

Family Worship Guide

Family Worship is all about establishing a rhythm of enjoying regular, intentional time connecting as a family during the week. What does it take to create an effective Family worship time? Two essential ingredients:

1) FUN Intentional Time Connecting with each other

2) A Jesus-focused Conversation

That's it, it's that simple! So how do you practically implement that? There's a multitude of ways to do this. Think about things that your kids will enjoy and that will help you connect with them. So have fun, be creative, let your kids help shape your Family Worship. Below are some tips that will help you succeed in creating a regular rhythm of sacred time & space with your kids.

Keys to a successful FUN Time:

- **Create Sufficient Time**—Aim for carving out a 2-hour block of time so that it can be quality, not rushed
- **Remove Distractions**—Leave cell phones out of the activity, unless they are directly being used for a game/activity
- **Flexibility**—Consistency is key, but allow yourself the freedom to move the night each week according to family schedules (especially if it will increase the consistency)
- **Engagement**—Do a fun activity that includes and engages as many of your kids as possible
- **Connection**—The only bad idea is something that doesn't foster quality time connecting with each other
- **Fun Ideas:** Card games, Board games, Hide N Seek, Puzzles, Building Block Competitions, Charades, Family Movie, Coloring Books, Make a Fort, Bowling, etc.

Keys to successful Jesus-Focused Conversations:

- **Be Realistic**—Depending on the age and attention span of your kids, have realistic expectations for how long this should last and how deep it will go
- **Ask Questions**—Focus more on asking good questions than teaching or talking at your kids; draw out their thoughts & ideas!
- **Include Scripture**—Read a short passage from Scripture to direct your conversation
- **Prayer**—Model for your kids what it looks like to talk to God and invite them to pray
- **Use the Gospel Guidance Resource**—If you can't think of a specific topic to discuss, use this resource and introduce your kids to what they will learn about next Sunday

Disciple-Making at Home

Why are we so excited and compelled to encourage parents to create Family Worship times?

Because we know that the time that you have your kids at home flies by. The days are long, but the years are short! And when your teenager finishes High School and (hopefully) sets out on their journey into adulthood, we believe Family Worship times will be something they cherish the most. Why? Because through it they got to regularly experience **quality time** with Mom & Dad and the family! And, they got to explore, discuss, and learn together as a family about the **significant impact of following Jesus!**

You see, God calls the family to play a vital role in discipling the next generation. How this is accomplished varies from family to family and is as unique as the DNA of each home. Family discipleship isn't one-size-fits-all, and it isn't easy—even the most intentional of Christian parents may find themselves at a loss as to how to begin. We want to assist parents to help them craft their own approach to family discipleship. Though each family is unique, we believe that vibrant family discipleship can take shape through creating sacred times and spaces at home. This includes all of the day-to-day routines of life, as well as intentional times like Family Worship nights.

Here's the bottom line: The most impactful picture of the Gospel our kids will see is in the day-to-day lives of Mom and Dad—how parents imperfectly but authentically model grace, forgiveness, compassion, and a genuine pursuit of God. While there are many tasks in our society that we can “outsource” and allow others to do for us (i.e. Lawncare), nourishing our kids' faith is not one of them. Through the simple effort of establishing a regular Family Worship time at home each week, parents can have a significant impact in pointing their kids to Jesus. So we urge you—don't settle and miss out on the incredible opportunity God gives you every single day to help shape your kids' picture of God, of the Gospel, and of the love of Jesus!