



*Worship the Lord your God and serve only him.*  
Matthew 4:10

God calls us to worship Him at all times, in all places. Worship is to suffuse all of life, not just reserved for Sunday morning worship. So, how might we do that?

#### WHAT GETS IN THE WAY?

Some of us were blessed to grow up in homes that did daily devotions; many of us did not. So, now, what gets in the way?

- Lives with overflowing schedules, traveling at warp speed
- Priorities
- Feeling inadequate or self-conscious
- Fear that our children will not listen or engage
- Not knowing how

Can we all really do this? The answer is a resounding “YES.”

#### WHEN CAN WE DO IT?

Use the times your family already gathers: bedtime routine, breakfast for early risers, family dinner, car time (commuting, carpools, after worship), enjoying the out of doors, and family service projects.

If your family doesn't have much time together, make it a priority and put it on the calendar, guarding it as carefully as you would that time slot for a dental appointment or sporting event.

#### SO, WHAT CAN WE DO TOGETHER?

Here are a smorgasbord of ideas. Don't think that you need to do all of them. Choose the ones that appeal. Later, sample others that might not be so familiar.

#### READ SCRIPTURE

Read the Bible. If you have young children, have an assortment of age-appropriate Bibles for your child and read from them. No one gets points taken off because there are pictures. Talk about it: What happened and to whom? Where are we in this story, what does it have to do with us? What does God want us to do, in response to His Living Word?

#### SELECT AN AGE-APPROPRIATE DEVOTIONAL BOOK

Find one that is age-appropriate, appealing and engaging, and comes from our theology. Then, use it. Make it part of your bedtime or breakfast routine.

## SING SONGS OF FAITH

Use the hymnal, CDs, Bible camp songs, or songs your child learned at VBS, Sunday school, or nursery school. St. Augustine said, "When you sing, you pray twice!"

## PRAYER PROMPTS

Use simple props at your family table or wherever you will now do devotions:

- Christmas cards: Use last year's crop of photo cards. Take a few and pray for the people pictured. If your kids don't know those pictured, tell a story about them.
- Highlighter: Share a highlight of your day, and thank God for them.
- Map: Spread out a map, giving each person three Cheerios. Place them on the map where there is a person, place, or event for which you want to pray.
- Bandaid prayer: Give each person a bandaid to wear. Name a hurt in the world or the lives of those you love that you want to remember to pray for.
- Tea light candles: Each person receives two tea light candles, lighting them one at a time. First, name those who have been the light of Christ to you. Then, name a person for whom you have been the light of Christ.
- Seeds: Pass around a packet of seeds, naming one new thing God is growing in you.
- Newspaper: Give each person a page. Ask them to skim it, looking for one thing that would delight God, one that would sadden God, and one thing God might be asking us to do.
- Scotch tape: Pass around a dispenser and take a small piece. Thank God for one thing that "sticks" this family together.
- White Out: Pass around a bottle of White Out, naming one thing you pray God will forgive and forget in your life.
- Birthday candles: For the next birthday, give each person in attendance a birthday candle. As they insert it in the cake, name one quality of the birthday person for which they thank God. Light them, reminding the child or adult to "Let your light so shine before others that they will see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

## MAKE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS ON A BELOVED FOREHEAD

From the day your child is baptized, trace a cross on that beloved forehead, saying "Child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Jesus loves you and so do I." Do this for everyone in your family. Didn't start on the day they were baptized? So, begin today!

May God all of your family worship, in home and congregation, be filled with God's presence.