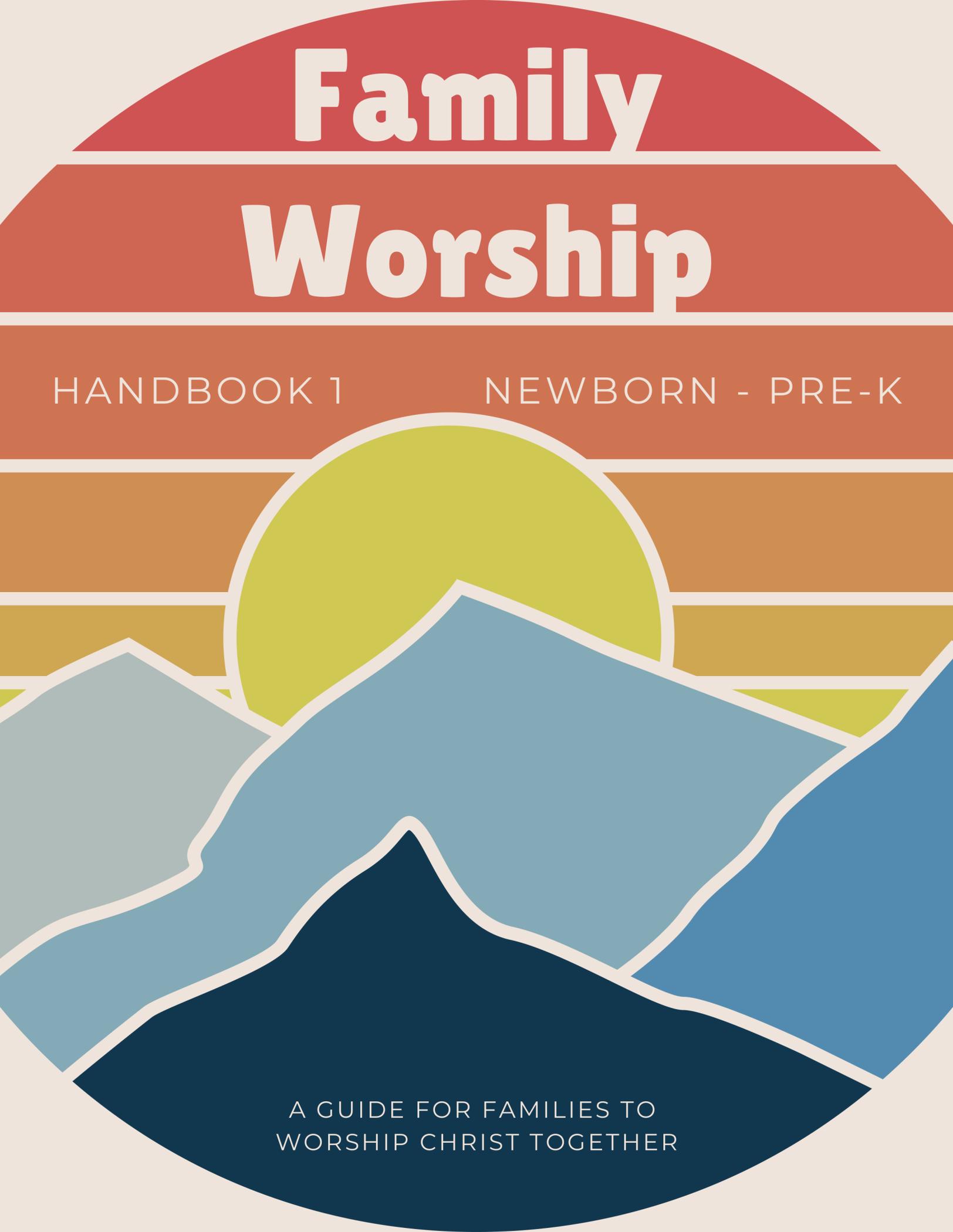


Family Worship

HANDBOOK 1

NEWBORN - PRE-K



A GUIDE FOR FAMILIES TO
WORSHIP CHRIST TOGETHER

THIS HANDBOOK BELONGS TO:



“We deeply want a revival of domestic religion. The Christian family was the bulwark of godliness in the days of the Puritans, but in these evil times hundreds of families of so-called Christians have no family worship, no restraint upon growing sons, and no wholesome instruction or discipline. How can we hope to see the kingdom of our Lord advance when his own disciples do not teach his gospel to their own children? Oh, Christian men and women, be thorough in what you do and know what you teach! Let your families be trained in the fear of God and be yourselves ‘holiness unto the Lord’; so shall you stand like a rock amid the surging waves of error and ungodliness which rage around us.”

-Charles H. Spurgeon

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INTRODUCTION

to family worship

Family Worship is, simply put, the worship of God as a family. In every generation, a particular sphere of worship has been emphasized. We have seen generations past that emphasized the corporate worship of the saints on the Lord's Day. Today, the major emphasis is on the sphere of private worship. Both of these are right and true and deserve emphasis, but the equally important sphere of family worship is often neglected.¹

Recapturing family worship is important for many reasons - instructing children in the faith, uniting the family on a spiritual level, keeping from hypocrisy, etc. However, no reason for family worship is as important as the simple fact that "God *deserves* to be worshiped daily in our homes and by our families."²

There is no magic formula or "right way" to do it. Family worship will look different depending on the family and the stage of life. What is important is that you are worshiping Christ together and seeking to make your home a place of worship.

INTRODUCTION

to handbook 1

Handbook 1 is for families who have

a child between birth and kindergarten. This resource is part of our BBC Family Ministry efforts to help equip you (Eph 4:12) for the task God has called you to: training your child to love and obey God (Deut 6:4-9).

To help guide you as you disciple your child, we have put forward 6 milestones. (See the milestone diagram on page 4.) Each milestone provides you with goals to aim at as you walk with your child down the long road from infancy to maturity.

The first Milestone is entitled *Dedication* because a child's discipleship ought to begin with the parent dedicating them to the Lord (Lk 2:21ff). The goals for you to achieve before the next milestone are: (1) develop a regular practice of church involvement, and (2) begin developing the family worship practices of reading, praying, and singing together.

To help you reach your milestone goals, this handbook provides you with (1) liturgies, or spiritual routines, to help you make time for and prioritize family worship; (2) suggested devotionals and storybooks; and (3) songs to sing together as a family. If you achieve these goals by the time your child is school-aged, your family will not only be positioned to reaching the other milestone goals, but you will be a family that is healthy and pleasing to God.

INTRODUCTION

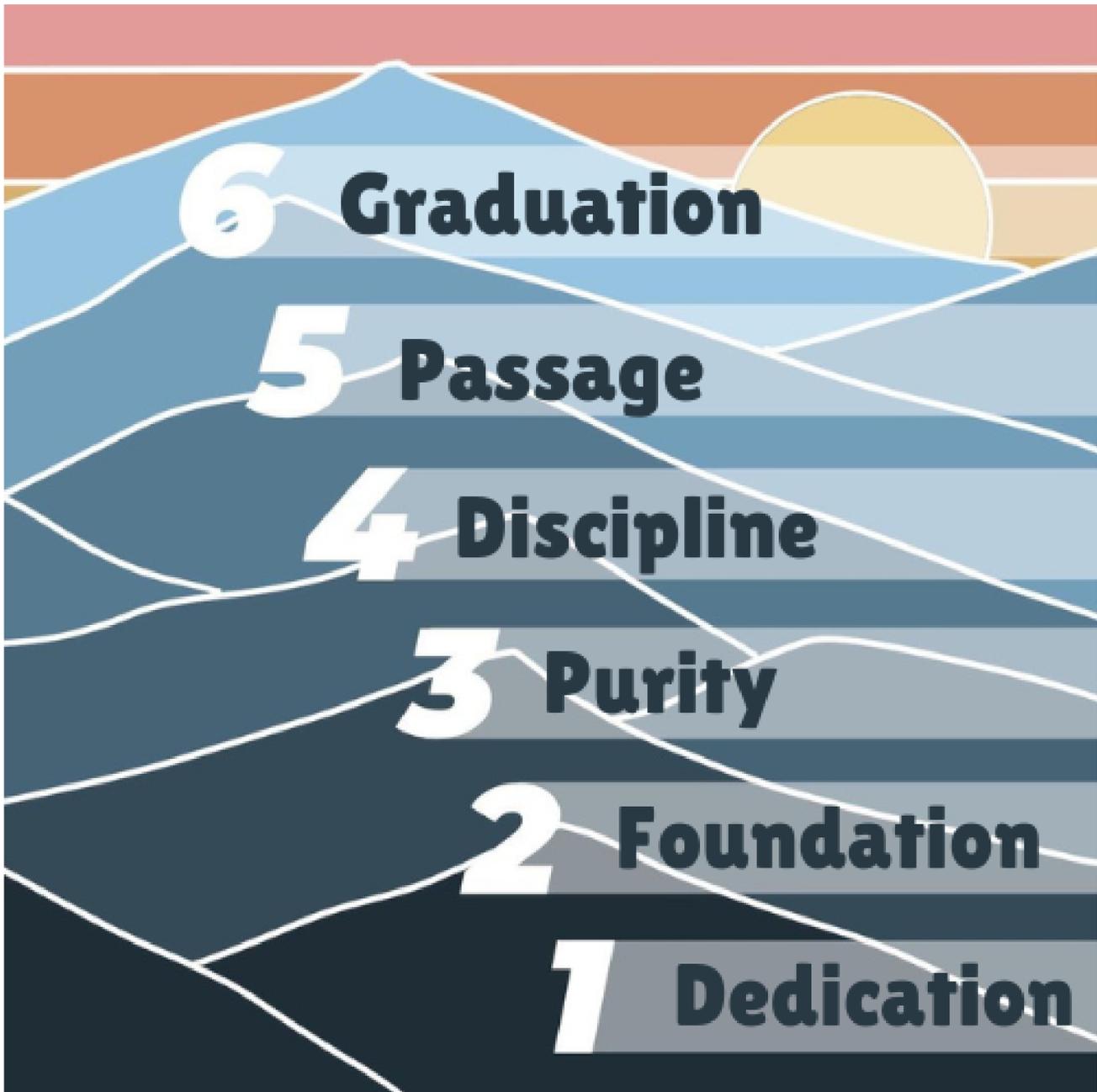
to handbook 1

Because this handbook is intended to be a guide for parents of young children in the first phase of the discipleship pathway, it assumes its readers are new and unfamiliar with family worship practices. Nothing should feel intimidating.

Starting family worship may feel awkward at first. If this is your experience, simply tell your family you want to try something new to honor the Lord together. Start small, be patient, and persevere. Before long, you will find yourself designing your own liturgies (worship routines) for the week and planning family devotions. Your family will never be the same again.

As your children age and your family matures, you should move on to the next handbooks to add fuller family devotions, richer song-singing, and catechisms to your family worship time. Lord willing, your children will come to faith, and when they are mature enough, you will begin intentional discipleship, holding them accountable to walking with Christ.

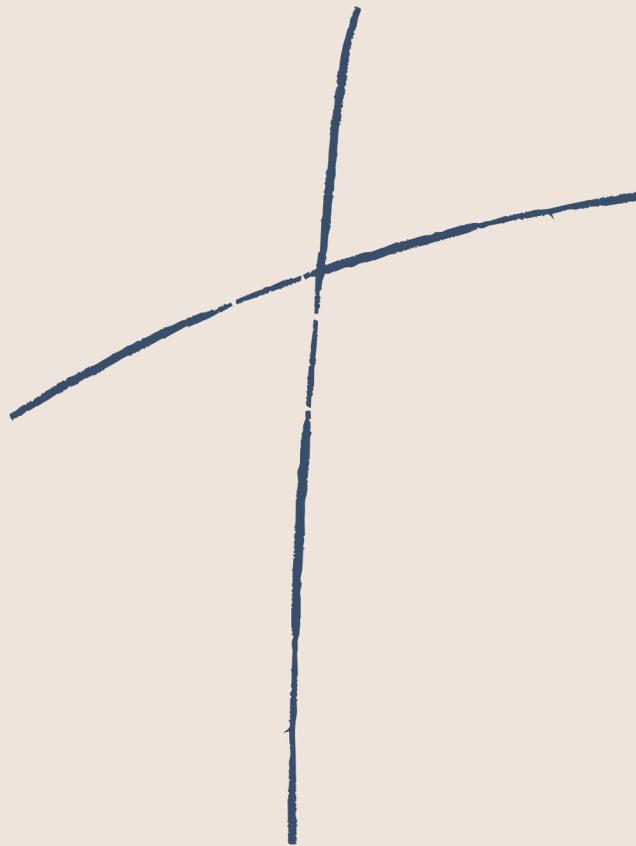
Be patient, begin small, and persevere.



Graphic: Family Ministry Milestone Strategy. Milestone 1 (Dedication) is designed for children, birth - pre-kindergarten. Children reach Milestone 2 when they enter Kindergarten. Milestone 3 is for children in 5th and 6th grade. Students reach Milestone 4 when they enter the 7th grade, and Milestone 5 when they enter high school. Upon graduation from high school, students reach Milestone 6, a milestone that stands in perpetuity.

Liturgies

PLANNING TO WORSHIP GOD

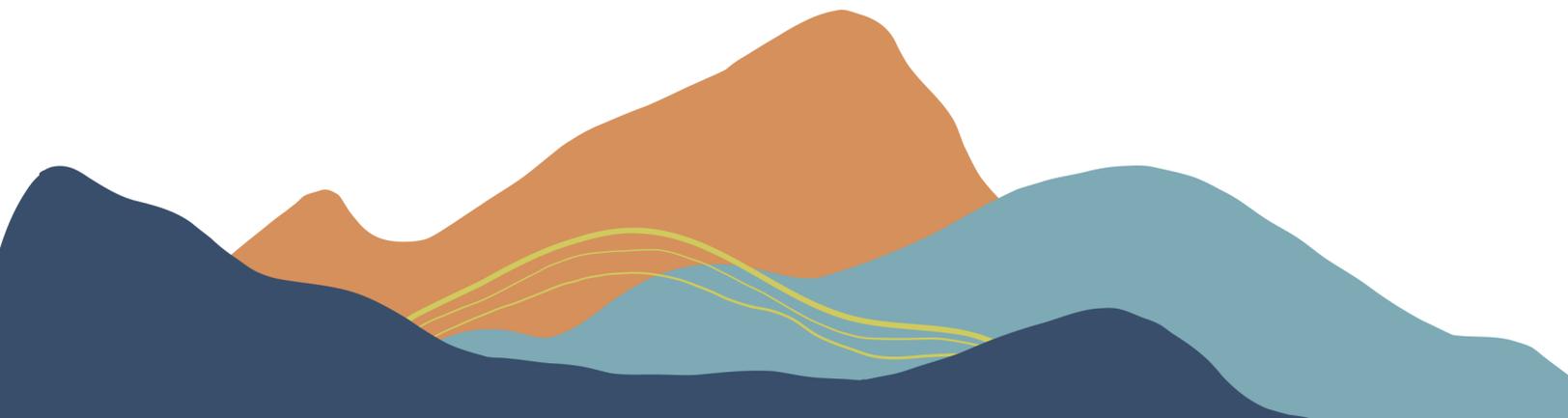


"Listen, Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be a symbol on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your city gates."

-Deuteronomy 6:4-9, CSB

"Every family ought to be, as it were, a little church."

-Jonathan Edwards



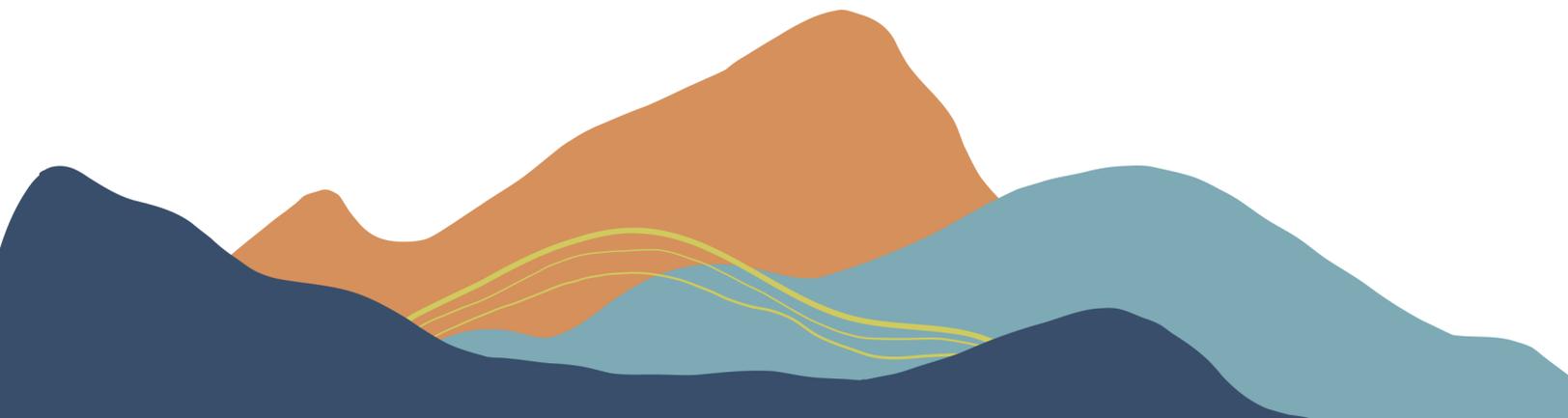
Liturgies are "little routines of worship."³

Without a routine, we are bound to drift into the unproductive state of laxity. We do not want to be rigid in our worship, but we do want to prioritize it lest we neglect it. This is the purpose of worship routines.

The first step in developing a consistent practice of family worship is finding (or making) time in your family schedule for such routines. For busy families with young children, some of the best times for family worship is right before bed and mealtimes, but we know that is not always possible for some families.

That is why we have provided a Scheduling Worksheet template that you can recreate when needed to find family worship times. Simply write out your family members' responsibilities and find the times when you all are together. Those are the times that you will gather as a family to read, pray, and sing together.

There are other times in your day that you can take advantage of for the spiritual formation of your child. Think about how you can redeem opportunities for this purpose and schedule to do so. Building worship routines such as the sample provided on page 9 will be a great blessing for your family.



LITURGY BUILDER

Scheduling Worksheet

Write down the responsibilities of each family member on a given week day below (school, work, practice, house work, etc.). Recreate for each day of the week.

Time	Parent 1	Parent 2
6:00am	-----	-----
7:00am	-----	-----
8:00am	-----	-----
9:00am	-----	-----
10:00am	-----	-----
11:00am	-----	-----
12:00pm	-----	-----
1:00pm	-----	-----
2:00pm	-----	-----
3:00pm	-----	-----
4:00pm	-----	-----
5:00pm	-----	-----
6:00pm	-----	-----
7:00pm	-----	-----
8:00pm	-----	-----
9:00pm	-----	-----
10:00pm	-----	-----

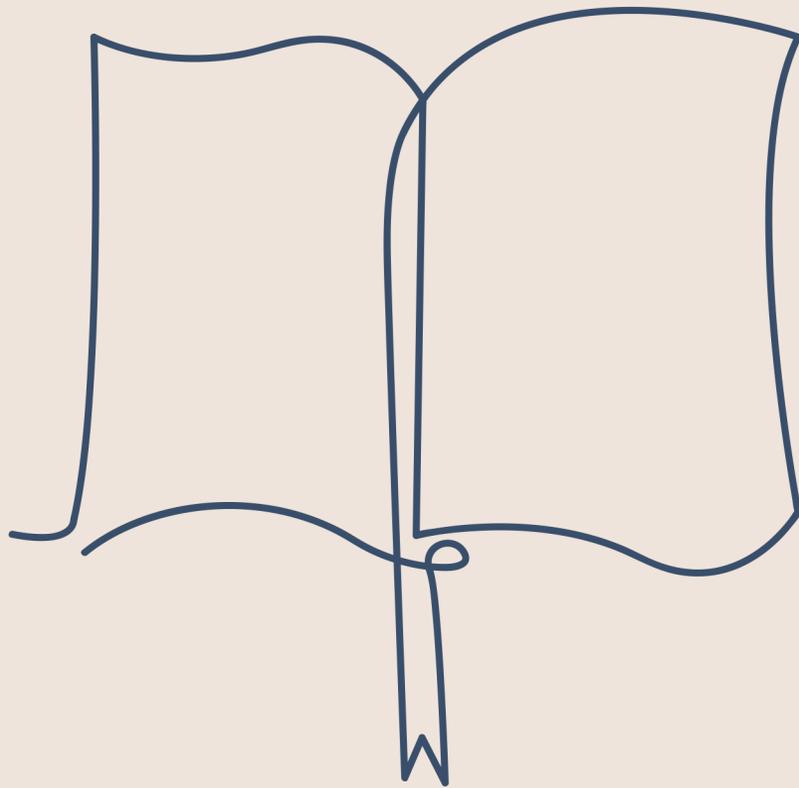
LITURGY BUILDER

Sample Liturgy

Time	Worship Routine
6:00am	----- Wake up -----
7:00am	----- Breakfast & prayer -----
8:00am	----- Begin play -----
9:00am	----- -----
10:00am	----- Sing and play -----
11:00am	----- Lunch & prayer -----
12:00pm	----- Bible story/Nap -----
1:00pm	----- -----
2:00pm	----- Resume play -----
3:00pm	----- Biblical TV show -----
4:00pm	----- -----
5:00pm	----- Dinner & prayer -----
6:00pm	----- Family worship -----
7:00pm	----- Bedtime -----
8:00pm	----- -----
9:00pm	----- -----
10:00pm	----- -----

Devotions

READING THE WORD



"Fathers, don't stir up anger in your children, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."

-Ephesians 6:4. CSB

"Let our children receive the instruction that is in Christ: let them learn how strong humility is before God, what pure love is able to accomplish before God, how the fear of Him is good and great and saves all those who live in it in holiness with a pure mind."

-1 Clement 21.8



Bible stories are written to be understood by children. Before they can ever begin to learn the deep theological truths or the plotline of the Bible, they need to learn the stories that the Bible is made of. The stories of the Bible are written in narrative, a genre tailor-made for kids. Thankfully, we have many resources that capitalize on this feature of the Bible such as Bible Storybooks.

Bible Storybooks are a great place to begin because a Bible storybook can help deliver the biblical stories both simply and accurately. Because your children have yet to learn how to read, you will be the one delivering these stories, and so you want to pick storybooks that you will also enjoy reading from.

In the following pages we have curated a number of storybooks and other resources from trusted publishers so you can begin taking the Bible in together as a family.



BIBLES & BOOKS

AGES
1 DAY TO 1 YEAR

The Word of God

THE BIGGEST STORY ABC

THE JESUS STORYBOOK (BIBLE & COLORING BOOK)

LITTLE BIBLE HEROES (FLIP-OVER BOOKS)

The Truth of God

BIG THEOLOGY FOR LITTLE HEARTS

The People of God

CHURCH HISTORY ABCS

BIBLES & BOOKS

AGES
1 YEAR TO 3 YEARS

The Word of God

THE BIG PICTURE INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORIES IN 5 MINUTES

THE PROMISES OF GOD STORYBOOK BIBLE

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE

THE GARDEN, THE CURTAIN, AND THE CROSS

THE BIGGEST STORY: HOW THE SNAKE CRUSHER BRINGS US BACK TO THE GARDEN

The Truth of God

THE LITTLE SEMINARY'S GUIDE

The People of God

*LITTLE LIGHTS
SERIES*

BIBLES & BOOKS

AGES

4 YEARS TO 7 YEARS

The Word of God

GOD WITH US: A JOURNEY HOME
THE BIGGEST STORY BIBLE STORYBOOK

The Truth of God

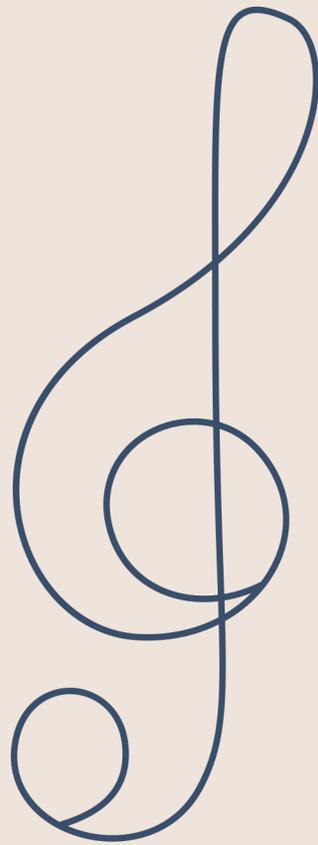
NEW CITY CATECHISM
GOD MADE BOYS AND GIRLS,
GOD'S VERY GOOD IDEA
THE OLOGY
EVERYTHING A CHILD SHOULD KNOW ABOUT GOD
HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD: 100 INDESCRIBABLE DEVOTIONS ABOUT GOD
AND SCIENCE (BOOK & LUNCHBOX CARDS)
DANGEROUS JOURNEY
PROOF PIRATES

The People of God

CHRISTIAN BIOGRAPHY FOR YOUNG
READERS SERIES

Songs

SINGING TO GOD



"Sing a new song to the Lord;
let the whole earth sing to the Lord.
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
proclaim his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations,
his wondrous works among all peoples.

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
bring an offering and enter his courts.
Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before him."

-Psalm 96:1-3, 7-9, CSB

"They that pray in the family do well; they that pray
and read the Scriptures do better; but they that pray,
and read, and sing do best of all."

-Charles H. Spurgeon



Songs soothe the soul and rhythmically influence our emotions. They are also a great help and blessing when parenting young children.

Beyond their very practical purpose, they have an instructional function as well. A good song can teach a child much about God and his Word so take advantage of the many opportunities to play and sing good songs as a family.

There are three key opportunities to take advantage of: the first is Bedtime. While settling down for bed, sing to your child(ren) and play Scripture-saturated music from groups like *Scripture Lullabies*. This group sets the text of Scripture to soft music to help de-escalate and soothe children.

The second opportunity to play music for your kids is *fun time*. When they are playing quietly in their room or when you are in the car on your way to the Zoo, there are groups that play upbeat and biblical children's songs. Some excellent groups include *Listener Kids* and *Slugs and Bugs*.

The third major occasion for music is your *family worship time*. We have included several entry-level songs for you to sing to the Lord together as a family.



DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye Heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost
Amen**

DOXOLOGY

INTRO **VERSE**

N.C. G Em $\frac{A}{C}$ Am $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{G}{C}$ D G G D Em Bm Em D G D⁷ Em

f Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Him, all crea-tures

C G D Em D G D $\frac{G}{B}$ C D G Em D Am **ENDING** $\frac{G}{B}$ D G C *rit.*

6 here be-low. Praise Him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise Fa-ther, Son and Ho-ly Ghost. A -

VERSE

Opt. Higher Song Setting *Broaden*

G $\frac{G}{B}$ D G N.C. $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{D^7}{E^b}$ E^b $\frac{D^7}{E^b}$ E^b B^bm⁷ E^b $\frac{D^7}{E^b}$ A^b A^bM⁷ B^bm⁷ C^b

12 men. Ho-ly Ghost. Praise God, from whom all

F^b G^b A^b $\frac{C}{G}$ Fm $\frac{C^7}{G}$ Em $\frac{A^b}{B^b}$ B^bm A^b G^b E^b Fm⁷ $\frac{E^b}{G}$ A^b $\frac{E^b}{B^b}$ $\frac{A^b}{C}$

18 bless-ings flow; Praise Him, all crea-tures here be-low. Praise Him a-bove, ye

D^b C Fm E^b $\frac{E^b}{G}$ A^b Fm $\frac{B^b m}{D^b}$ B^bm $\frac{A^b}{E^b}$ (opt. rit.) E^b sus E^b **ENDING** A^b sus A^b

24 heav'n-ly host; Praise Fa-ther, Son and Ho-ly Ghost.

Optional Choral Ending *molto rit.* *molto cresc.*

A^b sus A^b $\frac{D^b m}{F^b}$ C^b $\frac{C^b}{B^b}$ $\frac{D^b m}{A^b}$ $\frac{D^b m}{G^b}$ $\frac{D^b m}{F^b}$ E^bm⁷ A^b

29 Ghost. A - men, A - men!

ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING

**All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing
Oh praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam
Thou silver moon with softer gleam
Oh, praise Him! Oh, praise Him! Halleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Let all things their Creator bless
And worship Him in humbleness
Oh praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son
And Praise the Spirit, three in One
Oh, praise Him! Oh, praise Him! Halleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**All the redeemed washed by His blood
Come and rejoice in His great love
Oh praise Him! Alleluia!
Christ has defeated every sin
Cast all your burdens now on Him
Oh, praise Him! Oh, praise Him! Halleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**He shall return in power to reign
Heaven and earth will join to say
Oh praise Him! Alleluia!
Then who shall fall on bended knee
All creatures of our God and King
Oh, praise Him! Oh, praise Him! Halleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING

A F#m



1. All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us
 2. Let all things their Cre - a - tor bless and wor-ship Him in hum - ble -
 3. All the re - deemed washed by His blood, come and re - joice in His great
 4. He shall re - turn in pow'r to reign; heav - en and earth will join to

4 D A



sing, "Oh, _ praise Him! Al - le - lu - ia!" Thou, burn - ing sun with gold - en
 -ness. Oh, _ praise Him! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise, praise the Fa - ther, praise the
 love. Oh, _ praise Him! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ has de - feat - ed ev - 'ry
 say, "Oh, _ praise Him! Al - le - lu - ia!" Then who shall fall on bend - ed

8 F#m D



beam, thou, sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam, oh, _ praise Him! Oh, _
 Son and praise the Spir - it, Three - in - One. Oh, _ praise Him! Oh, _
 sin; cast all your bur - dens now on Him. Oh, _ praise Him! Oh, _
 knee? All crea-tures of our God and King! Oh, _ praise Him! Oh, _

12 A/E D F#m E A



praise Him! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise Him! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise Him! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise Him! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

HIS MERCY IS MORE

**What love could remember no wrongs we have done?
Omniscience, all-knowing, He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more**

**What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father so tender is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more**

**Praise the Lord, His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more**

**What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more**

**Praise the Lord, His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more**

I NEED THEE EVERY HOUR

**I need Thee every hour
Most gracious Lord
No tender voice like Thine
Can peace afford**

**I need Thee, O I need Thee
Every hour I need Thee
O bless me now, my Savior
I come to Thee**

**I need Thee every hour
Stay Thou nearby
Temptations lose their power
When Thou art nigh**

**I need Thee, O I need Thee
Every hour I need Thee
O bless me now, my Savior
I come to Thee**

**I need Thee every hour
In joy or pain
Come quickly and abide
Or life is vain**

**I need Thee, O I need Thee
Every hour I need Thee
O bless me now, my Savior
I come to Thee**

I NEED THEE EVERY HOUR



1. I need Thee ev - 'ry hour, most gra - cious Lord; No
 2. I need Thee ev - 'ry hour, stay Thou near by; Temp -
 3. I need Thee ev - 'ry hour, in joy or pain; Come
 4. I need Thee ev - 'ry hour, most Ho - ly One; O

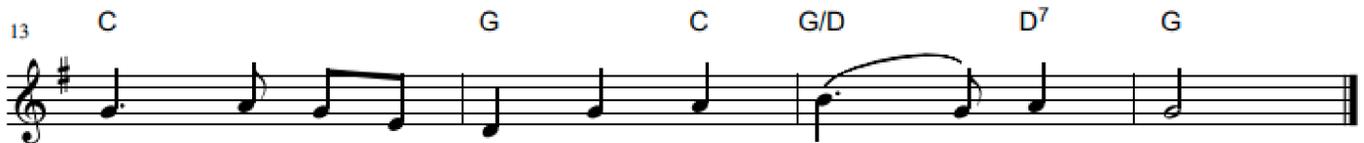
CHORUS



ten - der voice like Thine can peace af - ford. I need Thee, O I
 -ta - tions lose their pow'r when Thou art nigh.
 quick - ly and a - bide or life is vain.
 make me Thine in - deed, Thou bless - ed Son!

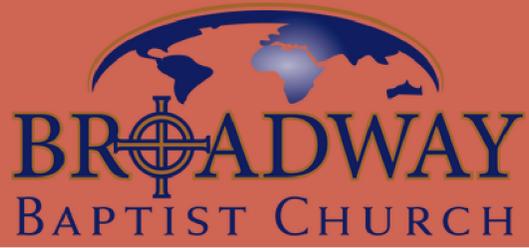


need Thee; Ev - 'ry hour I need Thee; O



bless me now, my Sav - ior, I come to Thee!

-
- 1 Jason Helopoulos, *A Neglected Grace*
 - 2 Donald S. Whitney, *Family Worship*
 - 3 Justin Whitmel Earley, *Habits of the Household*



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