



## Guide for Family Worship

### *What are Family Devotionals?*

Very simply they are a time for the family to connect with God: specifically, 1) to be mindful of His presence and gifts, expressing gratitude and praise, and 2) to submit as family to His Word, hearing it read, explained and applied in family discussion.

### *K.I.S.S.*

Keep it simple, saint. Open Scripture, read together, ask a few questions (the number and complexity of which will depend on the age of children present), and pray. If you have musical gifts in the family, consider using musical instruments to sing or perform a simple song or two. Or end your time together by singing the doxology or a familiar praise chorus.

It can be 5 minutes or 30 minutes long. Having said that, 5 engaging minutes is much better than 30 rambling minutes ☺. Keep in mind that it is less about disseminating and gaining knowledge as it is establishing patterns and priorities.

Don't be discouraged if the kids look bored or restless. This is normal. The key to spiritual practices, whether in personal or family devotions, is consistency and perseverance.

### **Here are some resources to consider in terms of content:**

- (1) Children's catechisms (e.g., New City, [Westminster Children's Catechism](#), [Small Children's Catechism](#)). Kids love question and answer formats!
- (2) Children's bibles. We're big fans of the [Jesus Story Book Bible](#). But there are number of good children's bibles on the market.
- (3) Read sections of Christian classics (e.g., modern version of *Pilgrim's Progress*)
- (4) Read Christian biographies or autobiographies (e.g., John Piper's [short biographies](#))
- (5) Read and discuss theologically rich hymns or [devotional poetry](#).
- (6) Discuss the sermon text from the previous Sunday

Finally, here are a couple of resources you may find helpful from Tim Challies:

- [How We Do Family Devotions](#)
- [Why We Fail at Family Devotions](#)
- [Worship Like a Puritan](#) (an interview with Dr. Joel Beeke)