

Household Worship Guide Oct 11 – Oct 17, '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 17:9-23 - <i>When Trying Harder Fails</i>										
PM Sermon	2 Kings 4:8-37 - <i>The Cure That Wouldn't Work</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 96:1-6 (Proclaiming God's glory among the nations)										
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	1 Kings 17:17-24 - Human inadequacy forces us to depend entirely upon God's life-giving power in our helplessness.
Keys	- Fleshly self-reliance dooms human ministry to spiritual failure. - Faith clings to divine promises rather than natural human capabilities. - Prayer and fasting express total reliance upon divine grace.
Questions	- In what specific ways do we rely on routine religious habits instead of living faith? - Which hidden areas of unbelief prevent us from pleading God's promises in prayer? - When are we most tempted to treat spiritual duties as self-generated exercises?
Notes	Elijah crying out over the dead child echoes the disciples' impotence before the demonized boy in Matthew 17. Both accounts expose our natural helplessness, proving that ritualistic mechanics cannot grant spiritual life apart from Christ's sovereign power. Formal prayers often replace heartfelt reliance on the Spirit. Pride masks our underlying functional unbelief under the guise of orthodox routine. When trials press upon us, fleshly activity usually eclipses desperate, quiet communion with God. As frail sinners easily swayed by self-reliance, we routinely forget that our strength is utter vanity before spiritual deadness. Self-sufficiency is a subtle idol that starves the soul. Resting in Christ's tender compassion as our merciful High Priest, let us cast away fleshly confidence and lean entirely upon the all-sufficient merits of our Mediator.
Praise	Psalms 30:1-5 (Exalting God for deliverance from death)
Pray	- Sovereign Father, shatter our self-reliance and deepen our desperate prayerfulness before Thy throne. - Lord God, thank You for opening our eyes through Lord's Day preaching to see our complete powerlessness apart from Christ. - Preserve [Name] in humble faith; awaken [Name] from spiritual death unto eternal life.

Reading	Genesis 18:9-15 - Unbelief scoffs at covenant promises while sovereign grace fulfills what seems humanly impossible.
Keys	• Unbelief mocks divine promises when circumstances appear entirely impossible. • Covenant grace overrides human weakness and establishes God's eternal purpose. • Sovereign power accomplishes redemption through the slain, risen Savior.
Questions	1. What secret doubts linger in our hearts regarding God's covenant promises? 2. Where do we measure divine faithfulness by our limited sight? 3. What causes us to treat the cross as defeat rather than sovereign victory?
Notes	Sarah's laughter at God's promise mirrors the disciples' confusion over Christ's death in Matthew 17. Human minds fail to grasp that divine power shines brightest through impossible circumstances, turning defeat into resurrection victory. Secret cynicism lurks behind our outward smiles when God's promises contradict human expectations. Human sight continuously measures divine ability by natural limitations rather than covenant faithfulness. Deep down, the offense of the cross makes us stumble, preferring earthly triumphs over Christ's suffering. Though our faith falters, the Lord remembers our weakness with gentle, enduring patience. Distrusting God's Word dishonors His glorious truthfulness and breeds anxiety. Rejoicing that the Good Shepherd laid down His life for His weary sheep, let us mortify our doubt and rest securely in the perfect righteousness of the Redeemer.
Praise	Psalm 33:6-11 (Praising the eternal counsel of God)
Pray	1. Gracious King, melt our cynical unbelief and anchor our hearts in Thy unshakeable covenant promises. 2. Heavenly Father, grant us grace to meditate deeply upon Christ's death and resurrection declared in last Sunday's sermon. 3. Strengthen [Name] against lingering fear; grant [Name] repentance unto life and saving faith.

Reading	Malachi 4:5-6 - The promised turning of hearts homeward finds no substitute in outward religion; only God's own visitation revives.
Keys	• Human instruments cannot raise dead souls without divine authority. • Prophetic promises look forward to total restoration in Jesus Christ. • Faith perseveres in urgent prayer when earthly remedies fail.
Questions	1. Which worldly idols do we turn to when spiritual deadness confronts our homes? 2. When are we most tempted to rely on ministers rather than the Lord of life? 3. In what ways do we neglect persistent prayer for alienated family members?
Notes	Elisha's staff failed until he personally stretched over the child, echoing Malachi's promised restoration. External religious mechanics cannot grant spiritual life apart from Christ's personal, sovereign presence. Troubled hearts routinely seek comfort in worldly distractions rather than seeking God. Human teachers are often idolized while Christ, who alone gives life, remains neglected in the closet of prayer. Familial distress frequently produces quiet despair instead of persistent entreaty at the throne of grace. Knowing our proneness to stray, our tender Savior invites weary souls to find refuge in His bosom. Slothful indifference toward dying souls grieves the Holy Spirit and hardens the heart. Held fast by Christ's unrelenting, covenant love, let us cast off spiritual lethargy and rely entirely upon the shed blood of the Lamb.
Praise	Psalms 126:1-6 (Rejoicing in the Lord's restoration)
Pray	1. O God of all comfort, awaken our slumbering households to seek Thy life-giving face in prayer. 2. Faithful Father, apply the truths of the evening sermon to heal spiritual deadness within our families. 3. Grant [Name] steadfast peace in trials; bring [Name] out of darkness into Christ's marvelous light.

Household Worship Guide

Thu Oct 15

Reading	Matthew 17:24-25 - Christ's royal sonship releases His people from the burdensome debt of the law.
Keys	• The King's Son stands exempt from legal tribute and condemnation. • Earthly authorities collect taxes, but Christ owns all creation. • Believers share in the royal freedom purchased by the Savior.
Questions	1. Which legalistic anxieties reveal a heart still laboring under the law? 2. Where do we forget our adoption as free sons of the heavenly King? 3. How do we fall into slave-like fear rather than filial trust?
Notes	Jesus questioning Peter about earthly kings highlights His divine Sonship in Matthew 17:24-25. Anticipating the temple ransom in Exodus 30, Christ reveals that while subjects pay tribute, the royal Son sets His people free from legal bondage. Legalistic fear continually whispers that acceptance before God depends upon human performance. Adoption as beloved children is frequently forgotten when guilt weighs heavily upon the conscience. Fear of judgment easily displaces the joyful liberty promised to the redeemed. Even when our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts and covers our frailty with endless mercy. Self-righteous striving is a deceptive snare that denies true gospel freedom. Since Christ has clothed us in His righteousness, let us abandon slavish fear and approach the Father's throne with childlike confidence through the active and passive obedience of Christ.
Praise	Psalm 89:15-18 (Exulting in the Lord's favor and freedom)
Pray	1. Eternal Father, fortify our souls with the glorious liberty of our adoption in Jesus Christ. 2. Almighty God, prepare our pastor to preach Thy holy Word with spiritual power and clarity this Lord's Day. 3. Establish [Name] in gospel assurance; draw [Name] out of self-righteous bondage to the Savior.

Household Worship Guide

Fri Oct 16

Reading	Matthew 17:25-27 - Christ humbly provides the ransom price to avoid offense and redeem His people.
Keys	• Jesus submits to human demands to avoid giving unnecessary offense. • Sovereign provision yields the exact coin needed for redemption. • Christ pays the temple tax for both Himself and Peter.
Questions	1. In what specific ways do we insist on personal rights rather than loving others? 2. When are we most prone to doubt God's miraculous daily provision? 3. What causes us to overlook Christ's substitute payment for our debt?
Notes	Jesus miraculously providing the shekel in the fish's mouth demonstrates His sovereign lordship over creation. Tied to the Exodus atonement money, Christ humbly pays the temple tax for Peter, prefiguring His substitutionary ransom for His covenant people. Selfish pride leads us to demand personal rights instead of seeking the spiritual good of others. Anxiety regarding temporal needs exposes a lack of confidence in God's sovereign, miraculous care. The glory of Christ paying our ultimate debt is often eclipsed by worldly worries. Yet, Jesus willingly bore our burdens, proving His infinite tenderness toward unworthy sinners. Clinging to personal pride offends the Savior and damages Christian unity. Shielded by the heavenly intercession of our Great High Priest, let us mortify our selfishness and yield our lives entirely to His holy service.
Praise	Psalms 111:1-6 (Praising God's miraculous works and provision)
Pray	1. Sovereign Spirit, open our hearts to receive the preached Word with meekness and faith this coming Sabbath. 2. Lord of glory, grant our congregation ears to hear and hearts to obey your truth this Sunday. 3. Comfort [Name] with Christ's provision; grant [Name] eyes to behold the Lamb of God.

Household Worship Guide

Sat Oct 17

Reading	Psalm 49:7-9 - No human wealth can ransom a soul from eternal destruction.
Keys	• Earthly riches are utterly useless for redeeming the human soul. • Eternal death claims all who rely on corruptible earthly treasure. • Only God can pay the costly ransom to redeem life.
Questions	1. Which earthly treasures are we tempted to trust for security and worth? 2. How often do we forget the immense cost of our soul's redemption? 3. What reveals that we are valuing temporary wealth over eternal life?
Notes	Psalm 49 exposes the complete failure of human wealth to pay the soul's ransom, directly complementing Exodus 30 and Matthew 17. Only a divine substitute can satisfy God's justice and deliver sinners from the pit of eternal destruction. Material possessions easily become false refuges where we seek lasting security and peace. The priceless value of the soul is neglected when worldly gain consumes our daily thoughts. Wealth cannot buy pardon, yet heart affection frequently clings to gold rather than God. Knowing our spiritual poverty, the Lord offers His unsearchable riches freely to all who come to Him. Idolizing earthly wealth blinds the heart and leads to eternal ruin. How sweet is the truth that divine grace pays what we could never afford; therefore, let us renounce worldly confidence and rest solely in the unblemished sacrifice of Golgotha.
Praise	Psalm 49:12-15 (Confessing God's power to redeem the soul)
Pray	1. Righteous Judge, cleanse our hearts from worldly covetousness and fix our hope entirely upon eternal redemption. 2. Holy God, bless the public reading and preaching of Your Word tomorrow for the conversion of sinners and edification of saints. 3. Preserve [Name] in holy devotion; awaken [Name] to flee from the wrath to come.