



# SOVEREIGN KING

CONFESSING ✠ PROCLAIMING ✠ CONSTRUCTING

DECEMBER 2021



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Dear Parent,



Every Christian parent wants to raise families who will grow up to love and trust Jesus. Parents deliberately search for the church that provides the most opportunities for their families to grow up in the Lord. We want Sovereign King Church to be that church!

We must not, however, neglect our homes—where our families see our faith on real-time display every day. According to the Bible, we parents have the primary responsibility for teaching our families about God. His word must be prominent in our conversation and daily life with our kids. Training our families in godliness is not something that we can put off until they're older.

In Deuteronomy 6:4-9, we read:

*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*

The call to training our families in godliness is comprehensive. To summarize this passage, it is saying we, parents, have responsibility to teach our families during mealtime, drive time, bedtime, in the morning- the whole day through. The elders at Sovereign King Church recognize that we have a responsibility as a church to walk alongside parents as they train their families in godliness. We want to equip parents to pray and plan for the spiritual development of their families. We want to encourage you to begin to have a time of family worship throughout the week. In this guide, you will find out what family worship is and how to do it. It contains weekly bible readings, catechism questions, things to pray for, and song suggestions. It is our prayer that it will help you establish a family tradition that will bless you, your children, and generations yet to come.



# WHAT IS FAMILY WORSHIP?

Family worship should be a priority in your home because the home is the training ground for biblical formation in the lives of your children. It is the responsibility of parents, and primarily of fathers, to provide Christian instruction in the home for the purpose of raising your children to know and fear the Lord.

Family worship is simply taking time as a family to worship God at home in a family setting. When a family gathers together at home for prayer, Bible reading, and turning their hearts to the Lord - that is family worship. It is also called family devotions. Unfortunately, few Christian adults today grew up in homes that practiced family worship. You may not have had this modeled for you growing up, and if you are like most Christian families today this has not been a regular part of your life.

There is good news! It is never too late to begin family worship - with teenagers, or with grandchildren. It is OK to start slowly. "Do not despise the day of small beginnings."

## What should you do during Family Worship?

### Keep it simple.

You don't have to replicate a church service. Simple consistency is far better than trying something complicated which you will give up. Remember, you will fail and have times where family worship is a struggle. Don't give up. Just ask God to help!

Consider including the following elements together during your family worship:

**Read:** Read a portion of the Bible together. If you have children who are old enough to read you can have them read aloud. Of course, you will want to help with any big words or concepts.

**Discuss:** After reading the Bible together, work through a simple process of examining what has been read. First, what did the passage say to the original readers? Second, what does the passage mean for all time? Third, how does this passage apply to us as individuals and as a family? You will want to ask questions and get everyone to participate in the discussion.

**Sing:** Yikes! Did you say singing? One of the ways that God invites us to worship Him is by singing. If your children are younger, and you are enthusiastic about it, they will love it, and you will lay the groundwork for singing in your family for generations to come. If your kids are all teenagers, and you have never tried singing together as a family, you may want to try this in a few months - after family worship has taken root. It can be helpful to use worship CDs or DVDs. Youtube.com works as well. We have a link to a family worship playlist at [www.sellersburgkids.com](http://www.sellersburgkids.com)

**Catechism:** It's a funny word but it just means question and answers. Christians throughout history have memorized catechism questions and answers to help learn the basics of the faith. In this guide we will include catechism questions for you to work on with your family. Every Sunday we will have a time to work on them together as a church.

**Pray:** End your family worship time with prayer. Let prayer become an important part of your home. Pray for your neighbors, your community, the nation, and the world.



## December 5-11th

### **Bible Passage for the Week**

[Deuteronomy 2:16-37](#)

[Luke 1:1-25](#)

[1 Peter 1:1-16](#)

### **Verse to Memorize**

[Acts 10:43](#)

### **Catechism Questions**

Q. Who were the Prophets in the Old Testament?

A. The Prophets were holy men who spoke the words God gave them to speak to His people.

What was the message of the Old Testament Prophets?

A. The Prophets rebuked the sins of the people, proclaimed to them the judgment of God, and foretold of the coming of the Messiah who is Christ Jesus.

Q. Who was the last prophet to foretell of Jesus Christ?

A. John the Baptist was the last and greatest of the prophets to come before Jesus. He was the forerunner of Christ who came to prepare the people to receive the Messiah.

Q. What was the message of John the Baptist?

A. Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand.

### **People to Pray for:**

**Church:** [Trinity Presbyterian Church](#)

Pastor Andrew Dionne

**Ministry:** [Cal Zastrow](#)

**Civil Magistrate:** [Clark County Circuit Court 1](#)

Judge Daniel E. Moore

### **Song Suggestion**

[Come Thou Long Expected Jesus](#)

[The Holly and the Ivy](#)

## Notes to Help

### **Bible Passage for the Week**

In the Old Testament passage, we see God's provision to give the promised land to the Israelites while at the same time preserving the descendants of Lot.

God shows his kindness to multiple generations of those who fear him. The New Testament calls Lot, a righteous man. This should give us faith and hope that God will be kind to our children. Pray for this.

In the gospel of Luke, we see God's kindness and faithfulness as the announcement of the birth of the forerunner of Christ, John the Baptist is made. God disciplines John's father but is still kind to him. We see that God keeps His promises and that it includes His promises to discipline those He loves. This is an encouragement to us as we look forward to the completion of the promises of the kingdom.

In the epistle, we are taught that suffering in this life is meant to strengthen us and prove our faith so that we will be found precious at the return of Christ. We then must be prepared for the battles of this life by having our eyes on Christ. Questions for your family: As you look forward to Christmas, how does this also encourage you to trust the promises of Christ to be with you in this life and to return one day to judge the living and the dead.

### **Catechism**

Our Catechism questions are designed to remind us that the Old Testament is ultimately about the Lord Jesus. It points us to Him.

### **People to Pray for:**

This week we are praying for Trinity Presbyterian Church in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Pastor Andrew Dionne has been very helpful in the formation of our presbytery. He has also worked hard to push for personhood legislation in South Carolina. Please pray for his work.

Cal Zastrow is a missionary to both the preborn and in China. Pray for his work taking gospel literature into dangerous and hard to reach places.

## December 12-18th

### **Bible Passage for the Week**

[Deuteronomy 3:1-17](#)

[Luke 1:26-56](#)

[James 5:7-11](#)

### **Verse to Memorize**

[Luke 1:46-50](#)

### **Catechism Questions**

Q. What is the Annunciation?

A. It is the announcement by the angel Gabriel to Mary that she would conceive and bear a son through a virgin birth and become the mother of Jesus Christ, the Messiah and Son of God.

Q. How did the angel Gabriel greet Mary? A. The angel said "Greetings, Favored One, the Lord is with You."

Q. How was Mary favored by God? A. She was chosen by God to give birth to Jesus, the Savior, and Son of God.

Q. How did Mary respond to the call of God through this angel? A. Mary was content to be a servant of God and said "May it be done to me according to your word."

Q. Was Mary married when she became pregnant with Jesus?

A. No, although Mary was betrothed to Joseph, she was a virgin. It was by the power of the Holy Spirit that she was with Child.

Q. May we honor Mary? A. Yes, we may honor Mary because she was the mother of Jesus Christ, Holy Scripture says all nations shall call her blessed and she believed in Jesus Christ to save her from her sins.

Q. May we pray to or worship Mary? A. No, we do not pray to or worship Mary because she is not a mediator nor a sinless savior. We would disobey God's law and dishonor her memory by giving her glory due to Jesus Christ alone.

## Notes to Help

### **Bible Passage for the Week**

In the Old Testament reading, the Israelites begin to make their way towards the promised land receiving several military victories on the way. These early victories should have sustained the people through the conquest. When we look back at God's faithfulness to us, the victories we find in our own life should be a reminder that God will be with us.

In Luke 1, the annunciation brings with it the hope of promises fulfilled as God worked miraculously in the life of a humble young woman to send His beloved Son to save His people from their sins. May we have the humility, faith, and obedience exhibited by Mary in this passage. But may we also recognize that this is the grace and favor of God exhibited. We need God's grace and then may we magnify the Lord.

In the epistle from the Lord's brother James, we are exhorted to patience. We are a people living between two comings of the Lord. Yet the patience we are to have is not an unfaithful inaction but rather a perseverance through all manners of trials as we are obedient to Christ's commission to make disciples of the nations. We must be faithful stewards of God working for the kingdom as we anticipate the return of the King.

### **People to Pray for:**

**Church:** [Reformation Church of Shelbyville](#)  
Pastor Jerry Dorris

**Ministry:** [Reformation Frontlines Ministries](#)

**Civil Magistrate:** [Clark County Circuit Court 2](#)  
Judge Bradley B. Jacobs

### **Song Selection:**

[The Seven Joys of Mary](#)  
[Magnify The Lord— Mary's Song](#)

# December 19-25th

## **Bible Passage for the Week**

[Deuteronomy 3:18-29](#)

[Matthew 1](#)

[1 John 2:28-29](#)

## **Verse to Memorize**

[Matthew 1:21-23](#)

## **Catechism Questions**

Q. Who was Jesus' adopted earthly father? A. Joseph who was descended from King David became the husband of Mary and was Jesus' earthly father.

Q. When Joseph heard that Mary was with child before they were married what did he do? A. Because Joseph was a righteous man, he planned to send Mary away quietly.

Q. Why did he not send her away? A. An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream telling him to take Mary as his wife because the child was from the Lord.

Q. What did the angel tell Joseph to name the child?  
A. Jesus

Q. What does the name Jesus mean? A. Jesus means Jehovah is Savior. Jesus saves His people from their sins.

Q. What did Joseph do after his dream? A. He awoke took Mary as his wife and named the baby Jesus just as he had been commanded to do.

## **People to Pray for:**

**Church:** [Church of the King, Evansville](#)

Pastor Jake Mentzel

**Ministry:** [Daniel Courney](#)

**Civil Magistrate:** [Clark County Circuit Court 3](#)

Judge N. Lisa Glickfield

## **Song Suggestion:**

[Good Christian Men Rejoice](#)

[O Come All Ye Faithful](#)

# Notes to Help

## **Bible Passage for the Week**

In the Old Testament passage, we see that Moses is kept from crossing over into the promised land but is given a glimpse of it. There are a few things to recognize from this. 1. Our sin has real consequences. Though we may have grace for eternity, our sin may still keep us from earthly blessings. 2. We ought to recognize that sometimes it is future generations like Joshua who are ordained by God to continue the work and bear fruit from ours. 3. We also should recognize that we are recipients of a blessing that Moses and other OT saints longed to see. We live in the light of Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection. This is a blessing.

Don't skip the genealogy of Matthew. This is there to teach us that Christ is the fulfillment of all that came before.

## **Church History Profile:**

The Apostle Thomas (Hebrew or Aramaic for "twin") was also called "Didymus" (Greek for "twin"). He was absent when the Risen Lord appeared to the other apostles and refused to believe that Christ had indeed risen until he had seen him for himself, but when he had seen Him, he said to Him, "My Lord and My God." (John 20:19-29) Because of this episode, he has been known ever since as "Doubting Thomas." But we ought also to remember his earlier words, when Jesus announced His intention of going to the Jerusalem area, brushing aside the protests of His disciples that His life was in danger there, at which Thomas said to the others: "Let us also go, that we may die with him." (John 11:7,8,16) If Thomas was pessimistic, he was also sturdily loyal. At the Last Supper, Jesus said: "I go to prepare a place for you.... And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know." Thomas replied: "Lord, we know not whither thou goest, and how can we know the way?" To this Jesus answered: "I am the way, the truth and the life." (John 14:1-6)

A couple of centuries later a story was circulating in the Mediterranean world that he had gone to preach in India; and there is a Christian community in India (the Kerala district) that claims descent from Christians converted by the the preaching of Thomas. The tradition among Christians in India is that Thomas was speared to death near Madras, and accordingly he is often pictured holding a spear.

## Dec 26th– January 1st

### **Bible Passage for the Week**

[Deuteronomy 4:1-8](#)

[Luke 2:1-20](#)

[John 1:1-18](#)

### **Verse to Memorize**

[Psalms 98:4](#)

### **Catechism Questions**

Q. Where was Jesus born? A. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the city of David.

Q. If Joseph and Mary lived in Nazareth, how was Jesus born in Bethlehem? A. Caesar Augustus had given a command that everyone must return to their hometown for a census, and since Joseph was from Bethlehem, Mary and He traveled there.

Q. Where did Mary place Jesus when He was born? A. Mary wrapped Jesus in swaddling clothes and placed him in a manger.

Q. Who was first to receive the news of the birth of Jesus? A. An Angel announced to shepherds who were keeping watch over their sheep, that the Savior, Christ the Lord, had been born.

Q. What did the multitude of angels proclaim? They praised God and said, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

### **People to Pray for:**

**Church:** [Church of the King, McAllen Texas](#)  
Pastor Ron Smith

**Ministry:** [Rusty Thomas](#)

**Civil Magistrate:** [Clark County Circuit Court 4](#)  
Judge Vicki L. Carmichael

### **Song Suggestion**

[Joy to the World](#)  
[Hark the Herald Angels Sing](#)

## Notes to Help

### **Bible Passage for the Week**

In the Old Testament Passage, Moses is preparing the people to enter the promised land. This chapter begins the second giving of the law by exalting the goodness of God's law. The Psalm writer says the Law of God is better than fine gold. It is his delight. If we make the law to be a means to salvation, we will find that it was never designed for this and will fail us as we fail to keep it. We are saved by grace and so were the people of God in Deuteronomy. The law however did work to point them to Christ and to show how they should live in obedience to God. We having Christ as our savior must not think we are now saved by the law but neither must we be those who disregard God's good moral commands.

The Gospel passages are familiar passages this time of the year. Merry Christmas. But may we not let their familiarity keep us from the important truths contained in them. Jesus Christ is God in the flesh. When you strip away all the commercialism, lights, and even ceremonies of this time of the year, we are still left with this amazing and mind blowing truth, God became a human. The God who created all things joined with human flesh forever.

A recent apostate released an interview saying that the reason he abandoned the faith is that he needed self esteem and was tired of the constant calls for repentance and what he say was the devaluing of humanity in Christianity. Besides being a lousy excuse, its also a lousy view of Christianity, especially in light of Christmas. Yes, we in our sinful nature are nothing. We are less than nothing. We are sinners and we must never be puffed up in pride. But the good news of Christianity is almost inexplicably, the God of the universe looked at humanity and decided to save us. How? By sending His eternal Son to take on a human nature forever. Jesus sits in the heavens right now as both God and exalted man. He will return and judge the world as both God and Man. He will then transform us all into glorious bodies. Far from debasing humanity, Christianity exalts it into the heavenlies through Christ Jesus. This is the beauty of the gospel, God gives grace to the humble. He takes the lowly and raises them up.



## Cynacism: The Babe and the Bathwater

Cynicism is a peculiar vice because it blossoms under the light. Expose malice to love, and malice will shrivel. Introduce selfishness to selflessness, and selfishness will slink away ashamed. But the more love and light you throw at a cynic, the more he will gorge himself on deflating and twisting them. A cynic needs an ideal at which to sneer.

And what ideal is more bloated with sentiment than Christmas? As a recovering cynic, I can say that Christmas is one of our favorite times of the year. We smile and sharpen our knives for the kill.

“Why not scoff at Christmas?” The cynic asks. “War and hunger continue in the world, greed and materialism continue in America, and strife and sloth continue in my family – and you’re saying praise God for peace on earth and goodwill towards men?”

This Christmas, how do we defend ourselves against the cynics - and against the cynic in ourselves... Have you ever heard the old saying “Don’t throw the baby out with the bathwater”? That’s what we’re trying to do. We want to preserve Christmas, even in the face of the bad things encroaching on it. But how do we do that? The temptation is to focus on throwing out the bathwater, but that’s how the cynic became a cynic. A cynic begins as an idealist. He has a perfect mental image of a beautiful baby in clean bathwater (to stick with our analogy). Then he starts to notice impurities in the bathwater. Eventually, he becomes so obsessed with noticing impurities that he comes to expect nothing but impurities. His soul withers. His ideal was not too low, but too high.

In some ways, a cynic is the ultimate idealist – but his idealism is misplaced. He has focused on purifying the bathwater, and it’s all come to nothing, and left him with nothing in which to believe. What he should have done is firmly grasp hold of the baby.

## By Nathan Alberson

Before I stretch this analogy to the breaking point, let me explain. This Christmas, Christ is the baby, and all the woes that come shackled to Christmas are the bathwater. We need to grasp firm hold of the baby.

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus” (Heb12:2a). The cynic in me calls that answer trite. Maybe he has a point. If our conception of Christ narrows at Christmastime entirely to images of a babe in a manger, then I think he does have a point. The trick in celebrating Christmas is to celebrate that babe in the manger without entirely forgetting Christ’s other aspects - the Son of Man who died on the cross, and the Son of God who will return to judge the world.

Remember the words to the great old Christmas carol?

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
“God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!  
The Wrong shall fail,  
The Right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good-will to men!”

There’s the answer to the cynic. The story of Christmas isn’t a devotional fable about a baby. It’s the story of God setting His plan into motion to wrest the world away from Satan and Death forever. Understand this truth, and war and famine and greed and broken family and all the rest really do become bathwater. They are pinpricks, gusts of wind, nothings. I wrote earlier that the cynic feeds on light, but here at last is the Light so strong it will devour him.

This Christmas, let’s remember the many aspects of Christ. Let’s see Christ as Bridegroom, Brother, Gate, God, Judge, King, Lamb, Light, Priest, Prophet, Shepherd, Son, Warrior, and Word. Then when the cynic snarls that our little baby Jesus must be helpless in the face of the world’s woes, we can smile. Praise God, we know better.

## **“Lo He Abors Not the Virgin’s Womb” by Tim Bayly**

Christmas has always been babies. It started with two babies in their mother's wombs, One with an eternal weight of glory and the other, recognizing that Glory, preparing His way by proclaiming His presence to the only one listening--His mother, Elizabeth.

Think of it! John the Baptist beginning to do the work of His calling when he was still in his mother's womb. What a man! What a child!

A faithful prophet, he couldn't open his mouth and speak, so in his mother's womb he rolled and jumped and kicked and turned somersaults! His mother got the message...

If we've murdered our wee one through abortion; if we've spent our lives trying to obstruct or carefully control our womb's fruitfulness; if children are a lifestyle choice to us and pregnancy a necessary evil to get the two before we get sterilized; we're likely to miss this part of the glory and joy of Christmas--that God, deigning to live in His Own mother's womb, has forevermore glorified the fruitfulness of the womb and all the inconveniences and discomforts and smaller deaths necessary to bring life into this world.

But for those who love life and fruitfulness, there's nothing more beautiful than a baby at Christmas. Nothing. Not snow or Kings College Christmas carols or children around the Christmas tree, or even a wedding.

Pregnant mothers and unborn babies and childbirth are the high liturgy for this celebration. There's simply nothing more beautiful.

So, if you have been blessed by God with a new child in your womb this Christmastide--a child made by God in the Image of His Son, Who also dwelt in His mother's womb--think on it and rejoice!

*God of God,*

*Light of Light,*

*Lo! He abhors not the virgin's womb...*

## **Two Advent Prayers by Martin Luther**

Dear God,  
protect us and keep us in your grace  
that we may be that little flock,  
which gladly receives Christ,  
singing, “Hosanna! God be praised,”  
that we receive him as our King,  
and that we may be Christians.

We know why we are called  
Christians, namely, after our King  
Christ, since we are baptized in his  
name and washed in his blood.

Help us remain in him.

Amen.

O dear God, heavenly Father,  
give prosperity and salvation  
to the Son of David,  
your dear Son Christ Jesus,  
and to his kingdom.

Let him also  
come to us  
in your name,  
that we also may be blessed.

Amen.



## Fluffy Hot Chocolate

### Ingredients

- 8 teaspoons sugar
- 4 teaspoons baking cocoa
- 4 cups 2% milk
- 1-1/2 cups miniature marshmallows
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

### Directions

1. In a small saucepan, combine the first four ingredients. Cook and stir over medium heat until marshmallows are melted, about 8 minutes. Remove from the heat; stir in vanilla. Ladle into mugs.

### Nutrition Facts

1 cup: 249 calories, 8g fat (5g saturated fat), 33mg cholesterol, 128mg sodium, 36g carbohydrate (30g sugars, 0 fiber), 9g protein.



## Chocolate, Peanut & Pretzel Toffee Crisps

### Ingredients

- 40 Saltines
- 3/4 cup butter, cubed
- 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup cocktail peanuts
- 1 cup broken pretzel sticks
- 3/4 cup M&M's minis

### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350°. Line a 15x10x1-in. baking pan with foil; grease foil. Arrange Saltines in a single layer on foil.
2. In a large heavy saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Stir in brown sugar. Bring to a boil; cook and stir until sugar is dissolved, 2-3 minutes. Remove from heat; stir in vanilla. Spread evenly over crackers.
3. Bake until bubbly, 8-10 minutes. Immediately sprinkle with chocolate chips. Allow chips to soften 2 minutes, then spread over top. Sprinkle with peanuts, pretzels and M&M's minis; shake pan to settle toppings into chocolate. Cool.

Refrigerate, uncovered, 1 hour or until set. Break into pieces. Store in an airtight container.

### Nutrition Facts

1 ounce: 146 calories, 9g fat (5g saturated fat), 11mg cholesterol, 99mg sodium, 16g carbohydrate (12g sugars, 1g fiber), 2g protein.

# Sermon Notes FOR KIDS



AS YOU ATTEND CHURCH SERVICE WITH YOUR FAMILY, USE THIS SHEET TO HELP YOU PAY ATTENTION AND LEARN. WE WANT YOU TO WORSHIP WITH US BY SINGING TO GOD AND LISTENING TO THE MESSAGE.



WHO IS SPEAKING?

WORDS YOU HEARD BUT DON'T KNOW...



WHAT IS THE MAIN PASSAGE WE ARE READING TODAY?

BOOK:

CHAPTER:

VERSE:

WHAT ARE WE LEARNING ABOUT GOD FROM THIS PASSAGE?

WHICH SONG FROM TODAY'S SERVICE IS YOUR FAVORITE AND WHY?

WRITE OR DRAW SOMETHING THAT YOU HEARD IN THE SERMON OR IN A SONG TODAY.



FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW WHILE IN SERVICE AND THEN, ON THE WAY HOME, TALK ABOUT WHAT YOU HEARD AND THE NOTES YOU WROTE DOWN.

★ I HEARD \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ TODAY  
BUT WAS CONFUSED OR HAD A HARD TIME BELIEVING IT.



HEARING AND BELIEVING THAT GOD IS \_\_\_\_\_

CHANGES THE WAY I \_\_\_\_\_



***“Glory to God in the highest,  
And on earth peace among men with  
whom He is pleased.”***

