

FAMILY WORSHIP GUIDE

:: OVERVIEW

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 gives us a biblical approach to the importance of having times of regular, consistent family worship in our homes. God has commissioned parents to be the primary faith disciplers of their kids. The church exists to equip and resource parents to do it. We pray this guide will help encourage you to lead your family in developing rhythms of family worship together. On the following page is an example of what one of these family worship times could look like.

:: WHAT TO INCLUDE

1. **Read and discuss the Bible *out loud*.** This often seems like an area many parents feel unequipped to lead. You can do it! Systematically walk through a chunk of Scripture, take time to give a recap in one sentence to drive home the main point, then work through questions like:
 - What stood out to you? Is there anything you liked or was hard to understand? Why?
 - What do these verses tell us about God?
 - What do these verses tell us about Jesus?
 - What do these verses tell us about mankind? How does this apply to our lives today?
2. **Sing a song or two *out loud*.** There's something special about the conciseness and clarity that many songs offer in helping us in our understanding and application of the gospel. Sing along with a song from your phone or computer or if someone plays an instrument...use that! Don't know where to start? Search for the playlist "[TJC Family Worship](https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2hRbivGPyQDzafnmxiu0v?si=ua-uRRGRT62LPM1sedHr-w)" on Spotify for some helpful ideas or use this link: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2hRbivGPyQDzafnmxiu0v?si=ua-uRRGRT62LPM1sedHr-w>
3. **Pray together *out loud*.** We need to be more consistent pray-ers. Jesus laid out a blueprint on what to focus on as we pray in Matthew 6:9-13. Make a prayer list to go through as a family. Another helpful jumpstart is to take the calendar day of the month (the 1st) and pray through that entire Psalm (i.e., Psalm 1). You can even add 30, 60, or 90 to the date for a fresh Psalm (i.e. 11th day + 30 = Psalm 41). Regardless, allow the Bible to be what informs your prayer life.
4. **Work through the Apostles' Creed and/or a catechism together *out loud*.** On the following page, you'll find a PDF of the Apostle's Creed that we recite in our TJC worship gatherings. A catechism is a collection of questions and answers summarizing what we believe and why. They help drive home the biblical truths of the gospel. Start with one question per week (especially with younger kids) until everyone seems to recall the answer pretty quickly. A few resources that might be helpful are "New City Catechism" (iOS & Android) and/or the "Shorter Westminster Catechism."

:: FINAL ENCOURAGEMENTS

- **Be consistent.** Set aside the same time every week and emphasize it being a priority.
- **Be concise.** This doesn't have to be a rigid 60 minute worship service like the weekends at TJC. Some days may be 15 minutes...and that's okay.
- **Be candid.** These are intimate moments of pursuing what it means to be a knower and follower of Jesus as a family. If you don't know how to answer a question, say so. If it's been a hard week, say so. If you need to apologize for something, say so.

FAMILY WORSHIP GUIDE (SAMPLE)

1. Read 1 John 1 out loud.

Key verse - "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

What do these verses tell us about God? *He alone is able to forgive sin which means he is the righteous judge.*

What do these verses tell us about Jesus? *We are cleansed from sin through Jesus' blood. Not through our works.*

What do these verses tell us about mankind and how can we apply it? *If we are in a saving faith relationship with God, then our lives should be different than before. We should reflect him.*

2. Sing "Build My Life"

Use this Spotify link (<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2hRbivGPyQDzafnmqxqiu0v?si=ua-uRRGRT62LPM1sedHr-w>) for a list of songs we use at TJC or sing along by searching for your favorite songs using another streaming service.

3. Make a list of things to pray for as a family. Read Psalm 103 (Mar 13th + 90) as part of your prayer and highlight some key phrases.

- He's worthy to be praised (Psalm 103:1-2)
- He is gracious in forgiving us of sin (Psalm 103:3-10)
- Our lives on earth are temporary, but through faith in Jesus we long to spend eternity with God (Psalm 103:15-19)
- He's worthy to be praised (Psalm 103:20-22)

4. Read the Apostles' Creed together and learn one question from the "New City Catechism" together.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy universal church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen

- Question from "New City Catechism": **What is God?** God is the creator of everyone and everything.