

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a small, brown seed between the thumb and index finger. The hand is positioned over a mound of dark, rich soil. To the right of the hand, a small green seedling with two leaves is growing out of the soil. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

# SOVEREIGNKING

CONFESSING ✠ PROCLAIMING ✠ CONSTRUCTING

MAY 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.



## May 2nd –8th

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

[Matthew 9:9-13](#)

[Isaiah 47](#)

### **Verse to Memorize**

[Exodus 20:1-3](#)

### **Catechism Questions**

Q. How many books are in the New Testament? A. There are 27 books in the New Testament.

Q. What are the books of the New Testament? A. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, The Acts of the Apostles, Romans, I and II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I and II Thessalonians, I and II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, I and II Peter, I, II, and III John, Jude, and Revelation.

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

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

Pastor Dereck Evans

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

**Magistrate:** Indiana State Senate Pro Temp

[Sen. Rodric Bray](#)

### **Song Suggestion**

[Hallelujah What A Savior](#)  
[Grace Greater Than All Our Sin](#)

## Notes to Help

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

This week is a good time to work on rooting out all pride and self-righteousness in ourselves and our children. What a blessing it is to raise children in a godly home and for them to know about Christ from early ages but the temptation that comes with this is to have a self-righteous and prideful view that holds sinners with disdain as if one is simply better than them. Matthew 9 reminds us that Jesus came for the sick. Pride never lets us admit we are sick sinners and thus while it looks down on others it ignores its own need for salvation. Remind your children that they are sinners worthy of hell just as much as others who are outside the church. Then remind them of the grace of God who sent his son to redeem sinners.

Isaiah 47 deals with the pride of the Babylonians who were used by God in the judgement of his people but did not acknowledge God was using them. God promises to judge them for their evil.

### **Catechism Questions**

[Here is a good song to](#) help your kids memorize the books of the bible. If you go over this every day when the kids wake up and when they go to bed, they will get it quickly. Knowing the books of the bible and their order is invaluable when it comes to being able to study God's word.

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

Malden Presbyterian Church in Missouri is a church that God has been revitalizing. Pastor Dereck Evans has led them out of a liberal denomination and is working to reform their theology and practice. Pray for strength and wisdom.

Daniel Courney is planting a church and also a bold street preacher who has served in India, Nepal, and Jerusalem.

### **Song Suggestion**

Man of sorrows, what a name  
For the Son of God who came  
Ruined sinners to reclaim  
Hallelujah! What Savior

## May 9th—15th

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

[Matthew 9:14-17](#)

[Isaiah 48](#)

### **Verse to Memorize**

[Exodus 20:1-6](#)

### **Catechism Questions**

Q. 72. How many commandments did God give on Mount Sinai?

A. Ten commandments.

Q. 73. What are the ten commandments sometimes called?

A. The Decalogue and also The Moral Law.

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

**Church:** [Syracuse Baptist Church](#)

Pastor Tim Bushong

**Ministry:** [Bobby McCreery](#)

**Magistrate:** [Clark County Judge](#)  
[Judge Daniel E. Moore](#)

### **Song Suggestion\***

[Fullness of Joy](#)  
[The Ten Commandments Song](#)

## Notes to Help

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

In the gospel of Matthew, this week we are again warned against the hypocrisy of the Pharisees. God wants worshippers who worship him with whole hearts. This requires new hearts, new hearts which are gifts from God. No one puts new wine (the gospel) into old wine skins (the old dead hearts of the pharisees) but puts it into new wineskins (the fresh hearts of the disciples that is those who have been given new hearts.)

Similarly in Isaiah 48, God chastises His covenant people for their hypocrisy. They claim his name but their hearts are far from him. Yet God promises still to be merciful and to do so for the sake of his glory.

Teach your children that we must love God with all our hearts which means we must pray that God would give us a clean hearts.

### **Catechism Questions**

Over the next few weeks, we will be memorizing the ten commandments or as they are sometimes called the Decalogue which is a word meaning Ten Words. Here is [a video](#) that you can use to help the children memorize Exodus 20.

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

Syracuse Baptist Church is a rural congregation in Syracuse Indiana. Pray that God would strengthen this congregation and make them a light into the region around them.

Bobby McCreery is a full-time evangelist in Atlanta Georgia. He preaches daily at the abortion mill there and at the University of Georgia.

The local courts have much power and influence over families. Please pray that Judge Moore will have wisdom to rule by the law of God in order to punish evil and protect what is good.



# May 16th– 22nd

## **Bible Passage for the Week**

[Matthew 9:18-34](#)

[Isaiah 49](#)

## **Verse to Memorize**

[Exodus 20:1-7](#)

## **Catechism Questions**

Q. 74. What do the first four commandments teach? A. Our duty to God.

Q. 75. What do the last six commandments teach? A. Our duty to our fellow men.

## **People to Pray for:**

**Church:** [Redemption Life Bible Church](#)  
Tyler Jackson

**Ministry:** [David Graves](#)

**Magistrate:** [Clark County Magistrate](#)  
[Kenneth R. Abbott](#)

## **Song Suggestion\***

[Build Your Kingdom Here](#)  
[The Truth](#)

# Notes to Help

## **Bible Passage for the Week**

Jesus went about healing the sick, making the blind to see, and freeing people from the clutches of the devil. Even though, there were still those who disparaged his work. They accused him of being able to do his work by the power of the devil. How wicked and cold their hearts had to be to see God's work in Christ and blaspheme. But are we much better when we don't respond with joy to his work. Are we much better when we grumble and complain at the work of the Lord in the church or in our family? May God give us eyes to see his work and worship him.

Isaiah 49 foretells of the mighty work of Jesus, the Servant of the Lord. Though despised by the enemy, scripture promises that God will glorify Him. Kings and nations will worship him. Right now in our world things may look dark but take courage, God will not let his word to be void.

## **Catechism Questions**

We are commanded to love God with all our heart, our soul, our mind, and our strength. The first four commandments teach us who to worship, how to worship, with what words, and when to worship Him. They teach us how to love Him. The 5th commandment is the hinge which turns our hearts from God to the authorities on earth he established who represent his rule. Then from there the rest of the last six commandments teach us how we are to love our neighbor.

## **People to Pray for:**

RLBC led by Pastor Jackson is in Northern Indiana. Pastor Jackson has recently become Presbyterian and has been looking into our Presbytery. Pray that God might lead them to join with our fellowship and work.

David Graves serves faithfully in Washington State by working to end abortion and running a house for homeless women.

## **Song Suggestion**

Jesus Christ is King He will reign forever is the chorus from an aptly named song called The Truth. Jesus is the King just as promised in Isaiah and kings and nations will come to him.

## May 23rd—29th

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

[Matthew 9:35-38](#)

[Isaiah 50](#)

### **Verse to Memorize**

[Exodus 20:1-9](#)

### **Catechism Questions**

Q. 76. What is the sum of the ten commandments?

A. To love God with all my heart, and my neighbor as myself.

Q. 77. Who is your neighbor?

A. All my fellow men are my neighbors.

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

**Church:** [Apologia Church](#)

Pastor Jeff Durbin

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

**Magistrate:** Clark County Circuit Court 2

[Judge Bradley B. Jacobs](#)

### **Song Suggestion**

[Bringing in the Sheaves](#)

[Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy](#)

## Notes to Help

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

The Lord is compassionate our passage teaches us. He sees the disheartened and dispirited and he pities them because they are sheep without a shepherd. To this end, He tells his disciples to pray for laborers. The fields are ripe and the harvest is plentiful.

Several points of application to talk with your family:

1. We should have compassion on the weak and needy. What way can your family serve those in need this month?
2. Pray for pastors and elders who have been called to be shepherds.
3. Be reminded that gospel is still powerful and the field is still ripe. There will be evangelism opportunities with the church for you to be involved with. Make these a priority.

### **Catechism Questions**

Do you have compassion on your neighbor?

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

Apologia Church is in Tempe Arizona. They have a wide reach through their podcasts and videos. Please pray for God's hand to keep them humble and faithful.

Cal Zastrow has been leading efforts to close abortion mills for years. He also works to take the gospel to China.

Judge Jacobs was involved in a shooting outside a bar. He was suspended for a while from the court.

Pray for his repentance.

### **Song Suggestion**

Consider having your children learn a musical instrument. These are skills that many parents don't have and so they don't think to encourage their children in it. But even if one doesn't fill they are musically talented, they can benefit from the discipline of learning a musical instrument. The internet is filled with lessons and instruments can be found cheap online as well. Help raise up musicians for the next generation of worship leaders.

Bringing in the Sheaves is a simple song which they sing all the time on the Little House on the Prairie TV Show. If you need something for your family to watch, I recommend it.



## May 30th—June 5th

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

[Matthew 10:1-15](#)

[Isaiah 51](#)

### **Verse to Memorize**

[Exodus 20:1-10](#)

### **Catechism Questions**

Q. Is God pleased with those who love and obey him?

A. Yes; he says, "I love them that love me."

Q. Is God displeased with those who do not love and obey him?

A. Yes; "God is angry with the wicked every day."

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

**Church:** [MercySeat Christian Church](#)

Pastor Matthew Trehwella

**Ministry:** [Jason Storms](#)

Incoming OSA Director

**Magistrate:** Clark County Circuit Court 2

[Magistrate William Dawkins](#)

### **Song Suggestion**

[Psalm 82 Rescue](#)

[Fight the Good Fight With All thy Might](#)

## Notes to Help

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

Jesus sends his disciples out on their first mission. He grant them authority to do miracles. These miracles serve to bolster their message. It is important to note that this gifting was from Jesus to his apostles for a specific purpose. The purpose was to serve as a witness to the truth. Today's so called faith healers have turned miracles into a carnival show for their own gain. The disciples were proclaiming the kingdom. Jesus says it would be better for Sodom than for those who rejected the apostles' message.

Isaiah 51 tells of the mercies of God. The righteous look to Him. They look to his kingdom but the wicked he is angry with and will destroy.

### **Catechism Questions**

God's people love and obey him and God is pleased with their obedience but those who do not love him God will judge. It is important to highlight that we can only obey because we have the Holy Spirit. We are not righteous on our own.

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

Pastor Matt Trehwella at MercySeat Christian Church never holds anything back when he preaches or ministers. He stands opposed to tyranny and has written a helpful book called the Doctrine of the Lesser Magistrate.

Jason Storms also serves with Pastor Matt but will be the new director of Operation Save America this summer when Rusty Thomas retires.

### **Song Suggestion**

Every school has its own fight song. It's the song that that the band plays and crowd sings as their team plays hard and aims for victory. Every family ought to have their own fight song too. A song that calls them into godly battle not to score touchdowns or shoot baskets but to press on towards heaven while being faithful to Christ's commands for his disciples to be salt and light.

# Training for Worship

*Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.*

The above verse teaches us a few important principles. First, parents have a duty to train their children. The term training is often used interchangeably with teaching but there is a difference. In teaching our children, which is also a responsibility of parents, we impart to them knowledge which they did not already possess. Training however is the shaping and developing of one's abilities and skills. Teaching enables another person to know something. Training enables them to do something. Parents have the responsibility to train their children. Secondly, parents are to train their children in the right direction. You shape their skills and abilities to be used in the right ways. You not only give them knowledge of the right path, but you also take them down the path. The end goal is that when you are no longer the trainer, they will continue to go the paths they have been trained for. Their training will make them ready to do what is good and right even when they face scenarios they have never faced before. Using the arrows metaphor, you are the one shaping and sharpening the arrows so that on the day of battle they may be useful.

One important area of training that parents do not often think of is worship. We know to train our children in athletics and academics but one of the most important skills a person needs to have is to be able to rightly worship the Lord. Now in our church, you may be more keenly aware of this need than in other churches because we practice family integrated worship. That means that in our worship gathering on the Lord's day the whole family is invited and expected to be a part of the service. This practice is both a practice out of necessity because of limited facilities and resources, and a practice out of principle.

While there is not space in this article for laying out the complete case for this principle, it is helpful to look through scripture and see how children and even infants are described as being in the gathering of God's people as well as commanded to be in the gatherings. Whether in Deuteronomy 31:11-13, Joshua 8:35, Joel 1-2, Ezra and Nehemiah in the Old Testament or the fact that the Apostles address children in the New Testament Epistles meant to be read in the gathering of the saints, the Bible sets a pattern of the whole family being included in worship. We see this as a good pattern to follow and one that connects to the duty to train up a child in the way he should go. You must always start as you mean to go and starting your children in the worship gathering is training them for the right path.

# Training for Worship

One objection someone might have is that its hard for little ones because its over their heads. Who expects nursing infants and toddlers to actually participate or get anything in worship? John Piper answers this objection to having children in worship which also ties into the duty to train your children. This is what he says:

Of course, the service is over the children's heads. It is supposed to be over their heads. They are beginners. The English language is over their heads when they come out of the womb, but we do not say, "Well, let's put them with other children in their own situations and limitations so they can understand a word or two." No. We immerse them in the English language every day. For a while, they do not understand most of it. But we hope and expect them to grow up into joyful use of the English language. Long before children fully understand the words said and sung in the service, they are absorbing tremendous amounts of valuable experience. This remains true even if they say they are bored. Music and words become familiar. The message of the music starts to sink in. The form of the service starts to feel natural. Even if most of the sermon goes right over their heads, experience shows that children hear and remember remarkable things. The content of the prayers, the songs, and the sermon gives parents an unparalleled opportunity to teach their children the great truths of the faith. If parents would only learn to query their children after the service and explain things to them, they would sow enormously valuable seeds for their long-term growth in the knowledge of God.

As John Piper makes clear having your children in worship with you is training that sets the pattern for years of growth. It starts children off knowing that worship is important, and it is what our family does. Think of all the other activities that young children are brought to by their parents and expected to observe or participate in. You might bring your baby to a ball game to watch the other children. We take children to family reunions, birthday parties, the dmv, and other activities. I know a couple that took their infant to the movies so that they could enjoy it. None of these places are as important as the worship of the Lord and none so vital in the life of your children and home.

# Training for Worship

Ok, you say I get it but its hard having little ones in worship. They cry and they get bored. Others are distracted. I am embarrassed and I feel like I get nothing from the worship. I know that bringing them to worship is training them for the future, but I need help training them to be able to be trained in worship. What do I do?

Well, you are right that children have to be trained for worship, that is they need to be prepared for worship on Sunday. The truth is that we all need to prepare ourselves for worship. This is something neglected by nearly everyone in our day. If you need to be prepared than your children are no different. The training of children that happens in the public worship does not begin on Sunday Morning. This training happens all week. What does this training look like? How do you get your child ready for worship on Sunday morning? Here is a list of ten ways you can train your children so that they can be a part of the gathering of the covenant community for worship.

**1. Prepare yourself for worship!** As was already said, we need to be prepared for worship ourselves. We often come to worship distracted with all the affairs of life and running ragged from trying to get everything together Sunday mornings. Sunday Mornings in many homes look like a marathon as the family is trying to prepare breakfast, picking out and ironing clothes, getting diaper bags together, rounding up the kids and making sure they have their socks and shoes on, and changing diapers on the baby who just messed it before heading out to the van. Some of this hecticness is a stage of life that will pass but some of it is self-sabotage. As far as you are able try to have as much prepared the night before. Have the clothes ironed and laid out, the diaper bag packed, and some idea of what breakfast will look like. Its good to have things that make for a quick but filling breakfast. Make sure that you set your alarm early enough so that you are not rushing around at the last minute. This means trying to get to bed early on Saturday Evening.

Now this is just the physical preparation. You should also be preparing your heart. Fathers need to try to wrap up their business and work affairs early on Saturdays so that they are not spending all Saturday night and Sunday morning thinking about these things. The worship leader often sends out the songs we will be singing ahead of time and so look those over. If you use the family worship guide you can look ahead to the next weeks guide to see what passages will be studied on Sunday.

If you are prepared, bringing your children to worship will be much easier.

# Training for Worship

**2. Be excited about worship!** Your children get excited about what you get excited about. Even little babies can sense excitement. They can also sense stress, worry, and unhappiness. If you are not excited about going to worship the Lord, then do not expect your children to be either. Part of this excitement you need to pour into your own soul is that you get to take your children to worship. It is not just a chore that your children will be in worship with you. It is a blessing. Moms and Dads you have been given the great responsibility and privilege to bring your children to the Lord's house. This is a privilege and great honor. The Apostle John said he had no greater joy than to see his children walking with the Lord. There is no greater earthly joy than to be a parent and holding your baby in your arm while praising God whose Son became a baby in his mother's arms. There are great promises that God will be God to both you and your children and when you are in worship with them you are watching these promises unfold. So be excited about worship. And then let your children know you are excited. Talk it up all week. Talk about how you get to go to church instead of how you have to. Talk about how wonderful it is to praise God with the church. Remember how when Covid first hit, most churches shut down for a few weeks and there are some churches sadly still not meeting. This is a blessing, and your children need to know from you that it is. So, if you are dreading worship all week because your children will be with you, ask God to help you repent of that and to be joyful.

**3. Adjust your schedules during the week to fit the worship time!** This is an important way you can train your child for Sunday and that is make sure that your schedule throughout the week does not conflict with what will happen on Sundays. What I mean is if your church service starts at 10:30 and goes to 12:30 then it would not be wise to schedule things during this time period the rest of the week that will suddenly have to change on Sunday. Do not have lunch at 11:30 every day of the week and then on Sunday have that thrown off. Adjust your lunch schedule to fit what will happen on Sunday. Fix lunch for the kids at 1 instead of 11:30. Do not make this a time where kids are running around and doing lots of activity. Rather this will be a great time to do step number 4. If your child always fusses a lot before nap time and your nap time is 11, then work slowly to adjust that nap time later or earlier that way they are not used to it right in the middle of church. This is where you used wisdom with your children and adjust the schedule to fit good purposes. The worst thing you can do is give no thought to schedule and then on Sunday suddenly have to take on a new one with the kids.

# Training for Worship

**4. Train throughout the week in sitting down and being quiet!** Kids need lots of fun and activity time. They need times to just be kids. They need to play with toys and do not need to be held all the time. But they also need to be taught that there are times to sit and to be still. These things do not come natural to children, but they are important skills whether in church or elsewhere. And so, you have to train them. They need practice. If your children do not have any moments of quiet and stillness throughout the week, do not think that Sunday they will automatically pick that up.

One mom over at "This Pilgrim Life" had this to say "Begin setting up times when you and your children can practice sitting still and listening quietly at home. Have your children sit on the couch or on a bench while you read to them. Or join them on the couch and listen to a sermon together. You can begin with shorter increments of time and build up to longer stretches. Keep your expectations similar to how you expect them to behave in church. If you do not want them laying down in the pew, then do not let them lay down on the couch. Same thing for talking. If your children are older and you want to help them practice active listening, then talk to them after you read or finish listening about what they heard."

Family worship time is very helpful in training children that there are times to pay attention and to sit still in addition to teaching the children the bible.

Practice, Practice, Practice these skills. I have seen some homes where the youngest children are given free range and never expected to participate in anything that might cause them to have to be still. Then on Sunday's that child is suddenly expected to have a skill that he has not practiced. They are seldom up to the task.

**5. Do the Prep work on the way to church!** Your children need briefed on the way to church. That is, they need to know what is expected of them. The drive to church is the perfect time for dad to talk about how exciting church is and how important it is to worship the Lord. Dad can talk about how we ought to be considerate of other people and so trying our best to be quiet when its time to be quite is being kind to others. Dad can remind the children that they are to stand when everyone stands and sit when everyone sits. You can talk about the blessings that come with worshipping with a whole heart. Dad can also talk about the consequences that come with choosing to act in a distracting manner. Get the children to participate in the conversation and to take ownership in what is about to happen.

# Training for Worship

**6. Use the bathroom beforehand!** Make sure you get to church in time for the little ones to use the bathroom beforehand and get other things that might need to happen out of the way before church begins. If they are going to take notes or color a picture, make sure they have it ready to go. Try your best not to be late. Its very difficult coming in late with children and trying to get them settled and prepared for church without distracting others and being prepared to worship. Sometimes things happen and you are running late. Better late than never. But if you keep the rest of these tips, you should not be late.

**7. Make sure they are fed before hand but for the littlest ones have a light snack that is not too messy available.** This is pretty self-explanatory. If you had adjusted feeding schedules and prepared breakfast before hand then the children are already fed. Sometimes though in the worship time, a child might need a little snack. That is ok but make sure its little, not distracting to others, and does not make a mess. You do not want to train your children that worship time is snack time so try to keep it rare.

**8. Make use of the cry room but return quickly!** Sometimes kids are just kids. They make dirty diapers, the baby wants to nurse, or they are having a rough day. Our church has a cry room just for these occasions. It is good to make use of it. Sometimes your child has a problem, and you can fix it right away with a snack or a distraction or just a hug from momma therefore there is no need to leave your seat. But other times you need to take your child to the cry room. We want children in worship and so we are used to the noises they make but for the sake of courtesy for others, do not try to wrestle a child that just cannot be consoled. Its better to take them to the cry room and get them to calm down. If it is a toddler, Dad might need to take him to the restroom and discipline them. The Bible says that the rod drives away folly from the heart of a child. Do not be afraid to use it. Now, do not exasperate your child by refusing to implement the rest of these tips and only using the rod on Sundays.

After you have taken the child out as soon as you are able bring them back in. Do not train them that if they fuss, they get taken out and left out. Even if you have to take them out a few times and bring them back a few times that is better than just giving up.

# Training for Worship

**9. Do not worry about being self-conscious!** Yes, when your baby is crying, people judge you. Do not sweat it. Everyone has an off week. Everyone has one child who takes a little more training than others. And yes, this is a work in progress. Keep in mind that God is not finished with you yet either. He is using you to train your child and your child to teach you patience and humility. Have faith for the long haul. Be open to help from others in the church. Be open to correction from your pastor and elders. But do not worry about being self-conscious. You have a task from God to train up your child and by God's grace you will.

**10. Follow up!** This final step is an important one that should not be neglected. Just as the ride to church was invaluable prep and training time, the ride home is too. Follow up with the children on the way home. Ask them each something that they learned. You will be surprised at what they picked up and it will strengthen your commitment to this training. You might learn that you have more teaching and training to do to help them understand things. You might need to follow up with discipline. The Father ought to make sure everyone got the main point of the sermon. This is a good time to point out what went good with the children and what need to be corrected next time. In the military, after action review, that is the follow-up, is a very vital part of every mission. It makes you better for the next one. This is true for you too.

## Conclusion

Finally, parents have faith. As has been said before, your children are only young for so long. Holding a new baby in your arms and singing about the love of Christ Jesus will only happen for so long of a time. Having a toddler hold your hand as you pray will only be a short season of life. Having children ask questions after the service will be a distant memory. One day you will be sitting in worship and looking over at the mom who seems so worried about her crying baby and chuckling under your breath because you know what it is like. Have faith that one day your baby will be a mom holding her baby in church as they worship the Lord together.

# Worshipping with Little Ones

## By Douglas Wilson

Many of you are here as parents of little ones and, in some cases, many little ones. For you, the worship of the Lord is a far more arduous task that it is for the rest of us. All of us are engaged in the work of worshipping the Lord, but you are carrying young ones in your arms as you perform the same labor that we do.

The work includes great things, like keeping everyone in fellowship throughout the whole service, and trivial things, like finding your place in the psalter. The work is daunting, and it is sometimes easy to forget why you are doing it. There are three things for you to keep in mind as you continue

The first is that while you sometimes need to be reminded why you are doing this, God knows exactly why you are doing it. Do not grow weary in doing good. God sees, and your labor in the Lord will bear good fruit. Your labor is before the Lord—He sees, and He rejoices. When you need to be reminded, there is one who can always remind you. You are here with your little ones because God calls you to worship Him together with all the children He has given you.

This means, secondly, that God receives, *as true worship*, every distracted *shush*, every spilled cup of wine, every dropped hymnal, and every time you have to take your child out to have a little word with him. You are not taken away from true worship by these things, but farther into true worship than most of are privileged to go. If Christian discipleship consists of “my life for yours,” what is worshipping with four to seven little ones?

Third, do not think of this time as the time of distraction, but rather as a time of fruitful planting, and trust God to be kind. He will bestow a time of fruitful harvest. The sun is hot and the soil is hard—but it will all come back to you, thirty, sixty and a hundred fold.



## May 13th Ascension Day

Acts 1: 1 The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, <sup>2</sup> until the day when He was taken up *to heaven*, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen. <sup>3</sup> To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over *a period of* forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

<sup>4</sup> Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, “Which,” *He said*, “you heard of from Me; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” <sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; <sup>8</sup> but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

<sup>9</sup> And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”

Matthew 28: <sup>16</sup> But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. <sup>17</sup> When they saw Him, they worshiped *Him*; but some were doubtful. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Mark 16 <sup>19</sup> So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. <sup>20</sup> And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.

Luke 24 <sup>50</sup> And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While He was blessing them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> And they, after worshiping Him, returned to Jerusalem with great joy, <sup>53</sup> and were continually in the temple praising God.

## May 23 Pentecost

Acts 2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language. They were amazed and astonished, saying, “Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we each hear *them* in our own language to which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—we hear them in our *own* tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God.” And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others were mocking and saying, “They are full of sweet wine.”

But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: “Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words. For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is *only* the third hour of the day; but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:

AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,’ God says,  
‘THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND;  
AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY,  
AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS,  
AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS;  
EVEN ON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN,  
I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT  
And they shall prophesy.  
‘AND I WILL GRANT WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE  
AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BELOW,  
BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND VAPOR OF SMOKE.  
‘THE SUN WILL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS  
AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD,  
BEFORE THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS DAY OF THE LORD SHALL  
COME.



# Sermon Notes FOR KIDS

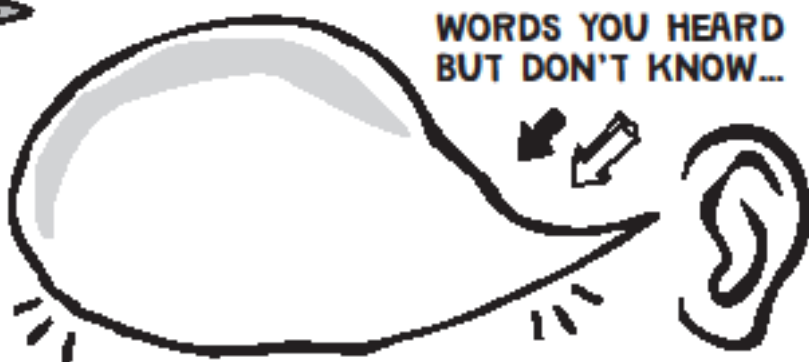


AS YOU ATTEND CHURCH SERVICE WITH YOUR FAMILY, USE THIS SHEET TO HELP YOU PAY ATTENTION AND LEARN. WE WANT YOU TO WORSHIP WITH US BY SINGING TO GOD AND LISTENING TO THE MESSAGE.



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 \_\_\_\_\_



## LOVE

**Love** is patient and kind; **love** does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful... (1 Corinthians 13:4-5)



## JOY

Though you do not now see him, you believe in Him and rejoice with **joy** that is inexpressible and filled with glory... (1 Peter 1:8)



## PEACE

For He himself is our **peace**, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility...that He might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making **peace**... (Ephesians 2:14-15)



## PATIENCE

But I received mercy for this reason, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect **patience** as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. (1 Timothy 1:16)



## KINDNESS

But when the goodness and loving **kindness** of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy... (Titus 3:4-5)

## GOODNESS



Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is **good** and right and true)... Ephesians 5:8-9

## FAITHFULNESS



Jesus said to him "Recover your sight; your **faith** has made you well." And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him, glorifying God. (Luke 18:42-43)

## GENTLENESS



Remind them...to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be **gentle**, and to show perfect courtesy to ward all people. (Titus 3:1-2)

## SELF-CONTROL



For this very reason, make every effort, to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with **self-control**, and **self-control** with steadfastness... (2 Peter 1:5-6)

# FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

"But the fruit of the Spirit  
is love, peace, patience,  
kindness, goodness,  
faithfulness, gentleness  
and self-control."  
Galatians 5:22-23



