

FAMILY WORSHIP GUIDE



May 20, 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: Mighty One, God the Lord, you speak and summon the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, you shine forth! We pray to you this day because you have called us your own and taught us to call out to you. We rejoice to be your people and to know you by name, because you have first known and loved us. Now open our ears as we read your Word. May your Spirit fill our hearts with wisdom and insight and turn our desires to you. We pray these things in the mighty name of our matchless King, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Reading: 1 John 5:1–12

Closing Prayer: Father in heaven, we have read in your Word of the eternal life that is ours in Jesus Christ and that this life is promised to those who have the Son of God. We rejoice at this reminder of the good news! We also acknowledge that we have not always loved our brothers and sisters in Christ as we should nor obeyed your commandments as we should. We have too often found them burdensome rather than a source of joy and peace. Father, forgive us our sins, and grant us both repentance and obedience in the days to come as we await the return of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. *Amen.*

DAY 2

Opening Prayer: Heavenly Father, we give thanks for all of your good gifts. You have given us this day to take pleasure in your creation. All of your works are wonderful. All of creation reminds of us your power, providence, and sovereignty. We pray that your Word would lead us now in knowing you as our Lord. We pray that it would lead us to enjoy your presence with us and the gift of your Son, Jesus. We pray that the Spirit would give us insight into your Word and into our own need for you. We pray this in the strong name of Jesus. *Amen.*

Reading: 1 John 5:13–21

Closing Prayer: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. We pray that as we have read, we may have confidence and assurance upon the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sin and eternal life. Forgive us, Father, for our sin, and deliver us from temptation. Help us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. We ask, Father, that you would meet our needs and provide for us. Help us to trust you with the rising of the sun each day. Keep us until the coming of Jesus, and it is in his name we pray. *Amen.*

DAY 3

Opening Prayer: For you alone our souls wait in silence, O God. From you comes our salvation. You alone are our rock and our salvation, our fortress. We shall not be greatly shaken. Our hope is in you and you alone. Now speak to us by your Word and Spirit. Otherwise, where will we go? Only you have the words of life. Shape us today by your Word as we sit under the reading of it, and grant that we would be not only hearers of the Word but doers as well. We lift up our voices to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our merciful King. *Amen.*

Reading: 2 John 1–13

Closing Prayer: Father, you have given us to one another in Christ, that we may love one another by walking according to your commandments. Forgive us for failing to do so. Father, cover our sins in the blood of Christ and do not remember against us that we have thought more of ourselves than of others. Teach us this love by your Spirit, and grant that we would desire all that you have commanded and that we will rejoice in this law. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who humbled himself for us. *Amen.*

DAY 4

Opening Prayer: Abba, Father, we come now in worship and prayer to approach you through your Word. We pray that your Word would be a light unto our path and lead us in the way of salvation. We pray that you would instruct us on how we should live and what we should believe. Plant us like a tree by the waters that is nourished by your Word. Teach us of your love and of the glorious nature of your Son, Jesus. Give us faith as we read and pray, and fill us with the Holy Spirit. We ask all this in the name of Jesus. *Amen.*

Reading: 3 John 1–15

Closing Prayer: God, your Word is truth. We pray that we would walk in the light as you are in the light. Make straight our paths. We pray that you would fill us with love. Love for your church. Love for the lost. Love for truth. Instruct us in the way that is right and good for our souls, and forgive us as we sin. Help us to be quick to repent. Give us faith in your promises and assurance that we indeed have no condemnation as we are in Jesus Christ. It is in his name that we appeal to you. *Amen.*

DAY 5

Opening Prayer: Oh God, you are our God. Earnestly we seek you. Our souls thirst for you. Our flesh faints for you as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. Because your steadfast love is better than life, our lips will praise you. So we will bless you as long as we live and in your name we will lift up our hands. Now may our souls be satisfied by your Word as with rich food and our mouths praise you with joyful lips. Feed us, this day, Father of Lights, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Reading: Jude 1–7

Closing Prayer: Our eternal God and Father, forgive us today for our failure to contend for the faith. We have not contended positively by speaking the truth when we should. Nor have we contended negatively by rejecting false doctrine where we find it. Instead, we have too often listened and read things which are not consistent with your Word and which do not reveal the truth about you. Grant that we would be more discerning about the teachers we seek out and follow. Protect us from error, we pray, in the name of our true teacher, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

DAY 6

Opening Prayer: Heavenly Father, you are the Good Shepherd. You watch over us and protects us. You lead us in the way that is good. You take us to the waters and nourish our souls. We pray that you would lead us now as we feed upon your Word. We pray that it would sustain us and satisfy us. Would you give us a constant desire for your holy Word? You are the giver of life, so we ask that you would strengthen our faith as we study together and that we would be hearers and doers of your Word. We pray that Jesus would be made known to us and that your Spirit would lead us to truth. We ask this in the matchless name of Jesus. *Amen.*

Reading: Jude 8–16

Closing Prayer: Our gracious God, we approach you humbly after feeding on your Word. We cannot deny that like the people described in Jude, we are so quick to give way to our flesh. We pray that you would align our desires with yours. We pray that you would search our hearts and expose any wicked way that we might repent. We thank you for Jesus, our Savior, who has set us free from bondage and slavery to sin and given us life abundantly in you. Sustain us until the end. We pray in the name of Jesus. *Amen.*

DAY 7

Opening Prayer: We shout for joy to you, O God! We sing the glory of your name! We give to you glorious praise! How awesome are your deeds! All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name. You have delivered your people from bondage, and you have answered our prayers. Answer our prayer this morning as we come to you for wisdom and encouragement. Soften our hearts to your Word as we read. Make us like Christ—ready to obey you always. Grant us repentance when we fail in obedience. And do all this for your name's sake, we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Reading: Jude 17–25

Closing Prayer: Father, you who have loved us perfectly and are the very definition of love, work in us that same love for you and one another that leads to obedience and frees us to repent of our sin. Forgive us when we waiver in our faith and neglect the ordinary means of grace by which you preserve us. Teach us to love the means of grace and to be patient with one another as we stumble. Keep us until the day of Christ Jesus that we may be found faithful. We pray these things in the name of our faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

DAY 8

Opening Prayer: Heavenly Father, we are your people, and you are our God. We submit to you as does all the earth. We pray that our hearts would leap for joy at the reading of your Word and that we would be drawn up into worship and praise. We pray that we would be drawn to your voice as it is the way of salvation. We pray that we would trust in your son, Jesus, as our salvation. And we thank you that your Spirit is present in us and with us as we worship now. Bless us, we pray, in the name of Jesus. *Amen.*

Reading: Ephesians 1:1–14

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, our God, you have blessed us in Jesus Christ with every spiritual blessing. We give thanks that you have determined to make us sons and daughters from before the foundations of the world. We pray that we would live as we are called. Help us to walk according to your Word, have a love for obedience, and faith in Christ's work in our behalf. Please forgive us for our sin and assure us of the redemption that is our in Christ. We pray that you would meet our needs for the day. We pray all things in the perfect and matchless name of Jesus. *Amen.*

DAY 9

Opening Prayer: God, be gracious to us, and bless us, and make your face to shine upon us that your way may be known on the earth and your saving power among all nations. We praise you, O God! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon the earth. We serve an awesome God! Now, Father, grant that we would have ears to hear as we come to your Word to be instructed in the great salvation that you have purchased for us by your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. *Amen.*

Reading: Ephesians 1:15–23

Closing Prayer: Father, we rejoice at the truth we've read in this passage and the glory of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Please forgive us for forgetting the hope that is ours and to which we have been called. Remind us daily of the power of Christ toward us who believe. Teach us to rest in this power and cling to this hope, looking to the cross of Jesus Christ and the empty tomb that could not hold him. We rejoice and give thanks that the one who was dead and in that tomb is now alive and at your right hand, interceding for us, even Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. *Amen.*

DAY 10

Opening Prayer: Our God, give us ears that hear and hearts that respond as we read your Word. We see in your Word the expression of your sovereignty, power, and love. We thank you that you have always desired relationship with us and for the precious promises you have given to us. Remind us of your love for us now, and show us the ultimate expression of that love in Jesus Christ. We thank you, Jesus, for your faithfulness to redeem us, pray for us, and sustain us. We thank you that you have sent the helper, the Holy Spirit, to indwell us and lead us. Keep us, Lord Jesus, and it is in your name we pray. *Amen.*

Reading: Ephesians 2:1–10

Closing Prayer: God, you are the giver of life. When we were dead in our sin, you made us alive. We could not earn your love, so you gave it as a free gift of grace. We cannot plumb the width or depth of that love, but we experience it every day. You have forgiven us of all our sin. We pray that you would help us each day to grow in our love of righteousness and to be constantly on guard against the flesh and its desires which are against your commandments. We thank you that you have reserved a seat for us in your presence, and we pray you would help us as we long and wait for the day when we will be in your presence. We pray that each day as we wait, you would sustain us and help us to endure. We give thanks that this is not done in our own power but by the presence of your Holy Spirit. We wait for you and long for you and pray as your people in the name of Jesus. *Amen.*