

July 18-24, 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

"and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

Matthew 6:12

Family Prayer (here is some room for prayer items)



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 corporately.**)

Call to Worship

"My heart overflows with a pleasing theme;
I address my verses to the king;
my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.

You are the most handsome of the sons of men,
grace is poured upon your lips;
therefore God has blessed you forever.
Gird your sword on your thigh, O mighty one,
in your splendor and majesty!

In your majesty ride out victoriously for
the cause of truth and meekness and righteousness;
let your right hand teach you awesome deeds.
Your arrows are sharp in the heart of the king's enemies;
the peoples fall under you.

Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.
The scepter of Your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness...."

Psalm 45:1-6

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.

Prayers of Adoration

Song of Adoration: "Alleluia, Sing to Jesus"

To the tune of "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus, His the scepter, His the Throne
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood
Jesus, out of every nation hath redeemed us by His blood

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now
Alleluia! He is near us, faith believes, nor questions how
Though the cloud from sight received Him when the forty days were o'er
Shall our hearts forget his promise: "I Am with you evermore?"

Alleluia! Bread of Heaven, Thou on earth our Food, our Stay
Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to Thee from day to day
Intercessor, Friend of sinners, earth's Redeemer, plead for me
Where the songs of all the sinless, sweep across the crystal sea

*Words and music by William Chatterton Dix and Rowland Hugh Prichard
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Call to Confession (also this week's Fighter Verse)

"In all circumstances take up the shield of faith,
with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;
and take the helmet of salvation,
and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God...."
Ephesians 6:16-17

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 reflect that prayer in their hearts.
- With a few moments of silence, each person can pray in his or her heart secretly to God.
- Everyone can take turns, as they feel comfortable, confessing sin out loud. This helps us come before God in common as sinners in need of His mercy.

Or here is a corporate confession of prayer that those who are willing could pray out loud together:

How often, O Lord, do You find us faithless?
How long will we cling to our sins as if we did not have salvation?
How many times have we left Your Word and been defenseless?
Have mercy on us, O Lord, for refusing to stand fast in Christ,
even though He is our help and our shield.
Forgive our sins, heal our hearts, and help us live as Your children.
In Jesus' Name, and by the Holy Spirit's help, we pray. Amen.

Gospel Promise

"His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him Who called us to His own glory and excellence, by which He has granted to us His precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire." 2 Peter 1:3-4

Song of Rejoicing

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