

Worship at Home

Since we're unable to meet for public worship, you may find the following a useful resource. I wrote it originally as a guide for family worship, but it may also be of help to everyone, including those who are living alone. If you live alone, or don't live with small children, please disregard or adapt what I say below about children.

The idea is that each of us sets aside time each day to offer praise to the Lord, to read his word, and to give thanks thanks to him for his mercies.

Getting started

- 1 The best way to get started is simply to get started! Choose a day to begin and go from there.
- 2 Settle on a routine that will work most days of the week. For example, at the breakfast table, at the dinner table, or at bedtime.
- 3 Persevere. If you miss once or twice, don't despair. Persist and eventually a routine will be established.

The Suggested Order

The Order for Worship at Home given here is as follows: call to worship; song of praise (each day give a different person a turn to choose a song, but choose something which everyone can sing without requiring musical accompaniment; words can be found on the internet); Bible reading; prayer (invite everyone to take part in turn); Lord's Prayer (recited in unison); doxology (each day give a different person a turn to choose which one to sing); and benediction.

Until the Lord's Prayer and so on are memorised, it's a good idea to have copies of the words available for each member of your family who can read. Except for those parts where everyone is taking part, one of the parents should lead the worship.

When praying, it's helpful to teach your children to remember the mnemonic ACTS: Adoration (God, you are great because...), Confession (I'm sorry that...), Thanksgiving (Thank you for...) and Supplication (Please...).

Please bear in mind that this is a *suggested* order which you are free to adapt and it should only be followed if you find it useful. No one should feel forced to do anything I've suggested; the important thing is that there is at least Bible reading and prayer.

I've included suggestions for Bible readings as well. I recommend reading from a real Bible instead of a children's Bible. The suggested readings are short enough for even the youngest children. Once you've got through all of them, you could begin again at the start or begin to read from another part of the Bible.

If you follow the suggested order, you can complete the whole of it in about 15 minutes or less. As your children become older, you might want to take more time. For instance, you could ask questions about the Bible passage to help your family grow in their understanding of these things.

Order for Worship at Home

Call to Worship (choose one)

- 1 We will give thanks to the Lord with our whole heart;
We will recount all of your wonderful deeds.
We will be glad and exult in you;
We will sing praise to your name, O Most High.
(Psalm 9:1–2)
- 2 Oh, magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together!
(Psalm 34:3)
- 3 Shout for joy to God, all the earth;
sing the glory of his name;
give to him glorious praise!
(Psalm 66:1–2)
- 4 Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
(Psalm 95:1–2)
- 5 Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.
(Psalm 95:6–7)
- 6 Oh sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth!
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.
(Psalm 96:1–2)

Praise (sung)

Bible reading (see separate sheet)

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven
Hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven
Give us today our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil
for yours is the kingdom,
the power and the glory for ever and ever.
Amen.

Doxology (sung)

- 1 Glory to be to God the Father,
glory be to God the Son,
glory be to God the Spirit –
Great Jehovah, three in one!
Glory, glory, glory, glory
while eternal ages run!
- 2 Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
- 3 Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom his world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms,
Has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

Benediction

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24–26)

Suggested Bible Readings

Creation and Fall

- God created the world. Gen. 1:1–10
- God fills the world. Gen. 1:11–25
- God created Adam and rests. Gen. 1:26–2:3
- God plants the Garden of Eden. Gen. 2:4–9
- God created Eve. Gen. 2:15–25
- The fall. Gen. 3:1–13
- Expulsion from the Garden. Gen. 3:14–24

Noah and Abraham

- God's covenant with Noah and his family. Gen. 6:5–8, 13–22
- The flood. Genesis 7:1–16
- God remembers Noah. Gen. 7:17–8:4; 8:15–19
- God's covenant with the world. Gen. 8:20–22; 9:8–17
- Abraham believes God's promise. Gen. 15:1–6
- God's covenant with Abraham and his descendants. Gen. 17:1–8
- Abraham tested. Gen. 22:1–18

The Exodus

- Pharaoh oppresses God's people. Exod. 1:1–22
- The birth of Moses. Exod. 2:1–10
- Moses flees. Exod. 2:11–25
- The burning bush. Exod. 3:1–12
- God reveals his name. Exod. 3:13–22
- The Passover. Exod. 12:21–28
- The Exodus. Exod. 12:29–42

In the Wilderness

- Pharaoh pursues God's people. Exod. 14:5–14
- Crossing the Red Sea. Exod. 14:15–31
- The people complain. Exod. 16:1–12
- Bread from heaven. Exod. 16:13–30
- God's people at Sinai. Exod. 19:1–9a
- The Ten Commandments. Exod. 20:1–17
- The bronze snake. Numbers 21:4–9; John 3:14–15

The Promised Land

- The death of Moses. Deut. 34:1–12
- Joshua chosen. Josh. 1:1–9
- The people cross the Jordan. Josh. 3:1–17
- David anointed king. 1 Sam. 16:1–13
- God's covenant with David. 2 Sam. 7:1–17
- David's prayer of gratitude. 2 Sam. 7:18–29
- God's promise to Solomon 1 Kings 9:1–9

OT Prophecies of the Saviour

- A new prophet. Deut. 18:15–22; John 6:14
- 'Why have you forsaken me?' Ps. 22:1–21
- To us a child is born. Isa. 9:1–7; Luke 1:30–33
- The suffering servant. Isa. 53:1–12
- Anointed to preach good news. Isa. 61:1–4; Luke 4:16–21
- Daniel's vision. Dan. 7:9–10, 13–14
- The place of birth foretold. Mic. 5:2–6

Jesus Christ: Birth and Early Career

- The birth foretold to Mary. Luke 1:26–38
- Mary and Elizabeth. Luke 1:39–56
- The birth. Luke 2:1–20
- Jesus presented at the temple. Luke 2:22–40
- Wise men. Matt. 2:1–15
- Baptism and testing. Matt. 3:13–4:11
- Marriage feast at Cana. John 2:1–12

Jesus Christ: Ministry

- Jesus heals an official's son. John 4:46–54
- Jesus feeds the five thousand. John 6:1–14
- Jesus is the Bread of Life. John 6:22–40
- Many desert Jesus. John 6:60–71
- Jesus heals a blind man. John 9:1–11
- The Good Shepherd. John 10:1–18
- Jesus raises Lazarus. John 11:17–27, 38–44

Jesus Christ: The Cross

- Triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Matt. 21:1–11
- The Lord's Supper. Luke 22:14–23
- In Gethsemane. Luke 22:39–53
- The trial of Jesus 1. Luke 22:66–23:12
- The trial of Jesus 2. Luke 23:13–25
- The crucifixion. Luke 23:26–43
- Jesus's death and burial. Luke 23:44–56

Jesus Christ: Resurrection and Ascension

- The empty tomb. Luke 24:1–12
- On the road to Emmaus. Luke 24:13–35
- Jesus appears to the disciples. Luke 24:36–49
- Jesus appears to Thomas. John 20:24–31
- Ascension. Acts 1:1–11
- Pentecost. Acts 2:1–21
- The early church. Acts 2:42–47

Jesus Christ: Second Coming

- The final judgment Matt. 25:31–46
- A day fixed for judgment Acts 17:22–31
- The resurrection 1 Cor. 15:12–24
- The resurrection body 1 Cor. 15:35–49
- Victory over death 1 Cor. 15:50–58
- The coming of the Lord. 1 Thess. 4:13–18
- The day of the Lord. 2 Pet. 3:1–13

Twenty-One Psalms

- Psalm 1
- Psalm 2
- Psalm 19
- Psalm 23
- Psalm 32
- Psalm 42
- Psalm 46
- Psalm 51
- Psalm 73
- Psalm 84
- Psalm 96
- Psalm 100
- Psalm 103
- Psalm 110
- Psalm 119:97–112
- Psalm 121
- Psalm 127
- Psalm 130
- Psalm 139
- Psalm 145
- Psalm 150

Twenty-One NT Passages

- God's love. Rom. 8:31–39
- Genuine love. Rom. 12:9–21
- Submission to authorities. Rom. 13:1–7
- The message of the cross 1 Cor. 1:17–31
- Love. 1 Cor. 13:1–13
- The gospel. 1 Cor. 15:1–11
- Fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5:16–26
- God's eternal plan. Eph. 1:3–14
- Be imitators of God Eph. 1:4:25–5:2
- Household duties. Eph. 5:22–6:9
- The armour of God Eph. 6:10–18
- Humility. Phil. 2:1–12
- Household duties. Col. 3:18–4:1
- Prayer. 1 Tim. 2:1–7
- Christ as prophet, priest and king. Heb. 1:1–4
- Draw near to God. Heb. 10:19–25
- Discipline. Heb. 12:1–11
- Duties of pastors and people. Heb. 13:7–19
- The tongue. Jas 3:1–12
- Fights and arguments. Jas 4:1–12
- John's vision. Rev. 1:9–20