

November 28-December 4, 2021

Family Worship Project: Decalogue, Lord's Prayer, Apostles' Creed

In 2021 we are working through the Ten Commandments (the Decalogue), the Lord's Prayer, and the Apostles' Creed. We will focus on one portion every two weeks. It would be a good idea to periodically review what you have already learned and put it all together to get the big picture. The goal is that these particular lessons will enrich your prayer life and deepen your closeness with God, both individually and as a family. If you would like a copy of the entire year by way of overview, please email Pastor Rick: rick.witmer@sunvalleychurch.org

If you have been following along with the Ten Commandments, Lord's Prayer, and the Apostles' Creed, you're finished! Celebrate! How about taking some time this week to review the Ten Commandments?

Family Prayer (here is some room for prayer items)

Singing the Doxology

Each week in Sunday Seminars, your children are sent home with a parent handout that walks through the main ideas from the Bible lesson. At some point in family worship, or perhaps around the dinner table, it would be a good idea to spend a few minutes talking with your kids about the truths they have learned, in the spirit of Deuteronomy 6:4-9.



In this Advent season, we join with the Church around the world in joyful longing for Christ's return, even as we vigorously celebrate His humble Incarnation as the God-Man, born of Mary. It is a pointed season of remembrance of the reason for His Incarnation: His perfect life lived for us before God, and His undeserved death under the wrath of God in our place, for our sins.

This season reflects the reality of the "already-but-not-yet." We are already the recipients of God's saving grace through the Christ Who has come, but we do not yet see Him as we will, nor are we glorified in Him as we will be at His second Advent. We long for His returning, even as we come to Christmas and celebrate with unhindered joy in recognition that while Christ is yet to come, we have now been blessed in Him with every spiritual blessing in the heavens (Ephesians 1:3ff). It is a time to renew our commitment to put off the old man and put on the new, created in Christ's image (Ephesians 4:22-24). This is a season of celebration, for Christ "has come to make His blessings flow far as the Curse is found!" Let us be careful, though, that our celebration keeps Christ at the Center, where He belongs (Col 1:17).

Included in this family worship guide are suggested instructions for the use of an Advent wreath, which is a way of walking progressively through the nativity accounts as we approach the humble stable in Bethlehem. For information on Advent wreaths – including how to make one – visit: www.youtube.com/watch?v=cunOkJlLe4

(Bold portions of this liturgy are for reading aloud together.)

Call to Worship

"A voice cries:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry!'

And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God will stand forever."

Isaiah 40:3-8

Prayers of Adoration

The Prophecy Candle

At this time, someone from the family can light the first candle, known as the Prophecy Candle. This speaks of God's foretelling of His Son's coming through the ministry of His prophets. As the candle is being lit, another family member may read one of the following passages:

2 Peter 1:16-21

Jeremiah 23:1-8

Luke 24:13-27

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Song(s) of Adoration

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

God's Law (also this week's Fighter Verse)

"Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth;
keep watch over the door of my lips!
Do not let my heart incline to any evil...."
Psalm 141:3-4

Confession of Sin

Spend time in either individual confession, "popcorn confession" one-at-a-time, or together in this prayer:

Lord Jesus, always with us, yet still coming: We confess that we have not faithfully prepared for Your Second Advent. We have neglected Your Presence, we have ignored the promise of Your kingdom, our hearts have inclined to evil, and we have not set a guard over our mouths. Forgive us, O God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may keep watch for You even as You watch over us. Please, in the quiet of our hearts we ask You to make us ready for Your coming. Amen.

The Gospel

"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 has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'"
Galatians 4:4-6