



A Guide for Family Worship

by Dustin Butts

Family worship doesn't have to be complicated. In fact, it should be simply structured and done in such a way that enables and encourages you to incorporate it into the warp and woof of your daily family life. So, here is my advice: Find a consistent time to gather your family together in one room (e.g., the dining room table after dinner or the living room right before bedtime), remove all distractions, and then do four things: Read, reflect, pray, and sing.

Read

Open up God's Word (or a gospel-centered story Bible) together. Say a brief prayer asking God to help you grow in your knowledge of and love for him as you read. Read a passage aloud (if you don't know where to start, consider the daily passage from "Take Up & Read," published monthly in the [Perspective](#)).

Reflect

Ask and answer some basic questions about what you just read. Questions like:

- What is something that stood out to you as we read the passage?
- What does this passage/story teach us about God?
- What does this passage/story teach us about ourselves?
- What does this passage/story teach us about Jesus Christ?
- How should we respond to what we just read?

Pray

Take a moment to pray about what you just read and talked about and for any other important matters going on in your family or in the world. After we read a passage together, I usually ask my kids a few questions to help guide our prayers:

- What is something we learned about God that we can praise him for?
- Is there anything that we talked about for which we need to ask God's forgiveness?
- What are some things that we talked or read about that we can thank God for?
- Are there any ways we can ask God to help us grow or change in light of what we just read and talked about?
- Are there any specific prayer requests that you have that we can pray for as a family?

Sing

Sing a [song](#) or [hymn](#) together. For the less musically inclined, [stream a song](#) and sing along or sing a simple song like the "Doxology" or "The Gospel Song" acapella.

That's it. For families with small children, this might take 10-15 minutes. For families with older children, it might take 15-20. But, when done regularly, you'll be surprised how many questions will come up and how many conversations you'll have that will flow out of your family worship times and into the everyday talk that fills your home (Deut. 6:4-9).