



# SOVEREIGN KING

CONFESSING  PROCLAIMING  CONSTRUCTING

FEBRUARY 2022





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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.



## February 6-12th

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

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Matthew 17:14-21

Romans 5

### **Verse to Memorize**

Hebrews 11:1

### **Catechism Questions**

Q. What does God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse, due to us for sin?

A. To escape the wrath and curse of God, due to us for sin, God requires faith in Jesus Christ, repentance unto life, with the diligent use of all the outward means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption.

Q. What is faith in Jesus Christ?

A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.

Q. 56. What is it to repent?

A. To be sorry for sin, and to hate and forsake it because it is displeasing to God.

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

**Church:** Holy Trinity Reformed Church

Pastor James Brown

**Ministry:** Chinese Christian Church of Milwaukee

Pastor Steven Chu  
Brian Bunn

**Civil Magistrate:** Jeffersonville Mayor  
Mayor Mike Moore

## Notes to Help

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

In Deuteronomy 6, we read what is often called the Shema Israel (Hear O Israel). It is the statement that there is only one God and God is unified. The Bible teaches us that there are three persons of the God-head and these three are unified. We believe in One

God in Three Persons. The three persons are not part God or part of God. They are fully God. We are to love this one God with our whole being and teach our children to do the same. Family worship is part of this command. It is important though not just to do family worship but teach your children that they should do it when they have families.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we see that without faith its impossible to please God. We can try to do things on our own good merits. We can even strive to do good things but without faith in Christ, we are useless.

### **Catechism**

Our catechism questions teach us what faith and repentance are. Faith and Repentance are in some ways two sides of the same coin. Without repentance you do not have faith and without faith you cannot repent. But when you have believe in the work and word of Christ you will turn from your sins. Make your home a place where faith and repentance are modeled. As important as your children receiving trade skills or an education for a career, nothing is more important than instilling a life of faith and repentance.

### **Song Recommendations:**

Trust and Obey

We believe (Apostles' Creed Song)

## February 13-19th

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

[Deuteronomy 6:10-25](#)

[Matthew 17:22-27](#)

[Romans 6](#)

### **Verse to Memorize**

[2 Corinthians 9:6-7](#)

### **Catechism Questions**

Q. What is the tithe?

A. The word "tithe" means tenth. In the Bible, it is the basic principle that every person is to return one-tenth of his increase to the Lord.

Q. Should we still give a tithe today?

A. While giving ten percent of our income is a good principle to begin with, we should give whole heartedly to the work of the Lord because all that we have comes from God and we can never out give God.

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

**Church:** [Clearnote Church Indy](#)  
Pastor David Abu-sara

**Ministry:** [Evangel Presbytery](#)

**Civil Magistrate:** [Jeffersonville City Council](#)  
[District 1 Dustin White](#)

### **Song Selection:**

[Give to Our God Immortal Praise](#)  
[Psalms 4 in You I Trust](#)

## Notes to Help

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

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus's disciples are asked if Jesus will pay the temple tax. This was a tax collected for the use of building and upkeep on the temple. It also would have paid for workers in the temple. This was different than the tithe which was commanded from God in the Old Testament. It also differs from taxes by the civil magistrates. Jesus uses it however as a teaching opportunity about himself. He uses the example of a King and His son. Kings don't collect taxes from their sons. In this Jesus is making clear that He is the Son of God and thus is exempt from paying. Jesus is superior to the temple and the temple workers. In saying this, Jesus was not saying we should never pay taxes or that we should not give tithes or offerings. Instead He was speaking to his Sonship. He was affirming His deity. Jesus though He was exempt, still pays the tax so that no one would take offense. Jesus used His liberty to love others.

Take this time to teach your children about giving to the church. Whenever they earn money, teach them that 10 percent goes to the Lord. This is a good principle to start when they are young.

Secondly, teach your children that our liberty in Christ is not so that we can just please ourselves. Sometimes in wisdom, we do things we are exempt from in order not to cause unnecessary offense.

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

Please Pray for the Presbytery Annual Meeting that will happen this Friday. We are also praying each week for a city council member in Jeffersonville.

### **Song Selection:**

*Some seek for foolish gain  
And things that have no worth  
But there's no hope in wine or gold  
The riches of the earth*

*My heart is filled with joy  
In You I'm satisfied  
In peace I will lie down to sleep  
In You I will abide*

# February 20-26th

## **Bible Passage for the Week**

Deuteronomy 7:1-11

Romans 7

## **Verse to Memorize**

Matthew 28:18-20

## **Catechism Questions**

Q. What is the great commission?

A. With the Great Commission, Jesus commanded his Church to go into the world and make disciples of the nations.

Q. How does the Church make disciples?

A. The Church makes disciples by proclaiming the Gospel, administering the sacraments, and teaching obedience to the word of God.

Q. Can I participate in the great commission?

A. Yes, all of God's people should contribute to the work of disciple making by

1. Telling their family, friends, and neighbors about Jesus.
2. Giving to and supporting those called by God to preach.
3. Praying for those who are lost.

## **People to Pray for:**

**Church:** Christ Church

Pastor Joseph Bayly

**Ministry:** Daniel Courney

**Civil Magistrate:** Jeffersonville City Council

District 2 Bill Burns

## **Song Suggestion:**

I Love to Tell the Story  
Storm the Forts of Darkness

# Notes to Help

## **Bible Passage for the Week**

In Deuteronomy, God tells His people that He did not choose them because of their size or might. There was nothing desirable in them that could move God to choose them. He chose them because He loved them and because He had loved their fathers. God made promises to Abraham that He will keep. This is a great hit on our pride. Its not because of our good deeds that God has chosen us. Its not because of how talented we are or how much we bring to the table. We were sinners and helpless. We were enslaved to the devil. But God loves us and He has chosen to save us. While it is a hit on our pride, what an encouragement it is to know that God loved me when I was His enemy. He chose us to display His glory to the world. Therefore, let us be faithful to take share the gospel with all, knowing that God will use that to save whom He chooses.

## **Catechism Questions**

Disciples make disciples. This is what Christ has commanded His church to do. This is the mission of the Church. God has equipped His church for this work. He gifts different people and calls them to different tasks. We might now all be called to be preachers. We might not all be called to go to foreign lands. But we all can and should share the good news of Christ wherever we are. Do you model this for your children?

## **Resources**

Did you know that there is a section on the church website where you can download tracts to print off or to share online? Check out these resources and a lot more at

<https://www.sovereignkingchurch.com/resources>

## February 27-March 5th

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

Deuteronomy 7:12-26

Matthew 18:1-10

Romans 8

### **Verse to Memorize**

Ephesians 6:1-3

### **Catechism Questions**

Q. Does Christ care for little children?

A. Yes; for he says, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God."

Q. Can Children be saved?

A. Yes because the Bible says that "the promise is for you and your children."

Q. Can Children serve Christ?

A. Yes, for the Bible says "Children, obey your parents in the Lord."

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

**Church:** Reformation Church Shelbyville

Pastor Jerry Dorris

**Ministry:** Austin Keeler

**Civil Magistrate:** Jeffersonville City Council

District 3 Joe Paris

### **Song Suggestion**

Psalm 127

Jesus Loves the Little Children

## Notes to Help

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

In our Gospel Lesson this week, Jesus speaks highly of Children. He instructs us that we must have a childlike faith and at the same time commends children to the Kingdom. The gospel is for young and old alike. See the Church History profile below for an example of two young kings.

### **Church History Profile**

*2 Chronicles 34:1-2 Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. He did right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the ways of his father David and did not turn aside to the right or to the left.*

Josiah became king at the young age of eight. Even though he was young he became one of the greatest kings in the history of Judah. He was convicted by the reading of God's word and worked hard to restore the worship of the temple. Unfortunately, while Josiah's heart was devoted to the Lord, the people were not wholly converted. After Josiah's reign, they resorted against to wickedness and God sent Babylon to discipline His people.

Compare Josiah's good reign with another young king who came after him. 2 Chronicles 36:9 says "Jehoiachin was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem, and he did evil in the sight of the Lord." Though he was just eight years old, God declared him to be evil and his reign was very short lived.

The Old Testament promises of the New Covenant include God's blessing on the children of believers. Children no less than adults have right to the promises of God. They also will be judged by Christ. Therefore, we ought to proclaim the gospel to young and old alike. We need to raise our own covenant children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. Pray that for our children that they will take the path of Josiah and not the path of Jehoiachin.

## How Many Children Should We have?

*...if she has brought up children... [1Timothy 5:10](#)*

Pastors, elders, and older women are often asked for counsel concerning birth control and the place of fertility in the Christian home and marriage. Whether in premarital counseling, home visitation, or women's Bible studies, questions are raised concerning God's will in the timing and frequency of childbirth. Such questions are spiritual in nature and present church leaders with a wonderful opportunity to lead Christian husbands and wives into a deeper understanding of the Biblical meaning and purpose of womanhood, manhood, sex, and marriage.

Years ago, my wife, Mary Lee, and I had the pleasure of announcing that Mary Lee was "with child" for the fifth time. The little one then nestled in his mother's womb (whom today we know as our high school junior, Taylor Isaiah Bayly) was a wonderful gift from God. As with our other four children, we were grateful to God for His good gift. When we announced the pregnancy, though, we knew there were some who wondered, "Why another one? Aren't four enough? How many are you going to have, anyway?"

Though part of the reason Mary Lee and I had children is that we liked children, we also believed raising godly offspring has always been at the heart of God's purpose for marriage...

Antediluvian as this may sound to late twentieth century ears, Scripture teaches it and we believed it.

Mary Lee and I both come from large families. Mary Lee's mother gave birth to ten children and my own mother gave birth to seven. So both of us were blessed to be born into homes where children were loved and there were plenty of brothers and sisters.

Although the size of our families made us more open to having a large family ourselves, personal experience was not the ultimate reason we continued to have children, ourselves. Rather, the truth we returned to again and again was that children are a blessing from the Lord. When a husband and wife are told the pregnancy test came back positive, they're not discovering an accident of nature, but an act of God.

Scripture teaches that clouds, fields, orchards, and livestock bear fruit only as God wills it. If He desires to discipline men He withholds these gifts. If He desires to bless, His grace takes the form of rain, corn, grapes, calves... So also in our homes. When an expectant mother feels the gentle jab of her baby's legs she is feeling a form of God's grace and love.

## By Tim and David Bayly

*Lo, sons are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate. ([Psalm 127:35](#))*

*Blessed is every one who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways! You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be happy, and it shall be well with you. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. Lo, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the LORD. ([Psalm 128:14](#))*

If we accept Scripture's teaching that children are a blessing from God, what would constitute a proper justification for the limitation of these blessings?

Just asking the question takes us a long way toward answering it. If Christians are to seek God's gifts and blessings, our fundamental attitude toward the gift of babies should be to pursue--not to reject--them.

When the disciples tried to push the children away because Jesus was too important and busy for them, Jesus indignantly rebuked His disciples and welcomed the little ones:

*...He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these...." And He took the children in His arms, put His hands on them and blessed them. ([Mark 10:14b16](#))*

"But," you might ask, "what about world population trends? Isn't it irresponsible to have more than two children when babies in Africa are starving?"

The truth is, world hunger doesn't derive from a surplus of children. Rather it's the result of a deficit of human love and compassion.

The answer to hunger isn't fewer children. Nor is it right for the well-fed to mandate such a solution to the have-nots of the world. Jesus said, "I was hungry and you fed me;" not, "I was hungry and you made a contribution to Planned Parenthood on my behalf."

Many Americans stop after one or two children voicing concern about world hunger, yet how many of these men and women use the money and time saved by their decision to adopt a special needs child, or to become foster parents--or even to feed the starving, for that matter?

# Continued

Years ago, I helped officiate a wedding service in a Mennonite farm community in central Kansas. The bride was the next to youngest of twelve children. While there, I stayed at the home of another family from their church with eight children. What impressed me about the families I met that weekend was the love I saw between the parents and their children. And during the weekend I heard of a number of children in the church who were foster children or adopted.

For instance, the bride's father pointed out a young man seated at the dinner table Sunday after church who was married to one of his daughters. He told me this young man had been taken in by one of the church's families when he was just a boy. When he was all alone a godly family had opened their home to him and he had received their name and love. Another family had just taken in two foster children. Is it merely an accident that families with eight and twelve children find room, food, and love enough to take in the castoffs?

Sin often disguises itself as virtue, so it's not surprising people often argue, "it's good stewardship to have fewer children." But this makes God's gift out to be sinful and the rejection of Divine grace an act of righteousness. The Scriptural truth is that children are a blessing from God--red and yellow, black and white; they are precious in His sight.

Some people use the scrimping that's often necessary in large families as an argument against them. "Mothers and fathers have a limited supply of energy, patience, and love," they say. "Parents shouldn't have more children than they can care for properly."

But wait a minute: since when have smaller families produced better-adjusted children than the children of larger families? Consider for instance John and Charles Wesley with seventeen siblings; their mother, Susanna, with twenty-four...

Examples like this abound. Family size has no correlation to a child's spiritual health. In fact, the one clear advantage in the whole equation is the unique ability of large families to pass on some of the greatest of human virtues: sharing, helping, listening, being patient, giving up one's individualism for the sake of the group. Yet in America today this storehouse of virtue is being ransacked.

The number of one-child families in the United States has increased 50% over the last two decades. What effect will such a drastic decrease in the size of our families have on the moral development of our children?

Throughout history Christians have acknowledged God's command "be fruitful and multiply" to be binding: for millennia, bearing children has been viewed, not as a matter of preference, but as an act of obedience.

Historically, the Christian church has maintained there are three purposes for marriage.

The *Westminster Confession* reflects this tradition when it teaches marriage to have been ordained by God for:

1. The mutual help of husband and wife.
2. The safeguarding, undergirding, and development of their moral and spiritual character.
3. The propagation of children and the rearing of them in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

This list is most decidedly not a teaching of man; rather, it is the revealed doctrine of God's Holy Word. God commanded Adam and Eve--and Noah as well--to "be fruitful and multiply." And in [Malachi 2:15](#) we're told in the very plainest possible terms that God instituted marriage because He was seeking a godly offspring. The bearing and raising of children, then, may well be the most neglected method of evangelism today.

Martin Luther faced cultural pressures against childbirth in the church of his day similar to the pressures we feel in our time. Addressing the problem head on, he rebuked those, "who seem to detest giving birth lest the bearing and rearing of children disturb their leisure."

There is no shame in childbearing: not once, not twice, not ten or twenty times. God tells us He seeks a Godly seed from His people. Who are we to deny His desire?

It may seem foolish to talk about what the justifications are for the arrival of one more child, but the arrival of any child in any home or marriage causes us to reexamine the basic commitments upon which our lives are built.

The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. Rocking the cradle ought, therefore, to be at the center of the priorities of the People of God.

# The Real St. Valentine

February 14<sup>th</sup> is known by many as St. Valentine's Day, a day where many exchange romantic cards and gifts. Interestingly enough, there are two different men named Valentine that have been talked about in church history. One of them was a pastor in Rome. The story of this Valentine dates back to around AD270, during the persecutions of the Emperor Claudius Gothicus. Valentine was well known for his sanctity and the Emperor, who was intrigued by his fame, invited him to the palace. He offered Valentine his friendship and said he should adore the gods. But Valentine stated courageously and firmly that it was a waste of time worshipping the gods since Jesus Christ had brought the only true hope and the promise of a better world. The Emperor was impressed by Valentine's faith and entrusted him to a Roman nobleman named Asterius, whom he ordered to convert Valentine using "mellifluous arguments". But instead of Valentine converting, Asterius converted to Christianity along with his whole family. When he heard about their conversion, the Emperor Claudius condemned Valentine to be beheaded. The execution took place on the Via Flaminia in Rome. He was buried nearby and soon a church was built there in his honor.

As you give chocolates or flowers and spend time with your loved ones, share the hope you have in Christ most importantly. Stand firm for the love of God no matter the cost.

# A Hymn to God the Father by John Donne

Wilt thou forgive that sin where I begun,

Which was my sin, though it were done before?

Wilt thou forgive that sin, through which I run,

And do run still, though still I do deplore?

When thou hast done, thou hast not done,

For I have more.

Wilt thou forgive that sin which I have won

Others to sin, and made my sin their door?

Wilt thou forgive that sin which I did shun

A year or two, but wallow'd in, a score?

When thou hast done, thou hast not done,

For I have more.

I have a sin of fear, that when I have spun

My last thread, I shall perish on the shore;

But swear by thyself, that at my death thy Son

Shall shine as he shines now, and heretofore;

And, having done that, thou hast done;

I fear no more.

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Long my imprisoned spirit lay  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
My chains fell off, my heart was free;  
I rose, went forth and followed Thee.

