



Below are **two guides** from Pastor Keith to enhance your time at home for worship and scripture reading in the coming weeks. But first -

Some thoughts from Pastor Keith:

We are living in unique days. Despite watching viruses and flus come and go this is the first time in my life that I've seen schools close for weeks—what may become months. Businesses are closing and workers are being furloughed for weeks if not longer. It's not just people's health that's threatened—but livelihoods. Don't go out and don't meet in large groups. In some cases all family members are home together and life is radically different. Take the opportunity to not just watch stuff together or play together—and not just worry together, but worship together. Worship the One with the power to end the virus, listen to the One who loves His children but commands our attention in the midst of testing, and cry out to the One who loves this suffering world more than we ever could. Listen to Him and talk with Him.

Although this is for parents, I have a special word for husbands and dads. In the Bible, God summons men to lead their homes (1 Corinthians 11:3) and churches (1 Timothy 2:11-12). Not at all because women, wives or mothers are in some way inferior or incompetent. Rather, God holds men responsible for the home and church's success—exercising tender care in Christlike fashion. Tragically, by their conduct and spirit some Christian men have embarrassed the gospel in their homes by acting as if God's charge privileged them with independent liberties and licenses to flaunt; in doing so they appear to better imitate Ironman with all of his baggage, than Jesus Christ. Guys, we carry the burden to see home and fellowship flourish, and we bear the blame when they don't. That's why God went looking for Adam rather than Eve even though Eve took the first bite and seduced Adam. Helping our families prosper spiritually starts with us—not our wives. If yours is anything like my wife, she will have an enormous impact on your children—no doubt on you too if you pay attention. But the responsibility is ours. So, during this season of uncertainty, may I encourage YOU be the one to take initiative to have family worship so she doesn't have to.

A Weekly Family Worship Time – by Pastor Keith

Although not sacred, routines go a long way to help us do what is beneficial: we brush our teeth morning and night, go to bed the same time each night (uh-oh!), shower each morning, eat dinner at the same time each day, go away each year to celebrate a wedding anniversary. Same with family worship: establishing a routine that's beneficial. Must it be Sunday? No. But the early church began to worship on Sundays to commemorate the day Jesus rose from the dead—despite the fact that many early believers were Jewish and accustomed to worshipping Saturdays. Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2

1). With sermon

- **Sing:** Play 2-3 songs (more if you have a music-loving family) from YouTube, Spotify, or some other source, that you and your family know, and sing along.
 - *But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them sing joyful praises forever. Spread your protection over them, that all who love your name may be filled with joy. Psalm 5:11*
 - *Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy. Psalm 100:2*
 - *Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. Colossians 3:16*
- **Bible:** Listen to the week's sermon with those in the family who are old enough. Print out a child's sermon help from this link https://d1nwfrzxhi18dp.cloudfront.net/uploads/resource_library/attachment/file/247/TVCResources-SermonNotesForKids.pdf.
- Later or over lunch, ask questions like "what did you think when he said _____?" or "did God speak to you in any personal way during the message?"
 - *They [levites] read from the Book of the Law of God and clearly explained the meaning of what was being read, helping the people understand each passage. Nehemiah 8:8*
 - *Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. John 17:17*
 - *For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. Hebrews 4:12*
- **Pray:** (Encourage, but do not REQUIRE everyone to pray. Roll with a child's reluctance lest you turn the *privilege* of prayer into a legalistic duty.) Prayer is essentially a 2-step conversation with God
 - #1 is about Him: Worship/adore/thank God
 - #2 is about us: confess our sins, ask for what we need
 - Explain & invite family members into step one. Here's some ammo for worship—some of God's attributes, what He's like.
 - **Invisible.** John 1:18; 1 Timothy 1:17; 1 Timothy 6:16; Colossians 1:15
 - **Sovereign.** Daniel 4:32; Isaiah 46:10; Acts 17:26
 - **Eternal.** Isaiah 26:4; Romans 16:26; 1 Timothy 1:17
 - **Unchanging.** James 1:17; Malachi 3:6
 - **Knows everything.** 1 John 3:20; Hebrews 4:13; Psalm 139:1-2
 - **Is everywhere.** Psalm 39:7-10
 - **Has unlimited power.** Jeremiah 32:17; Matthew 19:26; 2 Corinthians 6:18 [anywhere in the Bible God is called "Almighty", it refers to His limitless power.] (also Job 42:2).
 - **Free.** Romans 11:34-36; Psalm 115:3; Acts 17:25; Daniel 4:35
 - **Holy.** Lev. 11:44-45 cf. 1 Peter 1:16; Joshua 24:19; Revelation 4:8. It is not so much an attribute as the very foundation of His being. It is the backdrop for all else that is true about Him; it is the controlling essence of all His other characteristics.
 - **Just.** 2 Thess. 1:6-10a. Ps. 9:16
 - **Merciful.** James 5:11; Ephesians 2:4; Titus 3:5; Nehemiah 9:31
 - **Loving.** 1 John 4:8; John 3:16; Romans 5:8; Galatians 2:20
 - **Gracious.** Exodus 34:6; Ephesians 1:7-8; 2:8; 2 Chronicles 30:9; Titus 2:11; 2 Corinthians 9:14
 - **Kind.** Romans 2:4; Isaiah 54:8; Titus 3:4
 - **Good.** Mark 10:18; Psalm 107:1; Psalm 145:9; Romans 8:28
 - **True.** Numbers 23:19; Titus 1:2; 1 John 5:20; 1 Thessalonians 1:9
 - **Glorious.** Ephesians 1:17
 - **Wise.** Romans 11:33; Colossians 2:3
 - **Patient.** Exodus 34:6; 2 Peter 3:9 (& 3:15)
 - **Wrathful.** Ephesians 5:6; Romans 12:19; Psalm 7:11; Jeremiah 21:5; Revelation 19:15; Romans 2:5
 - **Zealous.** Ezekiel 39:25; Isaiah 9:7
 - **Jealous.** Exodus 20:5; 34:14; Joshua 24:19; Nahum 1:2
 - **Righteous.** Daniel 9:14; Romans 3:4; 1 John 2:11; Jeremiah 12:1
 - **Faithful.** 1 John 1:9; 2 Thessalonians 3:3; Deuteronomy 7:9; Psalm 25:10
 - **Orderly.** 1 Corinthians 14:33

- **Peaceful.** *Isaiah 9:6*
 - Some prayer prompts like these can help ease everyone into this...
 - Father, you have shown your mercy by _____
 - Father, I have seen your love in _____
 - Father, thank you for _____
 - Father, I am amazed that you _____
- Explain & invite family members into step two.
 - Invite family members to confess any sin, but don't force it. This is always tricky, but as parents if there is something to confess that's appropriate, modelling this will deeply impact your children. *They* know you're sinners, but not sure *you* do. Admitting it before them makes it more likely they will too.
 - Invite them to ask God for what they need or others need.

2). Without sermon

(Mainly done with younger children. Adults/older children can listen to the sermon later)

- **Sing:** (See above) Encourage your children to sing loudly and don't scold them if they start to act a little goofy as they do. However, shouting in a sibling's ear is frowned upon.
- **Bible:** If your children are too young for the sermon, get the preacher's text at www.keystonechurch.org/sermons and prepare 2-3 questions from it. After reading the Bible verses to your children, ask them the questions you prepared. Respond encouragingly to their answers.
 - If you think the text won't connect with your children—or you can't figure out how to do that, select a Bible portion you think might, and read it. Again, ask some questions about it.
 - How you spend the time matters more than how *much* time you spend.
- **Prayer:** (same as above; keep it age appropriate)

- Excellent video with Donald Whitney on family worship
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v9SUYzSLmrE>
