

- “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matthew 6:33) .
- “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you” (James 4:8).

Let us strive to model a life of worship for the next generation, teaching them to love and glorify God with their whole being.

..... FAITH PATH PLAN

Child's Name: _____

How will you be intentional about your child's spiritual growth in the coming year?

- Pray daily *with* and *for* my child.
- Spend consistent time in God's Word.
- Offer a daily blessing to my child.
- Plan regular family time.
- Create a habit of worship with my child(ren).
- Other _____

The next step on the Faith Path is Giving and Serving, recommended during your child's fifth-grade year. After children's hearts are tuned to worship, after a foundation is laid, they will be ready to give and serve the body of Christ. It will be a fun time to serve God's people and grow stronger as a family.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE RECOMMENDATIONS

God Made Me for Worship by Jared Kennedy

Teaching Kids Authentic Worship by Kathleen Chapman

Seeds Family Worship by seedsfamilyworship.com



WORSHIP

RECOMMENDED FOR AGES 8+

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

Worship is our response to the greatness of God. Often, we limit worship to singing in church. However, worship is anything that takes the focus off ourselves and directs that attention toward God. Real worship occurs when we give God our complete attention and when we recognize His work in our lives.

Of all the things the Father is currently doing, He is seeking worshipers who will worship Him in Spirit and in Truth (John 4:23). This does not and cannot happen intuitively; worship must be taught and modeled to our children. The primary influencers in this process are their parents.

This is one of the many reasons elementary children are invited into weekend worship service gatherings. Exposure to adults who model genuine worship in Spirit and Truth is invaluable. Children need to see their family isn't strange in how they conduct their lives at home. All the families of God worship Him, and fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose in worship is a worthy goal.

To teach children to worship, we must intentionally point out the amazing things God has done and is doing. God instructed Moses to tell the children of Israel to talk about Him in the morning, in the evening, when they rise, and when they lie down (Deuteronomy 6:7). Worship isn't merely singing songs or raising hands during a momentary pause in life. Worship is our response to the greatness of God, and that response can happen all day, in every way.

Children who aren't taught how to worship but Whom to worship will naturally desire to worship the one true God.

- “Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness” (Psalm 29:2) .



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- “Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!” (Psalm 95:6).

WHAT THE WORLD SAYS ABOUT WORSHIP

Children today will learn how to worship. The world teaches worship; it will just teach worship of the wrong things. Athletes, video games, fashion, social media, and other distractions vie for their adoration. They must be introduced to the One truly worthy of our worship!

If it seems difficult to introduce your family to worship, could it be that we are struggling in that area of our spiritual walk also? If we truly value worship, it will require us to be intentional and worship God daily.

Deuteronomy 6 provides practical commands to help us live a life of worship:

- “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might” (Deuteronomy 6:5) .
- “You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise” (Deuteronomy 6:7).

MODEL WORSHIP

One of the best ways to teach worship is by modeling it. Praise God for answered prayers, listen to worship music together, and thank Him for His daily blessings. Get comfortable talking about God and His presence in daily life. Be willing to pay the price. Don’t allow it to be awkward for your children to notice the goodness of God with their daily eyes. There are so many reasons to worship our Creator!

Modeling doesn’t necessarily mean just singing in church and raising your hands. Worship is a daily lifestyle born out of daily intention.

- “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1).
- “Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” (Colossians 3:17).

The following are practical ways to model worship:

- Pray daily with and for your child.
- Consistently spend time in God’s Word with your child.
- Discuss the giving of tithes and offerings and how they are a form of worship.
- Pray in the morning and do a follow-up in the evening, “That thing we prayed about? How did God work through it today?”

- Find opportunities to serve together. Serving others is a great way to worship.
- Play worship songs in your home and car, perhaps on the way to school or after pick-up.
- Be careful how you ask questions. You can ask, “How was your day?” or you can ask, “How did you encounter God today?” Teach your kids to look for Him.

CORPORATE WORSHIP

The quote, “I’m a Christian; I just don’t go to church,” is so sad. If you won’t be with God’s people here, why would you want to be with them in Heaven? Worshiping with our brothers and sisters in Christ is a huge part of worship.

- “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near” (Hebrews 10:24–25).
- “For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them” (Matthew 18:20).

Help children understand the importance of church:

- Sit together and model participation.
- Talk about appropriate behavior for church.
- Discuss the different parts of the service and answer their questions.
- Include them in your family discussion regarding applying God’s voice through the message of the week.
- If you aren’t sure of an answer, commit to finding out together.

Make public worship a priority. If we teach our children to prioritize other events over church, we unintentionally communicate that those events are more important than the house of God.

- “I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the LORD!’” (Psalm 122:1).

A PERSONAL WALK WITH CHRIST

Church alone is not enough. A healthy relationship with Christ requires daily devotion. There are 168 hours in a week. On a great week, a family might spend 2 hours in service, which is not enough to sustain a personal relationship with our Savior.