

## Day 8

# How to Get Started with Family

## Worship

One of the greatest joys as a parent is to see your children walk with the Lord. Today I'm talking about how to get started with family worship as part of our Intentional Homemaking series.

If you've been reading here for anything length of time, you probably already know that I'm a proud mama of five mostly kids of my own. Three of them are grown – my son James is married to a sweet girl, Hannah Claire. My daughter Sarah is now married to a great guy, Ethan.

And my daughter Emily is in college. And I have two girls still at home, Hannah and Laura.

Some of my sweetest memories are of my children gathered around in the evening as we sang favorite songs and read the Bible together. So precious!



The most important task we have as parents is to teach our children how to have faith and how to follow Jesus every day. If we start early on instilling a love of God's Word and for spiritual things in our children they are more likely not to stray from their faith and from the church when they are grown.

Remember, homemaking is about more than just keeping a neat and tidy home. It's about creating an atmosphere where our family can love, learn, and grow. And what's more important growing in faith?

Getting started with family worship isn't hard. In fact, the hardest part is probably just setting aside the time to do it on a regular basis.

If you're new to family worship, you may want to start with one night a week – perhaps a Friday or Saturday night. When my children were young we tried to have family worship every evening before bed. So let's talk about how to get started with Family Worship.

**1. Seek the Lord out and ask Him to direct your worship.** After all, He is the One we are worshiping! We want it to be pleasing to Him, right? Ask God to show you what areas you need to focus on and what materials He may want you to use. In our house, we like to start by singing songs, followed by story time, discussion, Scripture memory, and prayer.

**2. Choose the best time of day.** If you are able to have morning and evening worship – wonderful! I try, but there are days when it just doesn't work. In our house, we have morning worship at the table after eating breakfast. This works out the easiest for us. Evening worship in our house usually happens around 7 pm.

If you are not able to do it twice a day, choose a time when the family is generally together – right before bed, before leaving for school, etc. Family Worship does not have to take very long 15 minutes is usually all you need to have a good experience. Of course, if you are enjoying yourselves and time is on your side, why not take as long as you like?

**3. Choose a good devotional book or a book with Bible stories** suitable for the ages of your children. I personally loved using The Bible Story books with my kids – these books follow along the Bible in chronological order and present the Word so that it's easy to understand and remember.

There are also great devotional books for children. I've used so many over the years. You can visit your local Bible book store and find a good selection, but here are a few suggestions:

- Jesus Calling for Kids
- Grace for the Moment
- Hope for Each Day

**4. Sing praises.** If you have a family member – including a child – who plays the piano or guitar or other instruments, encourage them to play for worship. I am especially partial to guitar music at worship time!!

You may also want to purchase songbooks with fun worship songs. In our house, we use a book that my husband used in church as a child back in the 1950s. It is called Happy Songs for Girls and Boys.

I was very lucky to find a big stack of these songbooks for free at a church school book giveaway. We also have a number of praise songbooks and of course a good number of fun songs right in our heads!

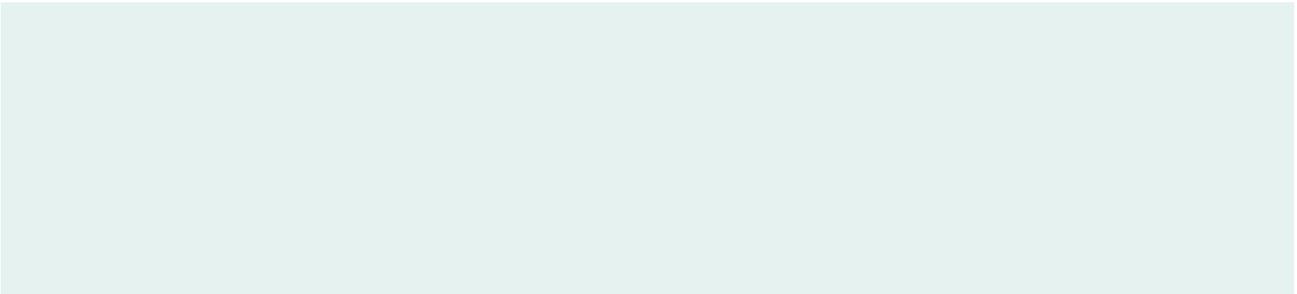
5. End with prayer. Give your children an opportunity to share prayer requests and then make a point to pray for them. You may want to keep a family prayer journal and record prayer requests in black ink and answers to prayer in red ink!

**Worshiping God together as a family will bring you closer together as a family and closer to God!**

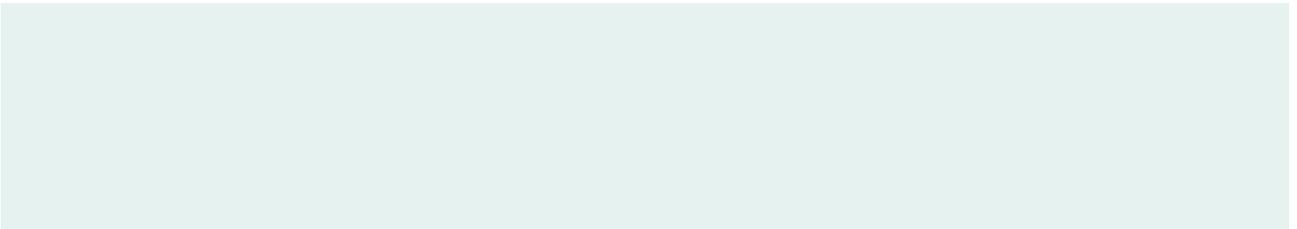
# Family Worship

The Bible has much to say about teaching your children about God's Word. Write the verses below and reflect on their meaning. How can you apply these verses to your family life?

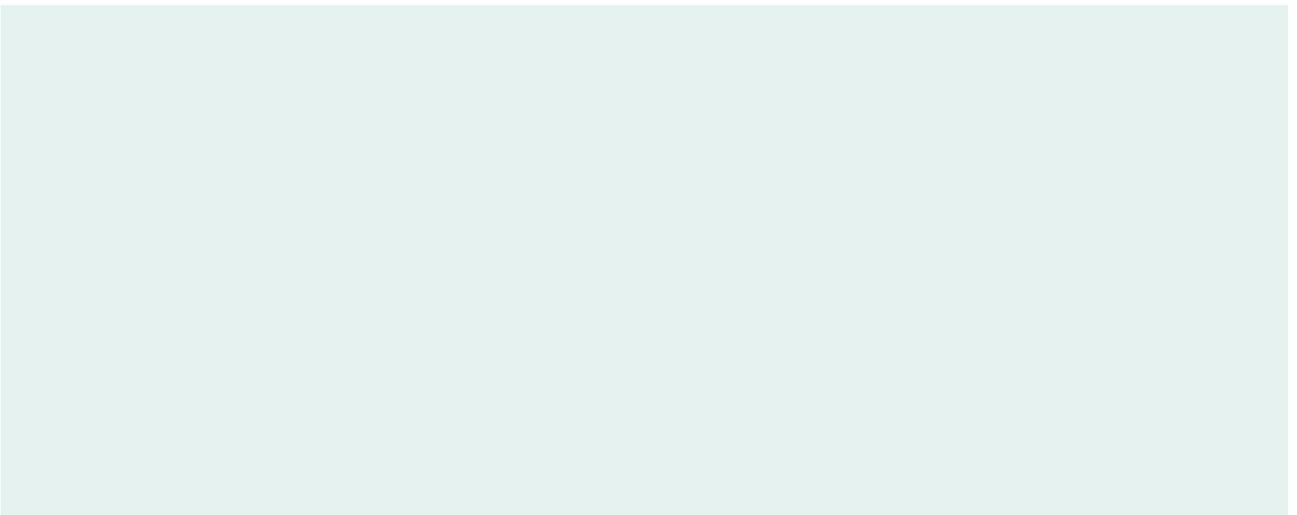
## **Deuteronomy 6:6-7**



## **Joshua 24:15**



## **Psalms 78:2-7**







# Family Worship Planner

OH COME, LET US WORSHIP AND BOW DOWN;  
LET US KNEEL BEFORE THE LORD, OUR MAKER! PSALM 95:6

	WHO'S DOING WHAT?	WHAT ARE WE DOING?
SUNDAY		
MONDAY		
TUESDAY		
WEDNESDAY		
THURSDAY		
FRIDAY		
SATURDAY		

