

LEFC Guide to Worship at Home

May 3, 2020

- Introduction
- Home Worship Guide
- More Links to Helpful Resources

Introduction

Dear Church Family,

I wish we were gathering together for worship in our building on our campus this Sunday. Sadly, we are not, and it currently seems that we may be in for a longer wait until it is wise and loving to gather in large groups once again. The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. May the name of the Lord be praised.

For now, we continue to worship at home and use technology to connect with and care for one another. We have prepared another ten-step guide for families to use in home-based worship. You'll notice that the theme of *rejoicing* continues throughout. As followers of Christ, we have so many reasons to rejoice! Lord-willing, I will be posting another video message this weekend on Philippians 1 where Paul says that exact same thing, "I Will Continue to Rejoice."

Our "Worship in Unity" this week features an important piece of theology from the Westminster Larger Catechism, the "big brother" to the one we used last week. It succinctly captures what we believe happens to a Christian when they die. When the WLC speaks about "members of the invisible church," it means "invisible" *now* in that we cannot infallibly tell from the outside if someone is truly a Christian on the inside, *but God does know!* And it also means "invisible" *then* in that after a Christian dies we cannot see them at all, but we know that they are safely with Christ.

I hope that your family is singing together these days. Singing together is the thing I miss the most during this time away from our worship gatherings. However, we don't need to be at church to sing, and we do need to sing. It's good for our hearts and helps us to [cast our cares on Him](#) because He cares for us.

What time are you going to gather your household this weekend to worship the Lord Jesus Christ?

In His Grip,

- Pastor Matt

P.S. CityAlight, a group from whom we've learned a number of our worship songs, just released a new one titled, "[Your Will Be Done](#)" which I think has a great message for us today.

Home Worship Guide

1. Call to Worship

Read Psalm 33 with joy as your family gathers to worship the Lord.

Have someone pray and ask God to bless your time of worship at home.

2. Worship in Singing

As a household sing "[Nothing But the Blood](#)" by Robert Lowry (1876).

**Option. Families with younger children might also or instead choose to repeat the song from the end of last week's worship guide: "[Rejoice in the Lord Always](#)." Parents might plan to do this short song for several weeks because repetition helps us to learn something well. Don't forget that it is also a canon you can sing "in the round."

3. Worship in Unity

Recite together Question #86 of the Westminster Larger Catechism (1648).

Q: What is the communion in glory with Christ, which the members of the invisible church enjoy immediately after death?

A: The communion in glory with Christ, which the members of the invisible church enjoy immediately after death, is, in that their souls are then made perfect in holiness, and received into the highest heavens, where they behold the face of God in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies, which even in death continue united to Christ, and rest in their graves as in their beds, till at the last day they be again united to their souls.

4. Worship in Lament and Thanksgiving

When Job's children died, he responded with great faith and said, "The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised" (Job 1:21).

Have each family member share something that the Lord has given and something that He has taken away.

Gave: _____.

Taken Away: _____.

After each member speaks, say, "May the name of the LORD be praised."

**Option: During the family fellowship meeting on Zoom today, we are going to ask everyone, especially the kids, to tell us something the Lord gave you this week. Prepare a family spokesman to tell us about the Lord's gifts to your family in the last seven days.

**Option. Have someone pray a prayer of lament that we are not all partaking of the Lord's Supper together again today.

5. Worship in Bible Memorization

Recite Philippians 4:4, the first of our new "Hide the Word" verses for this Spring:

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”

**Option: Don't wait until the verses get long and difficult to memorize. Have each family member close their eyes and say the verse out loud. Remind everybody to rehearse it each day this week.

6. Worship in Prayer

Take prayer requests and pray for each other.

Read the prayer guide together and pray for the rest of the church family and the requests listed.

7. Worship in the Word

Watch or read Pastor Matt's message: "[I Will Continue to Rejoice.](#)"

Some families may want to watch/read the message on their own and then have a Bible study and discussion together during this time.

Application Questions for Personal Reflection and Family Discussion:

1. Why did Paul insist that he would continue to rejoice? Would I do the same thing if I were in his situation?
2. Am I prepared to die? Why or why not? If not, what do I need to do be ready?
3. Why did Paul expect to go on living at that time? What can I learn from his example for my own life right now?

8. Worship in Singing

Sing "In My Life, Lord, Be Glorified" by Bob Kilpatrick (1978).

**Option: Our church's hymnal includes 3 verses, "In my life..." "In my song..." and "in Your Church..." [The author's original](#) had a 4th verse, "In our home, Lord, be glorified." Consider adding a 5th verse that corresponds to today's message from Philippians:

"In my death, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.

In my death, Lord, be glorified, be glorified someday."

9. Worship All Week

Have someone pray a prayer of commissioning for your family as you end this time of gathered worship and face a week of new opportunities and new challenges to serve the Lord, the church, and the world in His Name.

10. Participate in LEFC Family Fellowship Meeting on Zoom.

- See one another's faces and hear each other's voices.
- Tell the group something the Lord gave to your family this week.
- Interact with Tim and Debbie McIntosh as they retire from active missionary service.
- Pray for one another live and online.

More Links to Helpful Resources

["The Joy of Psalmtooning" by Fred Sanders](#)

[Coloring Book for Kids on the Coronavirus by Nicole Rim](#)

[Words of Hope: 1 Peter 5:6-7 with Ed Welch](#)

["Is it okay for Christians to feel anxiety?" with Alisdair Groves](#)

["God Sustained Me in COVID-19, as He Did on 9/11" by Christina Ray Stanton](#)

["Even in the ICU: Why Hope Will Conquer Death" by Kathryn Butler, M.D.](#)

[Plagues and Prayer by Patrick Morley of Man in the Mirror](#)