



Family Worship May 28, 2017

Preparation for Worship

Gather in a quiet place, free of distraction (put silenced cellphones in another room)

Decide who will lead the various parts. A family worship experience should involve everyone, *especially* children! This Family Worship Guide can be adapted by families of 1 or 2 people.

Here are the parts:

- Reading the Call to Worship
- Reading the Scripture
- Reading the Pastor's Devotional and Our Offering to God sections
- Leading the Prayer (your own words, from notes)
- Playing the songs (if you use them) on a laptop, tablet, or phone (Just listen to the songs if you prefer not to sing☺) You can copy and paste the links or find them with Google (skip the commercials!)

Discuss who and what you should include in your prayer. In addition to people within the church family, also discuss friends, co-workers, and neighbors for whom you want to pray. Consider what local, national, or international concern you should include (Whoever is to lead the prayer can take notes—it's OK to look at notes when praying). A simple way to pray is to go by ACTS:

Adoration: giving God praise by naming God's beautiful qualities (Almighty, loving, etc.)

Confession: pausing for a minute for everyone to acknowledge their sin silently & privately

Thanksgiving: naming specific ways God has provided for needs or has answered prayers

Supplication: ask God to help or provide for specific people or situations

Suggested Order of Worship

Call to Worship

Psalm 18:1-3

Song of Praise

Lord I Lift Your Name

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0nn8QT2-VQ>

Scripture

Acts 1:12-17, 21-26

Pastor's Devotional (on next page)

Our Offering to God

When we hear the word "offering," we naturally think of giving money to finance God's work. We also think of the time that we volunteer to bless other people. Yet our "offering" also includes how we choose to live as "sent people" in the places where we live, work, and play.

- In what ways are you having to "wait upon the Lord" in prayer?
- How could you allow God to prepare you better for His mission?

Prayer (from your notes)

Song of Faith (optional)

Lord Reign in Me

www.youtube.com/watch?v=iSdthxieYp4

Pastor's Devotional Acts 1:12-17, 21-26

Last Sunday we focused on the first half of Acts 1, which told us that in resurrection form Jesus appeared to his disciples many times over a forty-day period, convincing them that he was alive. He prepared them for his departure, teaching them about the Kingdom of God and commanding them not to leave Jerusalem until their Holy Spirit "baptism." When asked if he would restore the kingdom to Israel (by liberating them from their Roman conquerors), Jesus explained that the Father had other plans: "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Then (as now) orthodox Jews believe that when the Messiah comes, he will destroy evil and inaugurate God's reign on earth. The disciples were stunned to discover that though he was the Christ (Messiah), Jesus was leaving earth without finishing his Father's work. Imagine their shock to discover that Jesus was placing it in their hands! To their relief, he promised that he would return to finish what he started. As they watched him ascend into heaven, these disciples mustered up their trust that this mysterious Spirit would give them courage and power.

While they waited for the Holy Spirit's "fireworks," the eleven living apostles met "constantly" in their upper room for prayer. Luke makes a point of telling us that the female disciples and Jesus' family members were also with them. By referring to the women, Luke reminds us that though this ancient patriarchal culture required them to reserve apostolic leadership for men, compared to the Jewish and pagan cultures, women had important roles.

Simon-now-called-Peter ("the Rock") stood up to address the entire fellowship. It's surprising to read that after several years of public ministry, there were only 120 believers when Jesus departed. How could such a small group change the world? Yet infused with the power of the Holy Spirit, these disciples would make disciples who also make disciples. Even a tiny number of spiritually-reproducing disciples will yield thousands of new believers over time.

Peter spoke candidly about Judas, the disciple who had betrayed Jesus and committed suicide. Quoting the Book of Psalms, Peter recommended that the eleven remaining disciples choose a replacement. Jesus intentionally chose twelve disciples to convey his intent to reach all twelve tribes of Israel, that's why the disciples were often called "The Twelve." Luke 9:1-6 tells us that Jesus sent the Twelve to announce God's Kingdom to Israel. Luke 22:28-30 says that the Twelve will sit on thrones to judge the twelve tribes. Before beginning their mission to the Jews in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the far ends of the Roman Empire, Peter said that they needed to find a replacement to serve as one of the Twelve.

The main qualification was that the new apostle be an eyewitness of Jesus' ministry as well as a "witness with us of his resurrection." Luke's Gospel had begun with the assurance that his story of Jesus was "handed down [the story of Jesus] were eyewitnesses" (1:2). Jesus is not a legend; the Gospel stories are historically accurate.

The eleven chose two men who had followed Jesus from the beginning. After praying for divine guidance, they cast lots and selected Matthias to be the twelfth apostle. Scripture never mentions him again. We can be sure that like the apostles named in verses 13, Matthias could never have imagined how God would use him to advance God's reign on earth, through the power of the Spirit. The same could be said for each of us!

Fun math quiz for later: Which is more effective, teaching 12 people every year for 5 years, or focusing on helping two persons become disciples of Christ each year for five years, if each of those disciples made two disciples each year? How many total disciples would the two approaches yield in five years? (Email Michael for the answer)