



Faith@Home Resource Week 1: Worship-Experiencing Jesus

***Worship** *Serve *Play *Read *Love *Create *Pray *Talk *Sing *Eat

⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." Acts 2:44-47

The early church began as one people who did everything together. This summer Our Savior's Way and Open Arms are celebrating that core idea of "together" - how being together in Christ influences who we are as children of God, created for Christian community.

Start each week in worship together as a family - your family and friends. Our church family. **This 'At Home or On the Go' Resource packet** will give you some weekly theme ideas for you to continue the *TOGETHER* faith experience with family or friends. No matter where you are **this summer. Use the "Together Tracker" to help you go for 3 weekly goals: To do the "One Big Thing" Suggestion, to Take Jesus with you and have fun with the Flat Jesus Challenge, and to do at least one more idea, activity or servant project on the theme. Use an idea from the packet or something of your own!**

Home Scripture Reference for "WORSHIP": Acts 2:42-47 The Fellowship of the Believers

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Key Point/Summary: *In Worship, we glorify God through reading, praying, and singing his word. At church or at home, worship gives time for serving God and others. You can experience snacks and fellowship as well!*

Worship is a wonderful opportunity to honor and glorify our God with our individual family units as well as corporately as a church family. It is an act of obedience to God and a practical means for parents to model and instruct their children according to God's word (Prov 22:6). Within the church setting, worship promotes an intergenerational environment for discipling, and in the home, it models for children that church and worship are not a place and a Sunday only event, Worship takes many forms and is an opportunity to experience Jesus personally every day. There are countless immediate and future benefits of practicing and participating in worship, as Christ's first followers modeled for us in Acts 2:44-47.

The One Big Thing: *If you have time for only ONE way to follow up on the "WORSHIP-Experiencing Jesus" theme this week:*

- ✓ IDENTIFY SOMEONE YOU WOULD LIKE TO INVITE TO WORSHIP and DO IT!

Where will you take Jesus with you this week? *Take a picture of 'Flat Jesus' and Tweet in to #flatjesusoswlc or post to our Facebook page @oswlc.org* Ideas: OSWLC, another church if you are out of town; a picture of you and 'FJ' anywhere that inspires you to reflect on God.

Conversations Together:

This article written for youth has important questions for all of us! Take a look and discuss. <http://fevr.net/bible/acts-lessons-from-the-early-church>

Or try these discussion ideas. Choose what suits the ages and stages in your family or group.

- What is your favorite part of worship?
- Why do you think the people who believed in Jesus spent so much time together?
- The church listened to the apostles teach about Jesus. How does worship help do this? How can YOU help do this?
- The people had fellowship with each other as part of their worship community. What is fellowship?
- What are some ways we share fellowship at church? At home?
- Do we have to have a building to be the church? Extension activity-see "Teaching Children Church is Family" object lesson
- What things in your life have you shown a lot of commitment or spent a lot of time on?
- What do you think the people in that time thought of the early Christians?
- What is holding you back from gathering together with God's people?
- What step can you take forward this week to worship and praise God with your whole life?

Prayer for WORSHIP Together: Dear Lord, as we in our congregations and homes journey in worship together, bless us with the courage of faith in you alone, the gift of salvation for the world you love, and a deep and sacrificial love for all people and all of creation. Like the first members of your church, the body of Christ here on earth, help us care for one another both physically and spiritually and join in praise and glory to you in all we do on our own and together in reaching out with the Good News of Jesus Christ, the one who suffered, died, and rose again. It is in His name we pray, Amen.

Memory Verse: *Try memorizing Scripture as a family to help you keep God's Word in your hearts*

And all who believed were together and had all things in common. **Acts2:44**

Other activities and Resources: *Some items are included in the packet or you can find them online at oswlc.org/Together*

- Write an invitation to a friend explaining what Jesus means to you and why you want them to know Jesus too.
- Coloring pages (in packet or online)
- Use Legos to illustrate the Bible passage.
- Object lesson: Teaching children church is Family (in packet or online)
- If your children are just beginning to attend worship, take time before or after church to show and explain to them the main parts of the worship space so they will feel comfortable.
- **Make a commitment to hold Family Worship Regularly: It doesn't have to be difficult. Make it relaxed, flexible, varied, and regular.** You decide what regular means for your situation, but try to stick to it. Use the Worship Wheel. (in packet or online) as a fun way to choose an at home worship activity.
- Set aside a place in your home for a family altar. Keep a cross, your family Bible, a candle and an offering jar there to collect children's giving or for a special ministry.
- Find out how your family can serve in worship as a family.
- Sell something valuable of yours on ebay/craigslist and give it to someone in need.
- Bake your favorite cookies or other treat. Take to a neighbor, friend or shelter.

Other Resources

- **Book:** *Parenting in the Pew: Guiding Your Children into the Joy of Worship* by: Robbie Castleman
- http://www.riverside-church.org.uk/documents/WORSHIP_005_Inspired_To_Worship.pdf
- http://www.riverside-church.org.uk/documents/WORSHIP_009_Six_Word_Liturgies.pdf
- <https://www.seedsfamilyworship.com/simple-family-worship-devotions/>
- <https://www.seedsfamilyworship.com/5-reasons-make-family-worship-priority/>
- <https://www.seedsfamilyworship.com/3-tips-bringing-kids-worship/>
- <https://www.dare2share.org/resources/free-teen-resources/>
- <https://www.lifein6words.com/> -Powerful. Watch it through, even if it is not your "Style"

For more information on 'Together' worship, resources or special Sundays, contact Justin Kumfer pastor.justin@oswlc.org, Ray Dubert, ray@oswlc.org, Emily Sonstroem emily@oswlc.org or Barb Yarbrough, barb@oswlc.org

