

# Family Worship



April 21-April 27, 2024

Throughout Scripture, we see God's chosen people leading their families in worship. Abraham led his children in the LORD (Gen 18:17-19), Joshua vowed to lead his family in worship (Josh 24:15), and we see Job do the same (Job 1:5). Family worship is also a command of God given in Deuteronomy 6:4-7 and Ephesians 6:4. Family worship is simple, with three elements: (1) read the Bible, (2) pray, and (3) sing to God. Our family worship liturgies are intended more as a toolbox than a tightrope – as a help rather than a hindrance. Select elements that will be helpful as you lead your family in simple Bible reading, prayer, and singing to God for 10 minutes or so each day. *Soli Deo Gloria!*

**(Bold portions are for reading aloud together.)**

## Call to Worship

He provides food for those who fear him;  
he remembers his covenant forever.

**He has shown his people the power of his works,  
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

The works of his hands are faithful and just;  
all his precepts are trustworthy;

**they are established forever and ever,  
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

Psalm 111:5-8

## Prayers of Adoration

## **Song of Adoration: “Be Thou My Vision”**

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart  
Naught be all else to me save that Thou art  
Thou my best thought by day or by night  
Waking or sleeping Thy Presence my light

Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true word  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord  
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one

Be Thou my battle-shield, sword for my fight  
Be Thou my dignity, Thou my delight  
Thou my soul’s shelter, Thou my high tower  
Raise Thou me heavenward, O power of my power

Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise  
Thou mine inheritance now and always  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart  
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art

High King of heaven, my victory won  
May I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s sun  
Heart of my own heart whatever befall  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all

Words and Music by Eleanor Henrietta Hull, Mary Elizabeth Byrne  
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## **God’s Law**

“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Ephesians 4:1-3

## **Confession of Sin**

When you confess sin together as individuals and as a family, here are some different ways you could come before God:

- Someone can lead in a prayer of confession while others pray along.
- Each person can pray silently in his or her heart to God.
- Everyone can take turns (as they are willing) confessing sin out loud. In this we come before God together as sinners needing His mercy.

Or here is a corporate confession of prayer:

Father, You have called us to be Your adopted children through Your Son Jesus Christ, and we praise You for this great calling. We are grieved that we have often not walked in this calling, however. Pride has swollen our heart where we should be humble. Harshness has dwelt where patience and gentleness should. We have not borne with one another in love. Forgive us for not acting as those who are a part of Your family. Help us to reflect the love and peace of Your Son. Amen.

## **Gospel Promise**

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.” Galatians 4:4-7

## **Song of Response**

## **Bible Reading (up to one chapter/day is a good guide)**

## **The Westminster Shorter Catechism**

In 2023-24 we will be including the whole Westminster Shorter Catechism for you to use as a family. The practice of catechesis is a rich blessing that spans centuries of Church History, and we hope that as you spend some time with your children covering two or three questions every two weeks, God will deepen your family's love for Who He is, what He's done in Christ, and the Scriptures He has given us!

### **49. Which is the second commandment?**

The second commandment is, Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them; for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me: and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

### **50. What is required in the second commandment?**

The second commandment requireth the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath appointed in His Word.

### **51. What is forbidden in the second commandment?**

The second commandment forbiddeth the worshipping of God by images, or any otherway not appointed in His Word.

## **Weekly Fighter Verse**

Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

Romans 5:9-10

## **Family Prayer (here is some room for prayer items)**

## **Singing the Doxology**