



Family Worship Resources



Leading your family to treasure God
and His Word

Parents, a word of encouragement before you get started...

Incorporating times of **family worship** into the everyday rhythm of your family's life is one of the most important things you will do as a parent. What is family worship? It is simply the intentional practice of discipling your whole family by *reading* the Bible together, *praying* together, and *singing* together.

Does that sound daunting to you? That's ok! Ask God, and *He will give you courage*. Before you check out the resources we've compiled here to help you get started, let me offer you six words of encouragement.

1. **Anything you do is better than doing nothing.**

Any time spent reading the Bible, praying, and singing together is not wasted time. Pick up the Bible, call a family meeting, and *just do it*. Anything this important is worth doing imperfectly or awkwardly.

2. **Aim for consistency.**

The goal of family worship is simply to make Scripture, prayer, and singing part of the fabric of your everyday family life, just like brushing your teeth or (for my family) eating pancakes on Saturdays. You know you're on the right track when your kid asks you, "Aren't we going to do family devotion tonight?" If you miss a day, just pick it right back up the next day. You are forming a habit. *Just keep going*.

3. **You don't have to know everything.**

Say it with me: "*I don't know*." One day, your child is going to ask you about something from Scripture that you don't know. Don't be afraid to say, "You know, I'm not sure. But let's look in Scripture for the answer and maybe ask some people at church about it." Model a humble approach to the Bible—we are all learning!

4. **God often does His work slowly.**

We love instant results, but God's work is often small, unnoticed, and slow. (Think *crockpot*, not *microwave*). Don't be discouraged when, after sweetly singing *Holy, Holy, Holy* together, your kids start fighting over which side of the couch they want to sit on. Trust that God is working by His Spirit through His Word to shape your family members' hearts.

5. **Sometimes it will be a zoo.**

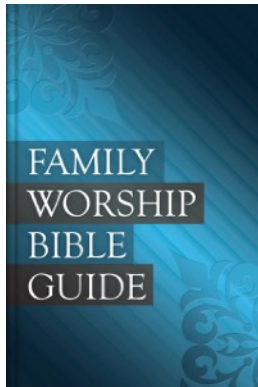
I'm speaking from personal experience here. Have realistic expectations for your time together. Things that have helped my family deal with the crazy: have kids take turns reading the Scripture to keep them engaged, start by reading one of the Gospels (especially if you have younger kids), act out Bible stories as you read, change the meeting location, or shift to morning or evening times in different seasons of life.

6. **The church is here to help you.**

One of the joys of the local church is knowing that **we are all in this together**. God gave *you* as parents the responsibility of being the primary disciplers of your kids. However, he put you in a local church so that we can help one another. Reach out to other church members and your pastors for advice and encouragement.

Guided Bible-reading resources

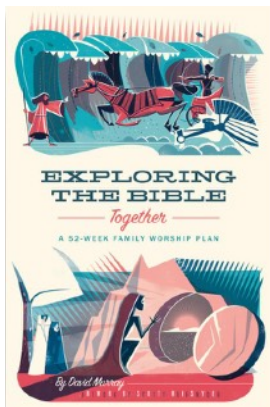
These tools will help you work through the Bible with your family, offering suggestions for a passage of Scripture to read, easy-to-understand commentary, and/or questions to ask your kids to help them comprehend the truths in God’s Word. As with any extra-biblical resource, none of these are perfect. You’ll need to use your wisdom to **edit**, **adapt**, or **omit** portions as needed to fit your specific family context.



Family Worship Bible Guide

[\[click here to learn more\]](#)

This book provides quick devotional thoughts on **every chapter of the Bible**, along with questions for discussion. Simply choose your Bible passage, then use this book to highlight important truths from the passage.



Exploring the Bible Together

[\[click here to learn more\]](#)

When it comes to a turn-key plan for family worship, it doesn’t get much easier than this. Scripture passages, key points, prayer prompts, all broken down *to the day*. It even includes a place for you to write your own prayer requests, and encourage active listening during Sunday sermons.



God Centered Family Subscription

[\[click here to learn more\]](#)

[\[click here to see a sample\]](#)

This is a new resource recently brought to my attention that I haven’t gotten a chance to fully explore. However, the samples I’ve seen look great! It’s a subscription service that delivers turn-key plans for family worship, including recommended songs to sing, listening sheets, and alerting prompts to give *before* reading the passage of Scripture.

Books about family worship

These are great books to pick up if you are brand new to family worship, or if you need a little more convincing why family worship is such a great gift to families. They are both accessibly written by authors with practical, pastoral hearts.

Here's a tip: buy these books, then leave them around your house in the spots where you normally end up hanging out (your favorite chair in the living room, your bedside table, etc). Then, whenever you go to those spots, pick it up, read a page or two, and put it back. In very little time, you'll end up reading a lot!

Reading is like a muscle that needs to be stretched; the more you read, the easier and more enjoyable it becomes. Also, reading books—processing stories, analyzing arguments and sentences and clauses, interacting with authors—all this will help you read the Bible better.

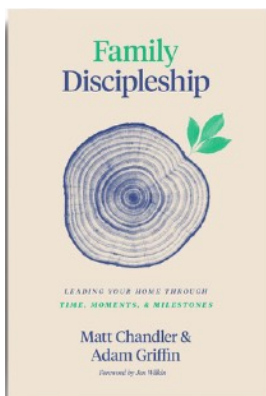


Family Worship

by Don Whitney

[\[click here to learn more\]](#)

This short book is considered one of the best little primers on family worship, from one of the most well-respected authorities out there. His simple formula of *read - pray - sing* will encourage you to keep it simple and just get going!



Family Discipleship

By Matt Chandler & Adam Griffin

[\[click here to learn more\]](#)

While not written specifically to address family worship, this book has a lot to say about parenting as *intentional discipleship*. There are tons of practical tips for incorporating family worship into rhythms of your family life, complete with charts! (Who doesn't love a good chart?)

Stories for spiritual discussions

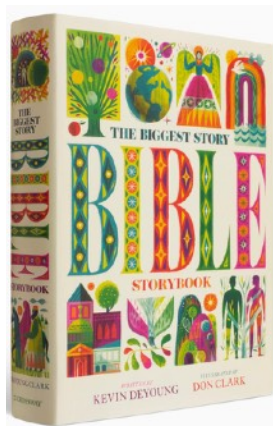
While family worship should consist primarily of reading **the Bible**, we often find it helpful to give our kids good stories that awaken spiritual questions. So while you may not read these during your “formal” family worship time, they serve as great bedtime reading material, or while eating popcorn on the back porch in the summertime. Read these aloud to your family!



Little Pilgrim's Big Journey

[\[click here to learn more\]](#)

A kid-friendly adaptation of John Bunyan's classic, this is a fantastic story to read a chapter at a time before bed. It's written as an allegory to the believer's life, following the journey of a character named Christian as he makes his way to the Celestial City. Read *this* to your kids, and *you* should read [John Bunyan's full \(modern\) version](#). It's one of the most encouraging books you'll ever read.



The Biggest Story Bible Storybook

[\[click here to learn more\]](#)

You may remember this book from back when we gave out sample chapters around Easter-time this year. It's a Bible storybook, so it's not straight Scripture, but here you will find faithful *summaries* of books and stories from the Bible. My favorite thing about this storybook is the way it points out Jesus and Gospel connections throughout the whole storyline of Scripture. It helps teach your kids—and yourself—how to read the Bible (even the “hard” books) in light of the revelation of God in Jesus Christ.



The Wingfeather Saga

[\[click here to learn more\]](#)

Think of these books as the current generation's fun, whimsical version of C.S. Lewis' *The Chronicles of Narnia* (which you should also read to your kids!). This is a fictional series featuring several child characters. Suited primarily for older school-aged kids, there are many instances where you will recognize overt Biblical themes of love, sacrifice, faith, and hope.

Help with music

The thought of leading *singing* at home might seem intimidating to you. Maybe you are self-conscious about your voice? The good news: I've discovered in my years of music ministry that it doesn't take an amazing singing voice to lead people to sing; it just takes a *confident* voice. Dad—your kids don't care what you sound like; they just want to hear you sing so they can sing along!

Want to take a next step to improve musically? Be sure to sing at church during corporate worship! The more you practice, the better you'll get. Also, for Christ-centered music instruction tailored to your specific needs (including private lessons for voice and just about any instrument), check out our very own [Stevens Street School of Performing Arts](#).

The New City
Catechism

for Kids

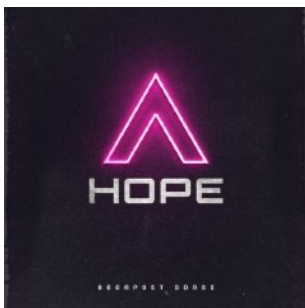


52 Questions
& Answers
for Our Hearts
& Minds

New City Catechism

[\[click here to learn more\]](#)

Catechism is simply a way of teaching core Christian doctrines using a *question-answer* approach, and this resource is very well-done. With [their app](#), you can play catchy, kid-friendly songs for each of the questions. Your kids already know several of these songs from kids choir—try playing / singing one after family worship.



Doorpost Songs

[\[click here to learn more\]](#)

Doorpost Songs serve as the bulk of what we do in kids choirs at Stevens Street because of their high quality accompanying resources and great-sounding Scripture songs. Check them out wherever you listen to music (Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon). Other good, similar artists are [Slugs and Bugs](#) and [Seeds Family Worship](#).



The Stevens Street Songbook

[\[click here for access\]](#)

We put together the Stevens Street Songbook a few years ago in order to give our church members a collection of songs that we sing Sunday to Sunday in corporate worship. We have physical copies at church available (just let me know!), or you can use the digital version linked above. We included several practical tools in the front to help you.

For the road

Are you taking a trip this Summer? If your family is anything like mine, sometimes it's good to have a few roadtrip-friendly resources handy that can encourage your kids to *listen* instead of *talk all at the same time*. In addition to the music resources on the previous page, try these!



Base Camp Adventures podcast

[\[click here to learn more\]](#)

Produced by our friends at Life Action Ministries, this series of audio episodes is like a modern day version of *Adventures in Odyssey*. There are engaging, funny stories that highlight Biblical principles. You may even recognize some of the voices of the characters from the leaders that served in our church during the revival summit a few months ago.



Dwell app

[\[click here to learn more\]](#)

This is a well-designed, subscription-based app that I've used for a couple years now. It simply plays *scripture* (with or without background music). Many of us play music or podcasts during our commute, on road trips, or while we mow the lawn. What if we put one of our regular podcasts on hold and just listened to the book of Ephesians instead? What if your kids heard a chapter of the Bible on the way to school in the morning?

FAQs

1. What Bible translation should I use with my kids for family worship time?

You'll find no shortage of opinions on this, but I personally would recommend the **CSB** translation for kids. It's what the kids ministry uses at Stevens Street, and it's a trustworthy translation that is easy for new and developing readers to *read out loud* (which is something we should shoot for in family worship).

2. Where should I buy my resources?

I don't receive any sort of personal benefit by recommending publishers and vendors to you. However, given the state of our cultural moment, I encourage you to support Christian publishers who are doing great work in getting quality, doctrinally-sound resources in the hands of the church. Three publishers that have served our church especially well are crossway.org, wtsbooks.com, and, of course, lifeway.com.

3. Why should we have a sit-down time of family worship? Shouldn't family discipleship be more "organic?"

Why not have both? Yes, much of family discipleship *should* consist of addressing spiritual questions *as they arise*, taking advantage of everyday moments to teach a Biblical truth. However, there is something about the explicit intentionality of sitting down around the Bible that communicates a can't-miss truth to your kids: *we are a family who builds our life around the Word of God and depends on Him daily. He is important enough that we interrupt our lives to focus on Him together.*

4. How often should we have family worship?

There is no hard and fast rule, and I think it can vary from family to family. Remember, anything you do is better than doing nothing! For those brand new to family worship, a good starting place might be just one night a week as you figure things out. However, eventually, I think there is great wisdom in aiming to have family worship every day that it is possible. Why? *Because our sinful hearts need constant reminders, and because the enemy never takes a day off.*

Of course there will be days and seasons where having family worship every day may not be feasible, so do what you can, and God will honor your efforts! Take care, however, that you don't let mere *inconvenience* push away a spiritual discipline that is so beneficial for your family. One of Satan's most effective tactics to get us to quit a spiritual discipline is to make us *busy*. Put it on the calendar.

5. What if I'm not sure I can do this?

God *wants* you to be in a posture of humble dependence on Him. By His power working through you, **you can do this**. God is with you, and He will equip You. Take heart!