



## ***SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP TIME***

“Children need to have religion made attractive, not repulsive. The hour of family worship should be made the happiest hour of the day. Let the reading of the Scriptures be well chosen and simple; let the children join in singing; and let the prayers be short, and right to the point.” –Christian Service, p. 210.

### **Preschoolers**

- Purchase books at the early learning level and read to your child while holding him on your lap. Encourage him to point to the pictures he recognizes. Leave out words every now and then that he can supply.
- Help the children memorize short pieces of Scripture. Explain the meaning. The very young can repeat the words after you.
- Tell or read short character-building stories, especially about children like them, and encourage the children to ask questions about the story.
- Read stories about angels and miracles and then act out the story, with the children playing the parts.
- Purchase a coloring book with Bible pictures and tell the Bible story while the children color the pictures.
- Play Sabbath school with the children. Sing songs and tell Bible stories. Use a felt set, if you have one, and let the children create the scene.
- Look for mission stories to tell or read to the children. Encourage them to save their pennies for a mission offering.
- Pray with the children and teach them to pray. The younger ones can repeat after you.

### **Primaries**

- Once a week let the children plan the worship. They may need help at first, but they will soon be able to do this with little supervision.
- Have the children prepare a Bible quiz for the rest of the family.
- Read a character-building story and talk about what lessons it illustrated.
- Read a Bible story and leave out the names of people, places, and things, and let the children supply the correct word.

- Look at a family photo album together and talk about how one person influences another. Emphasize the good, spiritual traits and their results on each other.
- Start a journal in a scrap book or binder where pages can be added. Let the children illustrate special things that have taken place in their lives and prayers that have been answered.
- Decide on a theme for the week (kindness, good health, obedience, etc.) and have children look through magazines and find pictures that illustrate the theme.
- Play “20 Questions”, where you take turns thinking of a Bible person, place, or thing, and the rest try to discover the answer.
- Several times a year plan a special worship during which you explain to the children the plan of salvation and ask them to accept or recommit their lives to Jesus.

### **Juniors and Teens**

- Choose a Bible character. Talk about the blessings and trials that person experienced. Identify how they are similar to experiences today. Discuss the best way to handle them.
- Read a good, character-building book together without sermonizing or drawing out the lessons. Let the children arrive at the moral themselves.
- Spend one worship period talking about goals the children want to reach. Write them down and discuss what will be necessary to meet these goals. Review the list every now and then.
- Talk together about Christian characteristics such as the fruits of the Spirit, forgiveness, gratitude, responsibility, purity, etc. Have the young people pick a quality, research it, and share at a future worship.
- Discuss friendships, dating, and marriage. Talk about God’s plan for their lives and what qualities they should exhibit in themselves and look for in others.

### **Older Teens and Young Adults**

- Study together the 28 Fundamental Doctrines of the church.
- Read together and discuss a chapter from Proverbs.
- Make a list of goals and objectives for their lives. Review the list every now and then and see how and if it has changed.

### **Singles**

- Invite one or more families to join you for your worship.
- Prepare a short devotional and share it with a shut-in or someone in a nursing home.
- Choose a prayer partner with whom you can study the Bible, pray, and contact for encouragement and fellowship.

- Read devotional and inspirational books. Underline and make notes, and then share your thoughts with others.

### **Marrieds**

- Read devotional books through together and pray together.
- Begin your worships together by recounting blessings you experienced during the day.
- Read the Bible together, perhaps using a modern paraphrase, such as “Clear Word.”
- Individually write a letter to God, and then share some of your thoughts with each other.
- Talk together about special prayer requests, either for yourselves or on behalf of others.
- Select another family from the church to pray for. Find out their needs and discuss how you as a couple could help in a specific way.
- Invite several other couples to your home for fellowship and a light “Upper Room” meal. Choose simple, fresh fruits, nuts, and breads. Use candle lighting, and talk about what the disciples did on the day of Pentecost.
- Start your day with prayer and then with loving words of encouragement to your spouse.
- Write notes of appreciation to each other.
- Memorize Scripture together and practice repeating it during worship time.
- Keep a scrap book of favorite stories, poems, hymns, and texts.
- Have worship together by telephone when you are apart.
- Choose a specific day to pray specifically for one of your children or for a child from the church.

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