



Worship:

# The Gathering



## FOCUS THIS WEEK

In a world where people are constantly bombarded by 30 second sound bites and 7 1/2 minute segments of television programming, staying focused in worship can be a challenge. But think of it this way: if you knew that a famous person was going to be present with you, how tough would it be to stay focused, give your attention, and hang on every word that person said? Next time you are gathered in worship, remind yourself that you are in the presence of the most famous and wonderful being in the universe!



**SHARE** your highs and lows of the day.



**READ** and highlight these verses—one a day—in your Bible.

Day 1 Habakkuk 2:20      Day 2 Exodus 34:14      Day 3 1 Chronicles 16:29  
Day 4 Psalm 95:6      Day 5 Psalm 115:1      Day 6 Psalm 122:1



**TALK** about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows.

*Choose from the options below to enrich your Talk Time. Invite family members to take turns leading one or more of the following:*

## CATECHISM ENCOUNTER

Read Luther's explanation of the First and Second Commandment, and his explanation of the Introduction to the Lord's Prayer in the Small Catechism. What do these writings have to say about reasons Christians should gather for worship?

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. When was the last time you felt especially close to God? What factors led to those feelings?
2. How open is your church to welcoming others? What do you do to welcome others to worship?
3. What do you do to prepare for worship? What does your church do during the first ten minutes of worship? Why is what you do important?

## QUOTABLES

Choose a favorite quote from those on the right of the page and discuss what it means to you.



## PRAY

for one another's  
highs and lows



## BLESS

one another

## REMEMBER 1 THING

Gather in a circle. Praise and thank God for your highs. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you in your lows. Pray for your family's highs and lows and for your world. Close in Jesus' name.

### Prayers for Highs

### Prayers for Lows

Trace the sign of the cross on one another's foreheads or palms and speak these words or a blessing of your own:

*(Name), child of God, may your heart be receptive to God's welcome, and your spirit be open to worship. Amen.*

God desires our full attention. When we enter in to worship the Lord, let us clear out all distractions and turn our thoughts to God alone.

*There may be worship  
without words.*

**James Russel Lowell**

*The soul should always  
stand ajar, ready to  
welcome the ecstatic  
experience.*

**Emily Dickinson**

*In the name of God, stop a  
moment, cease your work,  
look around you.*

**Leo Tolstoy**

*It is only when people  
begin to worship that they  
begin to grow.*

**Calvin Coolidge**

*Cast all your cares on God;  
that anchor holds.*

**Alfred Lord Tennyson**

*God must become  
an activity in our  
consciousness.*

**Joel S Goldsmith**

