

Household Worship Guide Sept 20 – Sept 26, '26

This household worship guide is designed to complement our Lord's Day sermons. Its purpose is to help focus your heart, mind, and life on the preached Word throughout the week, seamlessly connecting your household worship with our church's gathered worship.

We aim to enhance your thoughtful hearing of God's Word and encourage its deep meditation, so that it might truly take root in your lives. Therefore, during the early part of the week, this guide will help you reflect on the truths proclaimed on the Lord's Day just past. This reflection helps to solidify the Word's spiritual impact. Then, as the week progresses, we will turn our attention to the upcoming Lord's Day, preparing our hearts and minds. In this rhythm, we celebrate each Lord's Day as the pinnacle of our week.

Corporate worship is vital. It prepares us for the week ahead and offers a precious foretaste of our heavenly fellowship. Yet, our worship extends beyond the church gathering. This guide also encourages regular worship of God, both as families and as individuals, throughout the week.

FAITH BIBLE CHURCH (OPC)

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Prepare your heart for worship: Take a few moments of quiet before the service. Pray that the Lord would open your ears to hear His Word, soften your heart to receive it, and strengthen your will to obey it.

AM Sermon	Matthew 16:13-20 - <i>The Church That Cannot Fall</i>										
PM Sermon	Isaiah 22:15-25 - <i>The Peg That Gives Way</i>										
Read the sermon text(s), then discuss one or more of these questions	1. What is the main idea of the sermon(s)? 2. In one sentence how did the sermon(s) impact you? 3. Which of the following did you find in the sermon(s)?<table><tr><td>A sin to confess</td><td>An example to follow</td></tr><tr><td>An error to avoid</td><td>A command to obey</td></tr><tr><td>A promise to claim</td><td>A prayer to pray</td></tr><tr><td>A blessing to enjoy</td><td>A warning to heed</td></tr><tr><td>A fault to abandon</td><td>A principle to live</td></tr></table>Something new (to you) about God, Christ, or yourself?	A sin to confess	An example to follow	An error to avoid	A command to obey	A promise to claim	A prayer to pray	A blessing to enjoy	A warning to heed	A fault to abandon	A principle to live
A sin to confess	An example to follow										
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A promise to claim	A prayer to pray										
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A fault to abandon	A principle to live										
• Is there something that 'shines' from the text—whatever impacts most, or draws attention? • Is there something you don't understand, or a question the text raises in your mind? • Is there a personal application to your life? • Is there something you plan to share with someone else—and who will you share it with? • How do ideas in the text interrelate? Or with other passages in this book—or in the whole Bible? • How do you see Jesus Christ in the text?											
Praise	Psalms 125:1-5 (The unshakable security of God's people)										
Pray	1. Pray that you would hide the word read and preached in your hearts, and bring forth its fruit in your lives. 2. Pray for a member of our church, for your family, and for a non-Christian friend/family member.										

Reading	Psalm 2:6-9 - The Father installs his Son as King, and this very confession is what Peter is given by grace to speak.
Keys	• The Father's decree makes the Son King over every raging nation. • Peter's confession is not human insight but divine revelation given. • Christ's kingship stands secure though the nations plot in vain.
Questions	1. In what subtle ways do we reduce Jesus to a mere moral teacher? 2. Where is our faith resting upon human opinion rather than divine revelation? 3. When are we tempted to doubt the sovereign kingship of God's Anointed Son?
Notes	Christ confronts His disciples with the ultimate question of identity amidst a sea of human speculation. This passage anchors our overarching Lord's Day theme, proving that the church rests solely upon the divine revelation of Jesus as the promised Messiah. Our hearts naturally shrink the glory of the Savior into a manageable, earthly mentor. Worldly philosophies often sway our minds to prioritize cultural consensus over biblical truth. In seasons of trial, our affections quickly drift toward trusting visible rulers rather than relying upon the unseen, exalted King who reigns from Zion. Our self-righteous intellects continually idolize human wisdom. Yet, because the Father has graciously opened our blind eyes to behold the Son, we are perfectly secure. Cast down your pride and rest entirely upon the perfect righteousness of the Redeemer.
Praise	Psalm 89:19-24 (The steadfast covenant with David's Lord)
Pray	1. O Sovereign Father, open our eyes to behold the true glory of Your Anointed Son today. 2. Grant us deep gratitude for Sunday's reminder that Your church will never crumble under earthly assault. 3. Lord, have mercy upon [Name] and graciously awaken [Name] to gospel truth.

Reading	1 Kings 4:6 - Even Solomon's steward set over the household dimly foreshadows the greater key-bearer Christ appoints over his church.
Keys	• Christ builds his church on the rock of confessed truth, not Peter's person. • The gates of hell cannot prevail against Christ's promised building work. • Kingdom keys are entrusted stewardship, never independent human authority.
Questions	1. What hidden fears betray our lack of confidence in the church's ultimate triumph? 2. In what ways do we rely on natural intellect to understand spiritual mysteries? 3. Where have we neglected to wield the gospel promises in our daily battles?
Notes	Jesus formally establishes the indestructible nature of His gathered body, granting kingdom authority to His appointed heralds. Connecting to the morning message, this reveals that our foundation is invincible, sustained entirely by the sovereign decree of the living God. Anxious trembling frequently exposes a quiet belief that the gates of hell might actually prevail against God's people. Academic study without the Spirit breeds sterile orthodoxy that remains deaf to heaven's voice. By leaving the promises of the gospel unread on our shelves, our souls are starved of the very power entrusted to us. Worldly anxiety easily chokes our confidence in Christ's victorious assembly. How sweet is the truth that our Savior has already secured the final triumph. Cease your fretful striving and lean fully upon the all-sufficient merits of our Mediator.
Praise	Psalm 46:1-7 (Our mighty fortress in the storm)
Pray	1. Gracious King, fortify our wavering hearts with the certainty of Your ultimate kingdom triumph. 2. Cause us to rejoice daily in the preached promise that hell's gates cannot withstand Your church. 3. Strengthen [Name] in his suffering, and grant new life to [Name].

Reading	Psalm 118:22-23 - The stone the builders rejected becomes the cornerstone, the true and better peg who never gives way.
Keys	• Shebna's proud self-monument crumbles under the Lord's righteous judgment. • Eliakim's peg, though faithful, eventually breaks beneath excessive covenant weight. • Only Christ, the true cornerstone, bears every burden without failing.
Questions	1. Whom do we currently trust for security instead of the Lord? 2. What hidden monuments to our own legacy are we secretly building? 3. How do we respond when our earthly support structures suddenly collapse?
Notes	Isaiah proclaims the removal of a proud steward and the installation of a faithful servant. This evening text contrasts starkly with the morning message, reminding believers that every human foundation will ultimately splinter under the weight of divine justice. Financial stability and human approval frequently become the fragile pegs upon which we hang our daily hope. Ambition drives the fallen heart to chisel out lasting names for itself in the fleeting sands of time. Bitter despair typically floods the soul the moment God graciously snaps our trusted worldly crutches. Vain ambition consistently lures our affections away from eternal realities. Seeing that God has firmly fastened Christ in a secure place, our souls are eternally safe. Abandon all earthly props and abide forever in the finished work of Christ.
Praise	Psalm 146:1-5 (Do not trust in mortal princes)
Pray	1. O God of all comfort, forgive our disillusionment, and fix our hope upon the peg that never gives way. 2. Father, we thank you for the sober warning preached yesterday evening against Shebna's pride, and we ask for humility to serve without seeking our own name. 3. Sustain [Name] under heavy burdens; awaken [Name] to Christ, the unbreakable cornerstone.

Household Worship Guide

Thu Sept 24

Reading	Matthew 16:21-23 - Peter's rebuke of Christ's coming cross reveals how quickly confessed faith curdles into carnal presumption.
Keys	• Jesus openly foretells suffering, death, and resurrection to his disciples. • Peter rebukes the very cross that secures the church's salvation. • Satan speaks through good intentions when the cross is despised.
Questions	1. Where do we, like Peter, resist a suffering path that God has clearly appointed? 2. What hidden self-interest disguises itself as loving concern when we resist God's plan? 3. How do we minimize the necessity of the cross even while claiming to treasure Christ?
Notes	Peter's bold confession from earlier this week collapses swiftly into presumption once suffering enters the picture, proving that true faith still needs constant correction along the way. This passage prepares hearts for Sunday's continued sermon on cross-bearing discipleship. Good intentions often mask self-preserving motives, and Peter's rebuke shows how easily love for Christ curdles into resistance against his appointed suffering. Satanic thinking rarely announces itself boldly; instead, it whispers reasonable-sounding objections to God's revealed plan. Recognizing this pattern in our own hearts requires unusual honesty before the Word. Christ endured Peter's rebuke without abandoning his mission; rest, then, in our once-slain Substitute rather than our own inconsistent devotion. Abandon every scheme against the cross, and receive the salvation it purchased.
Praise	Psalm 143:1-10 (Teach me to walk in your way)
Pray	1. Merciful Lord, expose the presumption hidden within our good intentions and conform our thinking to your revealed will. 2. Spirit of Truth, prepare the preacher's heart to proclaim the cross with clarity and courage. 3. Strengthen [Name] amid weekly trials; awaken [Name] to the necessity of Christ's cross.

Household Worship Guide

Fri Sept 25

Reading	Matthew 16:24-28 - Losing life for Christ's sake proves the only path to truly gaining it forever.
Keys	• Self-denial and cross-bearing mark every genuine disciple of Christ. • Gaining the whole world profits nothing if the soul is forfeited. • Christ promises coming glory to those ashamed of nothing but sin.
Questions	1. What comforts do we clutch so tightly that following Christ feels like genuine loss? 2. In what specific ways do we quietly measure success by worldly gain rather than eternal soul-gain? 3. When are we most ashamed of Christ before others rather than ashamed of our sin?
Notes	Self-denial defines discipleship in terms starkly opposed to worldly wisdom, since gaining everything visible while forfeiting the soul amounts to catastrophic loss. Christ's own cross-bearing now becomes the pattern every disciple is summoned to follow after him. Comfort often becomes an idol more subtle than outright sin, quietly convincing believers that following Christ too closely would cost too much. Worldly success, measured in wealth or reputation, frequently blinds hearts to eternal realities that matter infinitely more. Shame before unbelievers, rather than shame over sin, reveals which kingdom truly commands our deepest loyalty. Since Christ himself bore the ultimate loss to secure our everlasting gain, courage is found only in the sustaining grace of our crucified and risen Lord. Release your grip on worldly comforts, and follow him without shame.
Praise	Psalm 49:5-9 (The futile ransom of worldly wealth)
Pray	1. Gracious Redeemer, loosen our grip on worldly comforts and grant courage to deny ourselves for your sake alone. 2. Spirit of God, prepare the congregation's hearts now to receive Sunday's preached Word concerning cross-bearing discipleship without resistance. 3. Embolden [Name] to follow Christ publicly; awaken [Name] to see worldly gain as loss.

Household Worship Guide

Sat Sept 26

Reading	Hosea 12:2-4 - Jacob's desperate wrestling for blessing pictures every sinner's necessary striving to lay hold of covenant grace.
Keys	• Jacob strives with God and man from his very birth. • Wrestling at Peniel finally breaks Jacob's self-reliant striving completely down. • Weeping and pleading secure the blessing force alone could never win.
Questions	1. Where do we still wrestle against God rather than cling desperately to his promised mercy? 2. What hidden self-reliance must be broken before we truly plead for grace? 3. When are we most tempted to demand blessing rather than humbly beg for it?
Notes	Hosea recalls Jacob's lifelong striving, from the womb through Peniel's wrestling match, as proof that covenant blessing comes only through broken dependence rather than self-secured strength. Jacob's own hip, once dislocated in that struggle, forever marked him as a man made weak so grace alone could carry him home. Striving against God characterizes every unconverted heart long before grace intervenes, and self-reliance must be dismantled before true pleading ever begins. Tears and weakness, not strength, become the very instruments through which Jacob finally receives his blessing. Demanding blessing as though owed betrays the same pride Jacob carried into that dark night. Christ himself was broken so Jacob's line might be blessed; hope rests in his covenant faithfulness, not our persistence. Stop demanding what grace alone gives, and plead like Jacob until dawn.
Praise	Psalm 32:1-5 (The blessed relief of joyful repentance)
Pray	1. Sovereign Spirit, break our self-reliant striving as you broke Jacob's, until we cling to grace alone. 2. Lord of the Sabbath, prepare hearts to receive tomorrow's preached Word with humility. 3. Uphold [Name] through personal wrestling; awaken [Name] to plead for Christ's blessing.