powerful. Grant us boldness in this life as we await the return of Christ, our Savior. We pray these things in the matchless and powerful name of our King and Lord, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## DAY 10

*Opening Prayer:* We come to you, our God, seeking knowledge. We see of your great power and majesty in your works of creation. For in it, you execute perfect wisdom, goodness, and power. Man is without excuse as he observes the created order. For in it is the revelation of your providence. We seek this morning to know you beyond what can be seen in creation, but what is known specifically concerning faith and life by your Word. Reveal your mercy and grace to us. Show us the way of obedience and faith. Help us to see the scope of your saving work and the perfection of your Son, Jesus, who may be ours by faith in his saving work. Sustain us by your Spirit that we may delight in all that you will teach us now. We ask this in name of Jesus. *Amen.*

*Reading:* 1 John 4:7–21

*Closing Prayer:* God, we come to you in prayer, acknowledging that you are the God of love. You have manifested that love towards us by the giving of your Son for salvation. Perfect love is shown to us. Now, may that love be expressed outwardly as we love one another. Forgive us as we sin. Forgive us as we love ourselves more than your Word. We thank you that this is not done in our own power but by the Holy Spirit who you have so freely given to your people. We pray that you would meet our particular needs this day and bring us always to your throne of grace as we make our appeals. We come to you by the name of your son, Jesus. *Amen.*