

FAMILY FIELD GUIDE



The practice of Family Worship is an important practice for families to grow in their relationship with Jesus together. Some historians point to the recovery of Family Worship as one of the keys to revival in the church. Therefore, as a church we want to highlight this important practice and provide resources for families to engage in it without pulling out their hair!

GATHER

Gather your family together in the living/family room and inform kids that you're going to have a special family worship/devotional time. Remember to exercise patience and press ahead even if kids are whining or complaining. Try to get in a routine so it is not a big surprise to them but becomes something they look forward to. Find ways to include your kids in the worship time as well, so that they are participants and not spectators.

SING

Sing together to begin your time of worship. Below are links to worship songs you can watch on youtube.

Sing about God's Presence

Life and Breath - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rW8NxADivIQ>

Sing about Jesus being the Centre

Center My Life - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LcpovESfZoQ>

READ AND DISCUSS

Read the Scripture together as a family. If you have older kids, have them read the story.

Read Ezra 4:1-6; 23-24, 5:1

Why did the people stop building the Temple? Why was it so important to rebuild the Temple?

Read Haggai 2:3-15

What was Haggai's message to the people of Israel who had not been working on the Temple?

WATCH

Watch today's Bible story video "The Temple Rebuilt" on the Central App. Or click the yellow button for Kids content on the Central Kids page on the website.

DEVOTIONAL

The sun is a star at the centre of our solar system. All the planets and moons in our solar system revolve around it. Without the sun, life as we know it couldn't exist.

In the same way, God deserves to be at centre of our lives. Without God at the centre, things don't work very well because only God is big enough and awesome enough to deserve our worship. But many times, we fail to worship God. We sin and put other things at the centre of our lives, like friends, sports,

video games or even ourselves. All of these things are good and are gifts from God, but only God deserves to be worshipped.

Each day we face a choice about who we will worship and whether God or something else will be at the centre of our lives. It was the same for the Israelites many years ago. When God brought the Israelites back home to Jerusalem, they faced an important decision about whether or not God deserved their worship. God called them to rebuild the Temple, so the whole community could worship the LORD. The Temple was built on the top of the city of Jerusalem, on Mt Zion. It was built at the centre and tallest point in the city. It reminded the people that God's house was at the centre of their home and their lives.

But then, in Ezra 4-6, the Israelites who had returned home faced enemies who didn't want the Temple to be rebuilt. The people were afraid and they stopped building the Temple for 16 years. Over those 16 years, the people forgot about God and were only focused on their own homes. God sent the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to encourage the people to "be strong" and to work hard to rebuild the Temple. By working hard to rebuild, the people would show that they loved God and wanted him to be at the centre of their lives.

After the Temple was completed, God's people now had the most important part of their lives back, a place to worship God together. And yet it still wasn't perfect. The Temple was not as great and awesome as Solomon's Temple had been. It reminded the people that even this second Temple would not be the final one.

When Jesus came, he said that He was the true temple. Jesus was God with us in human form. When Jesus is at the centre of our lives today, the other things in our lives, like movies, money and our favourite activities, find their place around him. We can actually enjoy each of those things more, when Jesus is at the centre.

What is a way that you can make sure Jesus stays at the centre of your life? What are different ways we can worship God?

CATECHIZE AND MEMORIZE

Ask your kids the question and have them memorize the answer

Question: *What is worship?*

Answer: *Worship is showing God that we love him.*

Romans 12:1 - *"Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship"*

PRAY

Dear Heavenly Father,
Thank you for creating me and sending your Son Jesus to rescue me. Help me to keep you at the centre of my life and forgive me when I worship other things that are not worthy. God you are my father, my shepherd, my friend and my King and I love you!

In Jesus Name. Amen.