



# Family Worship Experience

READ THE SCRIPTURE

## DANIEL OBEYED GOD



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Daniel 1 from the Bible.



## Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

The basic ingredients for chocolate chip cookies include flour, sugar, eggs, baking soda, butter, vanilla, salt, and chocolate chips. Do you know what would happen if you gathered each of these items and threw them into a bowl? You'd have a big mess and no cookies to enjoy! That's because the recipe requires you to follow specific instructions and steps to make the perfect cookie.

Daniel loved God and wanted to obey Him. Even though Daniel was living in a foreign land with a pagan king, Daniel wanted to remain faithful to God's laws. Like a recipe with specific instructions, God's laws told Daniel exactly what he could and could not eat. Daniel chose to honor God by refusing the king's food and asking permission to eat only vegetables and drink only water. God blessed Daniel's faithfulness by giving him wisdom and strength!

The Bible tells us that God is perfect and holy and that God calls His people to likewise be holy and different from the world. The problem is that none of us can perfectly obey.

As we learn about Daniel's obedience in this story, it's a reminder of the perfect obedience we see in Jesus. Jesus perfectly obeyed God's plan—even when it meant dying on the cross. If we trust in Him, Jesus credits us with His perfect righteousness!

**Daniel was faithful to obey God, even in the small matters like eating the correct foods. Jesus was faithful to obey God in every way. When we trust in Jesus as Savior, God credits us with the perfect life Jesus lived.**

***Pray:** God, we praise You because You are holy and perfect. You have given us Your Word to show us how to follow You. You sent Jesus to die on the cross in our place and provide the righteousness we could never earn. Thank You for Jesus and His perfect obedience. Amen.*



## Family Worship Experience

LEARN SCRIPTURE

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**So, whether you eat or  
drink, or whatever you  
do, do everything for the  
glory of God.**

1 Corinthians 10:31



## Family Worship Experience

SING SCRIPTURE

Finish your family worship experience by playing the key passage song. This song is a helpful way to worship as your family learns and memorizes the key passage.



## Family Prayer Time

### **Mornings**

Ask God to show you ways to honor Him today. Think about the choices you will make, the interactions you will have with others, and the opportunities you'll have to trust Him. Ask God to help you honor Him in each of those areas.

### **Evenings**

Thank God for the Bible and how it instructs our lives. Ask God to give you strength and wisdom to follow His commands. Remember that God's forgiveness and blessing is based on Jesus' perfect obedience and not our own!



## Family Activities

### **For Fun**

Plan a vegetable dinner for your family. Serve different kinds of veggies and dips for kids to try. Talk about how Daniel obeyed God and honored Him by not eating the king's food. Remind kids that it was God, not the food, that made Daniel wise and strong! We can ask God for the same wisdom and strength to follow Him.

### **To Serve**

Find a recipe for banana nut bread or a similar treat. Work with your kids to follow the recipe as it is written. Share the baked treat with a neighbor or friend. Remind kids that God wants us to follow Him and obey Him. While we can't do that perfectly, Jesus did! We can have His righteousness by trusting in Him.



## Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

# SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Daniel 3 from the Bible.



## Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

Did you know that emperor penguins stand tall and strong even in the harshest conditions? Unlike other birds that might hunch over or hide during storms, these penguins refuse to bow down to the freezing Arctic winds—even when temperatures drop to -60 degrees!

When King Nebuchadnezzar ordered everyone to bow down and worship a golden statue, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood tall and strong in their devotion to God. Even when it meant they would face a blazing-hot furnace, these young men knew the greatness of God, and they trusted in His power to protect and help them.

When the king looked in the furnace, he was shocked to see four men walking in the fire. And when he realized that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were completely unharmed by the fire, King Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged God's greatness and praised Him as the one true God.

We can stand firm in our faith and devotion to God because He is the one true God. We can have a right relationship with Him because He sent His Son, Jesus, to save all who believe in Him.

**Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow down to anything but God. When we trust in Jesus and God brings us from death to life, we turn away from worshiping anything else. Jesus is Savior and Lord over our lives.**

***Pray:** God, thank You for always being with us just like You were with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fire. Help us see Your greatness and Your goodness and help us worship only You, no matter what. Amen.*



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## Family Prayer Time

### **Mornings**

Ask God to help you when you face pressure and temptation to go along with the crowd by following others in sin. Ask God to give you wisdom and strength to trust Him and worship Him even when things are hard.

### **Evenings**

Thank God for His Word and how it tells us how great and awesome He is. Thank Him for allowing us to know and worship Him. Take some time to read Psalm 145 and praise God for the many reasons listed in this psalm.



## Family Activities

### **For Fun**

Glue small pieces of orange, red, and yellow tissue paper to the outside of a clear vase or mason jar. Once the glue dries, place a battery-powered tea light candle inside the jar. Turn off the lights and see how the tissue paper makes the light look like a flame. Discuss the pressure Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego faced. Remind kids that God is bigger and more powerful than any problem we face, and we can worship Him no matter what.

### **To Serve**

Decorate blank cards with uplifting Bible verses and messages for individuals who might need encouragement. Spend time praying as a family for these individuals. Deliver the cards in person and encourage the recipients to continue trusting God even when things are hard.



# Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

## DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Daniel 6 from the Bible.



## Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

Did you know a lion can eat up to 88 pounds of meat in a single meal? That's the equivalent of eating around 265 bananas! Don't worry...there aren't any hungry lions hiding in your closet!

It's amazing to think of how hungry the lions must have been when Daniel was thrown into their den, and yet they didn't eat Daniel. Why not? Because God sent an angel to shut the mouths of the lions! God kept Daniel safe. God showed everyone how strong and mighty He is. When King Darius realized what had happened, he made a new decree that everyone should worship the one true God.

There are times in our lives when we face difficult or scary situations. These times leave us wondering where God is and how He's going to help us. But we can always trust in God's power to save because Jesus offers the greatest deliverance—freedom and eternal life to everyone who believes in Him.

**Daniel continued to trust God even though it meant he might be thrown into the lions' den. Jesus was faithful to follow God's plan even through it meant He would die on the cross for sinners.**

***Pray:** Thank You, God, for the story of Daniel and the way it shows us how much You love and care for Your children. Thank You for sending Jesus to save us from the dangers of sin. Help us to trust in Jesus, knowing He is always with us, protecting us, and giving us courage to follow Him. Amen.*



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## Family Prayer Time

### **Mornings**

Take a moment to think about times when you feel afraid or unsure, just like Daniel might have felt in the lions' den. Ask God for courage to trust Him, knowing that He is always with you and will protect you.

### **Evenings**

Thank God for allowing us to talk with Him through prayer. Ask Him to help you grow in the spiritual discipline of prayer. How does prayer help us experience God's presence?



## Family Activities

### **For Fun**

Gather your family and participate in a trust fall. Stand behind your kids and carefully catch them as they fall backward. Talk about how Daniel trusted God completely, even in the face of danger. Explain that just like Daniel trusted God and was saved, we can trust in Jesus for our ultimate protection from sin and death.

### **To Serve**

Take a walk around your neighborhood, park, or even around your house if going outside isn't an option. As you walk, pray for the people on your list, asking God to make them aware of His presence and to protect them, just like He protected Daniel. You can pause at different spots during the walk to pray for specific people or needs or even hand out small prayer cards or encouraging notes to those you meet.



## Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

# DANIEL'S PROPHECIES



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Daniel 7–12 from the Bible.



## Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

Did you know that you have multiple dreams every night? You just can't remember most of them. Dreams happen during REM sleep, which stands for Rapid Eye Movement. In this stage of the sleep cycle, the brain becomes highly active and processes information as if you were awake—even though you're fast asleep!

Daniel had some interesting dreams! Most of his dreams didn't make sense to him, but an angel helped Daniel understand the messages God was giving to him. God was showing Daniel a vision of His great power and His plans for the future. God wanted Daniel to see that no earthly kingdom could ever be more powerful than God and His Kingdom.

In our lives, we may fear those who have more power than us, or we may want to have more power for ourselves. But God's message is still true: God is more powerful than anyone and anything! If you think something could be greater than God, then you're just dreaming! We can trust God and worship Him because He is Ruler over all things.

**Daniel's visions pointed to the truth that God is more powerful than all earthly kingdoms. Jesus, the Son of Man, rules over the kings of the earth, and His kingdom will never end. One day, all who trust in Him will be with God forever.**

***Pray:** Heavenly Father, You are the ruler over all kingdoms and nations. Though earthly powers may rise and fall, we trust in Your eternal and righteous kingdom. Help us trust in Jesus and put our faith in Him so we can be part of Your kingdom. Amen.*



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## Family Prayer Time

### **Mornings**

Pray for the leaders and officials of your local, state, or federal government. Ask God to give them wisdom to lead people well. Pray they would know Jesus and believe in Him as the perfectly righteous King.

### **Evenings**

Pray for the good news of Jesus to spread to all nations. Ask God to raise up and send out missionaries who will tell people about Jesus. Thank God for loving the whole world enough to save everyone who trusts in Jesus.



## Family Activities

### **For Fun**

Make a list of the visions Daniel saw in Daniel 7. Play a game of charades as a family where one family member acts out a vision—such as the lion with eagle’s wings or the terrifying fourth beast—while the others guess. After the game, discuss how Daniel’s visions pointed to God’s power and sovereignty.

### **To Serve**

Choose a country for your family to learn about and pray for this week. If your church has global missionary partners, consider learning about the nation where they serve. Take time to pray for the nations, for those facing hardship, and for God’s kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven. Remind kids that God is sovereign over every nation and His kingdom is greater than any earthly kingdom.



# Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

## GOD BROUGHT HIS PEOPLE HOME



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Ezra 1–3 from the Bible.



## Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

Have you ever been to a family reunion? It's like a big party where cousins, aunts, uncles, grandparents—even people you've never met—come together to laugh, play games, share stories, and eat food. But did you know these get-togethers don't just happen? Someone has to plan it all! They pick the place, choose the food, order the matching T-shirts, and make sure everyone knows when and where to show up. That person is the family-reunion planner—the person who brings the whole family back together for fun and memories that last a lifetime.

God used a king named Cyrus to bring His people out of captivity so they could be reunited in their homeland. King Cyrus decided to let God's people return to Jerusalem to build God a temple there. Cyrus sent gold, silver, animals, and much more to help the people. Just as God had promised, the people were free to return to their homes after 70 years in exile.

The Bible tells us that all people are slaves to sin and have no power to free ourselves from its consequences. God loves us and sent Jesus as our Deliverer. Jesus is the One who came to free us from the chains of sin. If we trust in Jesus, we have freedom and a new home with Him forever and ever.

**Just as God promised, He brought His people back from exile to Jerusalem. One day, God will bring all His people together—all who trust in Jesus to save them from sin. There will be no crying that day. The people will worship Him in the new heaven and new earth.**

***Pray:** Jesus, thank You for loving us with such an amazing love. When it was our sin that led us into slavery, You sent Your Son, Jesus, to free us! We know that it is Jesus' death that has paid the price for our freedom, and it is His resurrection that promises a new life and eternal home with You for all who believe. Amen.*



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**On that day it will be said, “Look, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he has saved us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him. Let’s rejoice and be glad in his salvation.”**

Isaiah 25:9



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## Family Prayer Time

### **Mornings**

Thank God for the freedom He has provided for all who believe in Jesus. What price did Jesus pay for our freedom?

### **Evenings**

Praise God for the way He uses ordinary people to accomplish His plans. How did God use King Cyrus to fulfill the promise to His people? Who has God used in your life to help you know Him and learn more about Him?



## Family Activities

### **For Fun**

Hide a stuffed animal or favorite toy of each child. Give them a list of funny activities they must do to free the item. Think of silly tasks like hopping on one foot while singing “Happy Birthday,” whistling while eating three saltine crackers, or walking across the kitchen while balancing an egg on a spoon. After the tasks are complete, give them the stuffed animal or toy. While this was silly and fun, talk with kids about the seriousness of what Jesus did to purchase our freedom from sin.

### **To Serve**

Take some time as a family to create “coupon books” of kind acts or favors you can do for one another. Exchange the coupon books at the beginning of the week and try to complete as many of the acts and favors as possible by the end of the week. Discuss how the act or favor costs something for the giver, but it is free for the recipient. Remind kids that Jesus paid the penalty for sin so that we could experience freedom.



# Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

## REBUILDING THE TEMPLE



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Ezra 4–6 or Haggai 1–2 from the Bible.



## Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

Have you ever combed through a search-and-find book? A British artist made a fun series of books filled with big, busy pictures. In each one, kids get to play a game by finding a character wearing a red-and-white striped outfit hiding in the crowd. These books have been shared all around the world and have been read by millions of people. That's a lot of eyes looking for one tiny person!

Unlike someone who hides in a picture book, God never wanted to hide from His people. In the Old Testament, God gave His people a special place where they could find Him—first the tabernacle, and then the temple. These were the places where the priests could meet with God and where God would dwell with His people.

After returning from exile, the high priest, Zerubbabel, and the people worked to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. The people celebrated and made offerings to God because the temple was complete. Instead of searching for an unseen God, the temple was a reminder that God was dwelling with them.

The Bible says that everyone who trusts in Jesus receives His Spirit. We don't have to search like we're looking for Waldo, and we don't have to build a temple. The Holy Spirit is God living with and in Christians. If we believe and trust in Jesus, we can have the Holy Spirit as our reminder that God is with us always and forever!

**God's people rebuilt the temple so they would have a place to worship God. Years later, God sent His Son, Jesus, to be with His people. Jesus provides something better than the temple; He gives us Himself.**

***Pray:** God, thank You for sending Your Spirit to everyone who believes in Jesus. We are glad we don't have to search for You or wonder where You are. Thank You that the Holy Spirit is our Helper, our Comforter, and our reminder that You are living with and in those who trust in You. Amen.*



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Isaiah 25:9



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## Family Prayer Time

### **Mornings**

Ask God to help you feel His presence today. Ask Him to remind you that He is close and not hiding from His people. What are some ways you can be reminded of God's presence? How does Bible reading, prayer, and worship help you feel closer to God?

### **Evenings**

Thank God for sending His Spirit to all who trust in Jesus. How is the Holy Spirit our Helper? How does the Spirit remind us of God's promise to never leave us?



## Family Activities

### **For Fun**

Purchase a search-and-find book or search for illustrations online. Track how long it takes for each family member to find the object or person. Award a prize for the family member who is the quickest to find it. Talk with kids about how God dwelt with the Israelites in the tabernacle and the temple. Remind kids that God, through His Spirit, now dwells directly with those who believe in Jesus.

### **To Serve**

Ask your church if there are any cleaning, maintenance, or beautification projects your family can complete for the church. Work as a family to gather supplies, organize volunteers, and complete the project. Reminds kids that the church building is not where God dwells (He lives inside of Christians, who make up the church), but it is a place where we can connect with Him and with other believers. We attend, serve, and invite others to church because it is a place where we can hear the good news of Jesus.



# Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

## THE PROPHET ZECHARIAH



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of the book of Zechariah from the Bible.



## Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

On May 8, 1945, radio broadcasts and newspaper headlines announced that World War I had ended in Europe. Celebrations erupted all over the world as people heard this good news. After six years of fighting, the people of Europe could celebrate this good news of peace!

In this week's Bible story, God's people were finally able to celebrate as they returned home after 70 years of exile. They began rebuilding the temple, but some of the neighbors in the land didn't want them to finish the temple. God's people continued to face struggles. So, God sent a prophet named Zechariah to give the people hope. Zechariah told the people that a day was coming when God would give His people a new King and a new kingdom.

God sent Zechariah to deliver good news to His people. They could have hope for the future because they heard that God would be with them. God sent Jesus to be good news for all people! Everyone who believes and trusts in Him can now have peace and a hope for the future because Jesus is the eternal King!

**Zechariah prophesied about the Messiah, saying He would be a humble King who would build a new and better kingdom. Jesus is the Messiah King. Those who trust in Him are forgiven of their sin and welcomed into His kingdom.**

***Pray:** Thank You, God, for sending good news to us! While we were still sinners, Jesus died in our place to save us from sin. Help us know Him and trust in Him as Lord. We know that all who believe in Jesus can have hope and forgiveness of sins. Amen.*



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## Family Prayer Time

### **Mornings**

Pray for the community helpers and leaders who serve in your city. Pray specifically for the mayor, city council members, police, firefighters, and those who serve in less public ways. Ask God to protect them and give them wisdom as they lead the city.

### **Evenings**

Thank God for the good news of Jesus and how it brings us hope for the future. How does Jesus' resurrection give us hope for our future?



## Family Activities

### **For Fun**

Use different-colored paper or scrapbooking supplies to make encouragement cards for friends and neighbors. Write messages or Bible verses to give hope to each recipient. Distribute the cards to share good news and give hope to those around you. Talk with kids about how Zechariah's message gave hope to God's people and how Jesus brings hope to all who believe in Him!

### **To Serve**

Work as a family to clean up an area of your city. Collect litter, rake leaves, or plant flowers to beautify the area. Afterward, talk about how God's people worked to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. Remind kids of the promise God made to build a new city that brings all nations together and heals all of creation. Those who trust in Jesus can look forward to that day with hope!



# Family Worship Experience

READ THE SCRIPTURE

## ESTHER SAVED HER PEOPLE



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of the book of Esther from the Bible.



## Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

In 2011, a car company aired a commercial featuring a young child dressed in a costume attempting to use imaginary powers to control objects around the house. After several failed attempts at moving objects, the boy stands in front of his dad's car, puts his hands out toward the car, and the car engine starts! The boy is amazed at his powers, but the commercial reveals the dad is standing inside the house using a remote to start the car. The father was in control the whole time!

As we read the book of Esther, God's name never appears in the story. He is not mentioned one time, yet it is evident that He is in control the whole time! When Mordecai heard Haman's evil plan to kill the Jews, he reminded Esther that perhaps God had made her queen for a purpose. God used Esther to save His people from Haman.

Esther's life did not go exactly the way she had planned. There were ups and downs, but God was in control the whole time! We can trust that God has a plan for us too. No matter what happens in our lives, we can know that God is in control, and His plans will always be for His glory and our good.

**Even though Haman tried to hurt God's people, God was in control and had a plan to save the Jews. Sin hurts us and breaks our relationship with God, but God had a plan from the very beginning to save us through Jesus' death on the cross.**

***Pray:** God, You are always in control. Help us trust that You have a plan and Your plans are good. Even when we don't understand what is happening, remind us that You have the power to use what the enemy meant for evil and turn it for good and for Your glory! Amen.*



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## Family Prayer Time

### **Mornings**

Ask God to help you trust Him more. How can learning more about God's character and His mighty works help you trust Him more?

### **Evenings**

Thank God for His good and perfect will for your life. Even when we don't know or understand what He is doing, we can trust that He is perfectly working out His plan. Why can we trust that God's plans for us are good?



## Family Activities

### **For Fun**

Take turns playing with a remote-controlled car. Set up an obstacle course for each family member to guide the car through. Afterward, discuss how the person holding the remote was in control. Remind kids that God is always in control. God is perfect and will work out His good plans no matter what happens.

### **To Serve**

Purim is a Jewish feast to celebrate the saving of the Jewish people from Haman's plan. Baskets of pastries, candy, and juice are often given to families and those in need as part of the celebration. Assemble a basket of food and drinks that you can give to someone else. When asked what the gift is for, take the opportunity to share the story of Esther and how it points us to the greater Rescuer—Jesus!



# Family Worship Experience

READ THE SCRIPTURE

## THE WALLS REBUILT



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of the book of Nehemiah 1–6 from the Bible.



## Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

In October 2019, more than 1,600 students at Delaware State University set the Guinness World Record for the number of people making buzzing sounds at the same time. Such a record didn't exist before that day, but Antonio Boyle, vice president for the university, came up with the idea and organized the students to set the record. The school's mascot is the Hornets, so you could say the students were just "buzzing" with school spirit!

Even if they were only buzzing, you can imagine the thought and work it takes to get such a large group of people to work together. It takes a plan and a leader. When the time came for God's people to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem, God gave Nehemiah a plan and called him to be the leader for the project.

The work was hard, and it was made harder by those who tried to stop Nehemiah and the people's work. Through it all, God was with them. The people worked together to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem. The gates and walls were finished in only 52 days!

The amazing feat was another reminder of how powerful God is and how much He loves His children. God's greatest demonstration of power and love is seen in Jesus. God loved the world so much that He sent Jesus to save sinners. Three days after Jesus died on the cross, He rose again and secured eternal life for all who trust in Him. This was God's plan to rescue people from sin and to be with His people forever.

**God's enemies tried to stop His people, but they still rebuilt the wall. God's enemies tried to stop Jesus by killing Him, but God planned for Jesus' death and resurrection to be the only way for people to be saved.**

***Pray:** God, we praise You because You are powerful and loving. Thank You for showing us Your power and love by sending Jesus to save people from sin. Help us to trust in Jesus and receive the salvation that comes from believing in Him. Amen.*



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**These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.**

John 20:31



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## Family Prayer Time

### **Mornings**

Thank God for His power. Think of some of the stories and examples of God's power found in Scripture. How do these examples show us God's power? How does seeing God's power help you trust in Him?

### **Evenings**

Thank God for His love. Think of stories in Scripture that teach God's love. Think of the ways you have felt God's love. How does God demonstrate His love? Why is Jesus the greatest example of God's love?



## Family Activities

### **For Fun**

Use uncooked spaghetti noodles and marshmallows to see which family member can build the tallest and longest wall. If someone has trouble or gets frustrated, have other family members step in to help. By the end, have all family members work together for a greater result. As you build, talk about how the Israelites worked together to rebuild the walls. Because God was with them and they worked together, the walls were finished in 52 days!

### **To Serve**

Volunteer to organize items for a local food pantry. Work together as a family and alongside other volunteers. Remind kids of how God's people worked together and how their work protected the entire city from enemies. After organizing, pray for the food pantry and those who will receive food from it. Ask God to be with them and show them His love.



# Family Worship Experience

READ THE SCRIPTURE

## EZRA TAUGHT GOD'S LAW



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Ezra 7–10 and Nehemiah 8 from the Bible.



## Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

The Bible is the best-selling book of all time. An estimated 5 to 7 billion Bibles have been purchased worldwide. Approximately 80 million Bibles produced this year! It is also the most translated book of all time. At least a portion of the Bible has been translated into 3,500 languages! God's Word continues to spread around the world and change hearts as people hear the truth about Jesus.

The prophet Ezra loved to study and teach God's law. After returning to Jerusalem and promising to follow God, the people of Israel gathered to hear Ezra read from God's Word. For hours and hours, the people stood and listened to Ezra read. The people cried and repented as God's Word showed them how they had disobeyed God. Ezra told the people to prepare a feast to celebrate the power of God's Word.

The Bible consists of God's words to us. From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible shows how our sin separates us from a holy God. It also shows us God's plan to fix all that is broken by sending His own Son, Jesus, to be the Savior we all need. Jesus perfectly obeyed God's commands, died on the cross in the place of sinners, and rose again to conquer sin and death. As we read the Bible, we learn that forgiveness and salvation are God's gifts to all who believe in Jesus!

**Ezra taught God's law, and the people recognized their sin. Jesus came to fulfill the law and gives us power to turn away from sin through His death and resurrection. Through faith in Jesus, our hearts are changed so we can love and obey God.**

***Pray:** God, Your Word is perfect and powerful! The Bible shows us our sin, but we praise You because it also shows us Jesus and His power to save us from sin. Help us understand Your Word and let it change us to honor You more. Amen.*



## Family Worship Experience

LEARN SCRIPTURE

*The key passage below is focused on at church. Consider talking about what this passage means and memorizing it as well.*



**These are written so that you  
may believe that Jesus is the  
Messiah, the Son of God, and  
that by believing you may  
have life in his name.**

John 20:31



## Family Worship Experience

SING SCRIPTURE

Finish your family worship experience by playing the key passage song. This song is a helpful way to worship as your family learns and memorizes the key passage.



## **Family Prayer Time**

### **Mornings**

Thank God for the Bible and all it teaches us about His plan to save sinners through Jesus. What does the Bible show us about our sin? How does the Bible point us to Jesus as Savior and Lord?

### **Evenings**

Ask God to give you a love for His Word and help you understand it. How does spending more time reading and memorizing God's Word help us love Him and the Bible? Who can help you understand God's Word?



## **Family Activities**

### **For Fun**

Throw a party to celebrate God's work in your family. Decorate, serve cake, and sing worship songs as a family. Take turns telling stories and naming specific things God has done for you this past year.

### **To Serve**

Enter the key passage, John 20:31, into a translator app to hear how it sounds in a different language, such as Spanish or French. Practice saying the verse together in both English and the new language. Talk about how God's Word is shared all around the world in many languages. Pray for all people around the world to one day hear God's Word in their native language. Remind kids that God's Word is needed for people to hear and understand the good news of Jesus!



# Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

## THE PEOPLE WORSHIPED GOD



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Nehemiah 7–13 from the Bible.



## Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

Do your parents have a photo album or memory box where special memories are kept? People often keep photos or memorabilia to help them remember special occasions like the day they were married, a baby's first steps, or a high schooler's graduation. We keep these items because we want to remember the good times we shared as a family.

Looking back on good memories can also remind us of God's faithfulness. After God's people returned to their homeland, they had to rebuild their houses and their lives. As they entered this new beginning, they took time to remember the ways God had been faithful to them. They recounted the ways God led the Israelites out of Egypt and through the wilderness. They retold stories of God's faithfulness to provide bread from heaven for the people to eat. Even when the people did not trust God or obey His commands, God remained faithful to His people.

The Bible says that God is patient with us. He does not want us to die in our sin, but He wants all of us to come to repentance (1 Timothy 2:4). All of us can look back and see God's faithfulness in our lives. It may be in big ways or small ways, but just the fact that we have more days to learn about Him is a gift of His grace. His ultimate gift of grace is Jesus—the Savior who can rescue us from sin.

**God's people remembered all He had done, and they promised to be faithful. God is gracious and compassionate. All along, God has been faithful to people who are unfaithful. We experience God's grace and compassion in Jesus, who gave His life so we can receive mercy and life forever.**

***Pray:** God, You are faithful. You always do what You promise. Thank You for loving us and showing compassion to us. Even though we have been unfaithful, You remain faithful. Most of all, we thank You for Jesus and His sacrifice. Through faith in Him, we can experience the fullness of Your mercy and grace. Amen.*



## Family Worship Experience

LEARN SCRIPTURE

*The key passage below is focused on at church. Consider talking about what this passage means and memorizing it as well.*



**These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.**

John 20:31



## Family Worship Experience

SING SCRIPTURE

Finish your family worship experience by playing the key passage song. This song is a helpful way to worship as your family learns and memorizes the key passage.



## Family Prayer Time

### **Mornings**

Pray for the strength to worship God with obedience today. How is obedience a way of worshiping God? How can remembering His faithfulness help you obey Him?

### **Evenings**

Praise God for the ways you've seen His faithfulness today. How do sunrises and sunsets remind you of His faithfulness? How can your family, your home, and the food you ate be a reminder of God's compassion toward you?



## Family Activities

### **For Fun**

Look through some family photo albums to recount special occasions. Share stories and memories with one another. End the time by thanking God for the memories He has given your family and the reminders of His faithfulness.

### **To Serve**

Invite other families to join you in a family worship night. Sing worship songs together, ask parents or kids to share testimonies of God's faithfulness, and take time to thank God for His compassion and grace. Provide instant-film cameras for families to capture memories of the night for future celebrations.



# Family Worship Experience

READ THE SCRIPTURE

## THE PROPHET MALACHI



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of the book of Malachi from the Bible.



## Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

The Pony Express was a special mail service that started in 1860 to carry important letters across the United States. Riders on horseback would travel through difficult terrain, including deserts, mountains, and forests, often battling harsh weather and dangerous animals. Each rider would travel 75 to 100 miles before passing the letter to the next rider. For people on the West Coast, the Pony Express was critical for them to get important messages.

When God wanted to deliver important messages to His people, He chose prophets like Malachi. Malachi told the people to get ready because God would judge people for their sin. This was the last message from God to His people as they waited for the promised Messiah, and for the messenger who would prepare the way for Him.

Thankfully, God's message of judgment also came with hope. God was going to send a Savior, His own Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for sin and save all who trust in Him. This message of good news has been passed from one generation to the next, and now we can continue to pass along the message.

**Malachi told the people to turn away from sin as they looked forward to the promised Messiah. Years later, God sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus—the Messiah. Jesus brought a message of repentance and salvation.**

***Pray:** God, thank You for loving us enough to speak to us and give us Your message of hope. Help us to love Your Word and learn what it says about Jesus as the Messiah. We want to know Him and be prepared for the day when He comes again. Amen.*



## Family Worship Experience

LEARN SCRIPTURE

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John 20:31



## Family Worship Experience

SING SCRIPTURE

Finish your family worship experience by playing the key passage song. This song is a helpful way to worship as your family learns and memorizes the key passage.



## Family Prayer Time

### **Mornings**

Thank God for His Word. Choose a verse from Psalms or Malachi to read. Pray for God to help you understand His message in that verse. How does God's Word help us know Him and His plan for our lives?

### **Evenings**

Ask God to forgive the ways you sinned and fell short of His glory today. Ask Him to remind you of His grace in Jesus. How does it feel to know that God does not count sin against those who trust in Jesus?



## Family Activities

### **For Fun**

Malachi spoke of God's unchanging love and faithfulness. Create a journal or scrapbook for your family to record the ways you see God's love and faithfulness to you. Each day this week, have a family member write or draw one thing they've experienced where they saw God's faithfulness in their lives—whether in everyday blessings, answered prayers, or moments of peace.

### **To Serve**

The book of Malachi talks a lot about offerings to God. Talk as a family about the act of worship through giving. Encourage kids to give an offering at church or to think of how they can make giving a more regular practice in their lives.



# Family Worship Experience

READ THE SCRIPTURE

## THE OLD TESTAMENT POINTS TO JESUS



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Luke 1 or John 1 from the Bible.



## Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

The Polaroid camera was a foldable instant camera that could take a picture, print it out, and develop the photo all within just a few minutes. People loved the novelty of this camera, and it became a very popular item for households across the United States in the 1980s.

But with the rise of digital photography and smartphone cameras, the Polaroid camera has become almost extinct. That is until it made a resurgence in the last few years. The once-outdated novelty camera has again become a household accessory!

In the Old Testament, the prophets spoke God's messages to encourage people to turn away from sin and back to God. But after the prophet Malachi, there were no more prophetic messages from God for 400 years. It was silence until God sent a new messenger named John the Baptist.

John spoke God's message to the people. He told them to turn away from sin because the kingdom of God was very near! John's message broke the silence and signaled the coming of Jesus, the Messiah. Later, when John saw Jesus coming, he said to the crowds, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

**God spoke through His prophets in the Old Testament, like Isaiah and Malachi, and shared His plan to send Jesus into the world to save people from sin. When the time had come, God called John to be a witness for Jesus. Anyone who trusts in Jesus will be saved.**

***Pray:** Jesus, You are the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Help us to turn away from sin and turn to You. Give us opportunities like John to point others to You. Amen.*



## Family Worship Experience

LEARN SCRIPTURE

*The key passage below is focused on at church. Consider talking about what this passage means and memorizing it as well.*



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John 20:31



## Family Worship Experience

SING SCRIPTURE

Finish your family worship experience by playing the key passage song. This song is a helpful way to worship as your family learns and memorizes the key passage.



## **Family Prayer Time**

### **Mornings**

Pray for your teachers, classmates, co-workers, or family members who need to hear about Jesus. Ask God to give you the opportunity this week to tell them who Jesus is and what He has done to save us.

### **Evenings**

Take time to repent and ask God for forgiveness of sin. Ask for His help in turning away from the sins that are repeated in your life. What does it mean to repent? Why is it good to confess sin to God and to one another?



## **Family Activities**

### **For Fun**

Use cardstock and craft sticks to make paper puppets for Zechariah, Elizabeth, the angel, and baby John. Practice retelling the Bible story using the paper puppets.

### **To Serve**

Purchase or collect baby items to donate to a local ministry who supports foster and adoptive families. Pray for the children and families who will receive the donations. Ask God to help the children experience His love and to ultimately know Jesus as Savior.



# Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

## JESUS IS OUR RESCUER



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Luke 2 from the Bible.



## Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

On July 20, 1969, the Apollo 11 mission successfully landed the first humans on the moon. Millions of people around the world watched a live broadcast of Neil Armstrong stepping out of the lunar module and taking the first steps on the surface of the moon. As he stepped out, the world heard Armstrong say the famous line: “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”

There have been many memorable announcements in the world, but none are as special or significant as the announcement the angels made to the shepherds that Jesus was born! Can you imagine the surprise when the sky suddenly lit up and an angel declared: “Don’t be afraid! I’m here to tell you good news of great joy for all the people. Today in the city of David, a Savior was born for you. He is the Messiah, the Lord.”?

The good news of that night is still good news for us. Jesus came as a baby, but He was much more than just a baby. He is the Savior of the world. He came to seek and save the lost, and all who believe in Him will be forgiven and receive eternal life.

**The angels told the shepherds the birth of Jesus was good news for all the people. Anyone who believes the good news that Jesus lived, died, and rose again for their sin will be saved.**

***Pray:** Jesus, thank You for coming to our world to save us. You became like us in every way, except You never sinned. Because You are perfect and righteous, we can trust You to save all who call on You. Thank You for being our Rescuer. Amen.*



## Family Worship Experience

LEARN SCRIPTURE

*The key passage below is focused on at church. Consider talking about what this passage means and memorizing it as well.*



**So, whether you eat or drink, or  
whatever you do, do everything  
for the glory of God.**

1 Corinthians 10:31



## Family Worship Experience

SING SCRIPTURE

Finish your family worship experience by playing the Key Passage song to worship and as a further way to memorize Scripture.



## **Family Prayer Time**

### **Mornings**

Praise God for His amazing love to you. God showed us how much He loves us by sending Jesus into the world. How does it feel to know God would go to such great lengths to show you His love?

### **Evenings**

Ask God to help you rejoice in the Christmas story this year and not miss the true joy of the season. While the Christmas story is familiar, it's still powerful and moving. How can you celebrate the birth of Jesus in a fresh way this year?



## **Family Activities**

### **For Fun**

Make a poster or sign that can be displayed in your yard or windowsill. Allow kids to come up with the message for the sign but keep them focused on the good news that Jesus is born. Display the sign for the Christmas season. Pray that friends, family, or neighbors who see the sign will rejoice in the good news of the gospel.

### **To Serve**

Make plans with other families to go caroling in your neighborhood or the area around your church. Remind kids that Jesus' birth is still good news for us today, and we can spread that good news with others this season.