

## GOING FURTHER - Resources

**Recommended FREE Videos:** *Family Worship 101* (by Don Whitney). *Crossway* created a great series of five short videos for family worship with Don Whitney. You can find these on YouTube by simply searching “Family Worship 101 Don Whitney.” There are videos for five days so make sure you watch each one!

### **Recommended Books:**

*Family Worship: In the Bible, In History, and In Your Home* (by Don Whitney) discusses how can people unfamiliar with family worship lead it in their own homes? How do busy households in today's culture recover faithfulness in family worship? This practical book shows you how simple and easy it can be.

*It's All About Jesus Bible Storybook* (by B&H Kids Editorial Staff, Kindergarten-5) is another great storybook with 100 stories that include Christ Connections with each story!

*Jesus Storybook Bible* (by Sally Lloyd-Jones, ages 4-8) paints a picture from the very beginning of God's great love story and rescue mission of Jesus . This is a great book for kids and adults to read!

*The Rhyme Bible Storybook* (by L. J. Sattgast, ages preschool-3) is a colorful and fun rhyming storybook for preschool through 3-years-old. Children learn these stories quickly through rhymes!

### **Recommended Music:**

*Getty Kids Hymnal* (by Keith & Kristyn Getty) is currently up to three separate albums featuring classic and modern hymns! These hymns are recorded by children's choirs from all over the world!



| *Instafam*

Snapshots of a Thriving Family

# Family Worship



**First Baptist Church**

*Love God. Love People. Serve the World Together.*

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# Family Worship

Family is the basic and instrumental social unit which everything in society revolves. Family is at the core of who you are and how you spend your time. Some of the most important moments and memories in life happen as a family, and faith should be central. Family worship is a daily opportunity to make Jesus the cornerstone of the home, and to pass on the faith from generation to generation.

**The Bible clearly implies that God deserves to be worshiped daily in our homes by our families** (Genesis 18:17-19; Joshua 24:15; Psalm 78:1-8; Ephesians 6:4).

Historically, one of the most important prayers from the Old Testament of God's people is the ***Shema*** ['hear'] (Deuteronomy 6:4-7):

*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*

**Scripture clearly shows the importance of family worship, but is it happening in your family?**

Dr. Don Whitney, a Southern Baptist pastor, professor, and leader in spiritual disciplines and family worship states, *“Throughout history generations of Christian families have come together on a daily basis for family worship, and yet, I am persuaded by my own ministry experience and hundreds of churches that very little family worship exists in Christian homes today.”*

**The good news is that you can begin family worship TODAY. It is not complicated, but it must be intentional!**

## HOW TO START?

Start in prayer by asking God to help you get family worship started. Then talk with your family about the importance of it. Finally, plan a time for family worship. We are creatures of habit so create a consistent time.

## FAMILY WORSHIP ELEMENTS

**There are three parts to family worship: read the Bible, pray, and sing.**

These three elements are not only represented in the Bible, but throughout centuries is foundational to faith formation.

**Family worship should be simple.** You do not have to prepare any materials beforehand. The average time is approximately 5-15 minutes. Do not make family worship too long or complicated. Also, do not make it at inconsistent times if at all possible. The goal is to make family worship an authentic and anticipated part of your family's daily routine and walk with the Lord!

### 1. READ

Read through a book of the Bible verse-by-verse. If you have younger children, you may want to start with a good children's Bible first (recommendations on back). Then go to narrative or shorter sections of the Bible. Read through books of the New Testament and eventually the entire Bible. Also, read the Bible with enthusiasm and also explain any confusing words or phrases to children. Ask a question about a particular verse that stood out to you or other family members. Summarize the passage and share your favorite verse.

### 2. PRAY

One of the most important things to do is—you guess it, pray together! Share prayer requests. Use the church Family Gram and keep a personal list for your family, if needed. Try to pray for **at least** one thing that was suggested in your Bible passage. A Psalm is also good guidance to pray to God, simply take each phrase and let it lead you in your prayers. Using the Bible as a guide to prayer helps ensure we are not praying the same things over and over again. Prayer is not boring, it is an active and honest conversation with our Creator!

### 3. SING

Some families are excited and others hesitant to do this last part. However, spiritual songs and hymns teach important truths about God. Children, especially, remember truths easier in song. Start or end your time of family worship with a song. An old hymnal is very useful. There are great classic hymns, and modern songs as well. One idea is to get out the order of worship and use the hymns and songs that were used the previous Sunday. If your family has a musician then they can help lead or everyone can simply sing acapella or use lyric video on your phone. Singing together is important—Jesus modeled this as he sang a hymn with his disciples at the Last Supper!