

FAMILY WORSHIP GUIDE



June 9, 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: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, you are God. Teach us to number our days, Lord, that we may get a heart of wisdom. Now, as we read your Word, grant that we would see and hear the truth and that by your Spirit we would be conformed to that truth. We pray these things in the powerful name of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Reading: Philippians 1:1–11

Closing Prayer: Father, we rejoice to read that you will be faithful to complete the work you started in us! Sometimes we become so discouraged, acknowledging our sin and yearning for the day when we will sin no more. We confess that we don't always approve what is excellent, nor do we love others as we should. Teach us how to live according to your Word. Fill us with love for our neighbor. Change our desires, Lord, so that they are the same as your desires. Make us people who reflect your goodness and love in the world so that others may see and come to know you. We pray this in Jesus' mighty name. *Amen.*

DAY 2

Opening Prayer: Heavenly Father, you are the covenantal God. You have promised to be our God and not forsake us. You have declared that you will save your people and give us an inheritance. You have gathered us as your sheep and watched over us faithfully. You always lead us to the good waters and green pastures. We pray now as we approach your Word that we will be drawn into your presence. Lead us in truth, Holy Spirit, that we may delight in the God of our salvation. And we thank you, Lord Jesus, that you are the author and perfecter of our faith. We thank you for your gracious work of salvation on the cross and your promise to return to your people. It is in your strong name, Jesus, that we pray. *Amen.*

Reading: Philippians 1:12–18a

Closing Prayer: God, we pray that you would give us boldness in our faith. We pray that the advance of your gospel would permeate our thoughts and actions. We pray that we would be ready in and out of season to give account for our faith, speaking your Word always. As people of faith, we are aware of our own sin, and we confess that sin now, confident in the completed work of Jesus for our salvation. We give thanks that we have an inheritance secured for us in the heavenly places. We give thanks for your provision and good gifts. Sustain us now we pray. We ask all things in the name of Jesus. *Amen.*

DAY 3

Opening Prayer: Lord, it is good to give thanks to you, to sing praises to your name, O Most High, and declare your steadfast love in the morning and your faithfulness by night. For you, O Lord, have made us glad by your work, and at the work of your hands, we sing for joy. As we turn to your Word, now, we rejoice and give thanks that you have spoken to us by your Son. We know that he is the only one who has the words of life. Now fill us with that life that is ours by the work of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us richly. Prepare us for the great wedding supper of the Lamb, we pray, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

Reading: Philippians 1:18b–30

Closing Prayer: Father, what an encouragement it is to read that there are only two places for us to be— at home with you or here, carrying out the work you have given us to do in this life. Grant to us a love for you and desire for obedience so that our manner of life would be worthy of the gospel! Forgive us our sins and renew a right spirit in us. We acknowledge that we too often lose our perspective and our focus and pursue hard after things that are not eternal and make idols of the good things you have given us. Teach us to love you more, Father, and to follow hard after you in all things. We pray this in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

DAY 4

Opening Prayer: Our gracious God and Father, we thank you that we may approach you in prayer. We give thanks for your Word which leads us into your presence. As we come to our Scripture reading today, we ask that you would be the mediation of our hearts. Help us to put aside all distractions and hindrances that we may delight in what we read. We pray that you will seal it in our hearts and that we may recall it often. We pray that your Spirit would guide us in understanding and action. We pray that our faith would never waver from trusting in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. We ask this in the name of Christ Jesus. *Amen.*

Reading: Philippians 2:1–11

Closing Prayer: God, we come to you, humbled by your Word. We see your love extended to us by the sending of Jesus to secure our salvation. We bow our knees before Christ in obedience to your Word. Would you help us to love our neighbor as your Word commands? Forgive us as we often walk into sin, both willingly and unwillingly. Help us to always be on guard against the temptations of this world. Bring us to the labor of repentance, and give us the joy of salvation. We pray that you would meet our daily needs and help us to always rejoice with thanksgiving at your provision. We pray this in the name of Jesus. *Amen.*

DAY 5

Opening Prayer: Lord, we sing to you a new song and bless your name. May we tell of your salvation from day to day and declare your glory among the nations—your marvelous works among all the peoples! For you are great and greatly to be praised—a God to be feared above all gods. You made the heavens, and splendor and majesty are before you. Now, by your life-giving Spirit, speak your Word into our hearts, we pray, that we would know you more and love you as we ought. We pray these things in the name of our once-humbled Lord, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Reading: Philippians 2:12–18

Closing Prayer: Father in heaven, we are humbled when you remind us by your servant, Paul, that you are working in us to will and to work for your good pleasure. Instill in us that godly fear and trembling without which no one will see the Lord. Forgive us for grumbling and disputing rather than being content and pursuing peace. Make us instead, by the power of your Spirit, to be a people that shines in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation. Keep us until the day of the Lord, we pray, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

DAY 6

Opening Prayer: Our Father in heaven, we come to you today in the name of your son, Jesus Christ. His name is above every name in heaven and on earth. We thank you that in all the earth everything falls under your dominion and power. You rule and reign, bringing everything to completion for your glory. We pray that your Son would fill us with the joy of our salvation as we consider his completed work on the cross and his resurrection. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may lack nothing as we read your Word and contemplate its truth. We pray all things in the name of Jesus. *Amen.*

Reading: Philippians 2:19–30

Closing Prayer: Father, you have never refrained from giving your church good gifts. We know all we have has come from your hands. We give thanks that we are able to freely open your Word and study it. We thank you that a part of your good gifts has been the appointment of men such as Paul and Timothy to deliver your Word to us. They have shown us the glorious nature of Christ and his gospel. Give us faith to believe this truth. We pray that when we succumb to sin, we may fall to our knees in repentance. Remind us of the assurance we have in Christ, that all has been forgiven in him. We pray that you would meet our needs as you met Paul's. And we give thanks for everything you have promised and given to your people. We pray this in matchless name of Jesus. *Amen.*

DAY 7

Opening Prayer: Lord, you reign, and we rejoice and are glad! The heavens proclaim your righteousness, and all the peoples see your glory. We hear and are glad because of your judgments, O Lord, for you are most high over all the earth and exalted above all supposed gods. Satisfy us now with your Word. Calm our hearts and our minds and fill us with the confidence of your coming. Restore our weak hearts, which are so prone to wander, with the rich and glorious truth of our salvation in Jesus Christ. We pray all of this in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

Reading: Philippians 3:1–11

Closing Prayer: O Lord! Make Paul's words true in our hearts—that we would count all things as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus our Lord! We read those words and recognize in them something so beautiful and true, and yet—forgive us, Lord!—too often we do not live as though they were true. Make Christ the one person, the one blessing, that we desire and are ready to pursue at all costs. We pray that you would do this for our good and for the good of the kingdom, and for your glory, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

DAY 8

Opening Prayer: Our heavenly Father, creator of all things, ruler of all things, we come with reverence into your presence to seek your face. You know our needs, our concerns, our thoughts, and the intentions of our hearts. We pray that as we read your Word, it would conform us into the likeness of your son, Jesus. We pray that our lives would be filled with the contemplation of your character, your law, and your faithfulness. Fill us with your Spirit, and cause us to know your truth. We pray this in the strong name of Jesus. *Amen.*

Reading: Philippians 3:12–4:1

Closing Prayer: Lord of heaven and earth, you have given us the most precious gift in Jesus Christ. When we were enemies, you saved us by his blood. When we were far off, you brought us near by the cross. As we live in this world, remind us of our inheritance in the heavenly places. Help us to endure until the coming of Jesus. Help us to hold true to the faith, repenting always of our sin, walking in a manner worthy of our calling. We thank you that you have not withheld any good thing from us. We pray that you would meet us daily as you have promised, to provide for us and care for our needs. We pray with confidence in the name of Jesus. *Amen.*

DAY 9

Opening Prayer: Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness. Why should the nations say, “Where is their God?” You are in the heavens and you do all that pleases you! We trust in you, O Lord, for you are our help and our shield. Now, as we read your Word, Father, teach us to rejoice always in you and to recognize in every circumstance that you are good to us and know what is best for us. Build us up, and make us ready for the day of Christ Jesus, in whose name we pray. *Amen.*

Reading: Philippians 4:2–9

Closing Prayer: Lord, what great comfort is contained in the simple assurance that “the Lord is at hand.” Please forgive us for our anxiety about our circumstances. Forgive us for not taking those anxieties to you in prayer and supplication as we ought. Teach us, Father, to run to you as a child runs to her father when she is afraid or in trouble. And when we do, bestow upon us your peace that surpasses all understanding and which will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. This we pray in Jesus’ name. *Amen.*

DAY 10

Opening Prayer: Lord of lords and King of kings, we come to you in the precious name of Jesus Christ. His name is more precious to us than all the treasures of the earth. We bow before you, confessing him as our Lord and Savior. We seek to glorify you and magnify you as we hear your Word read aloud. By your Spirit, may it have its way in us as the very bread of life. Give us ears to hear and bring us to action in faith. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Reading: Philippians 4:10–23

Closing Prayer: Our heavenly Father, give us contentment. You have not withheld any good thing from us. We submit ourselves to your will for our lives in Christ Jesus. We pray that you would strengthen our weak knees, and cause us to walk uprightly as we long to see you with our own eyes. We pray that we would share in the burdens of others, encouraging our brothers and sisters in the faith always. Forgive us of our sins, for they are many. Supply all of our needs according to the riches of Jesus Christ. We pray in the name of Jesus, before whom every knee will bow. *Amen.*