



## At Home Devotion Guide

We encourage everyone to use this guide in your home this week and to adapt it to your specific household situation. This guide can be used in one sitting or can be broken up and used throughout the week.

### Sermon Reflection

**Read passage from sermon:** Matthew 9:14-17

**For young children:** Jesus' disciples did not fast because Jesus was with them in the flesh. Now Jesus' followers should fast because they long for him to return.

**For older children and adults:** Jesus' disciples did not fast while he was with them because they were to rejoice in his presence. Now that Jesus is not with us bodily, we are expected to fast. We do so because of our longing for our king to return and for a deeper communion with him in our daily lives.

**Question:** Have you ever fasted before? What was your experience like? When are you planning to fast again?

**Pray:** Ask God to give you a greater longing for the presence of Jesus.

### Weekly Catechism Questions

**For Children:** Can anyone be saved by his or her own goodness? *No. No one is good enough for God.*  
(Proverbs 20:9; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:10-23; Ephesians 2:8-10; Philippians 3:8-9)

**For older children and Adults:** What is faith in Jesus Christ? *Faith in Jesus Christ is acknowledging the truth of everything that God has revealed in his Word, trusting in him, and also receiving and resting on him alone for salvation as he is offered to us in the gospel.*

*(The New City Catechism: Q30, [http://www.newcitycatechism.com/New\\_City\\_Catechism.pdf](http://www.newcitycatechism.com/New_City_Catechism.pdf))*

**Suggested Hymn:** #641, *America the Beautiful*

## How to Use This Guide

At Bethany we recognize that worship is not just something that happens on Sunday morning. Though corporate worship is important, it is also important that we are striving to worship God in our homes on a regular basis. According to Donald Whitney, "God deserves to be worshiped daily in our homes by our families." This guide will help you to lead worship in your home.

**Scripture-** Begin by reading the passage from the sermon. Based on the ages of those involved, briefly discuss the meaning of the passage and how it applies to your lives.

**Catechism-** This is a great way to learn what the whole Bible teaches about a particular topic. Read the question, then read the answer. If possible, try to put the answer in your own words.

**Prayer-** Pray that God would help you obey and understand the truth that you just discussed.

**Sing-** If someone is able to lead in song, then take some time to sing to the Lord. The guide will provide a suggested hymn from *The Baptist Hymnal, 2008*.

Feel free to adapt this guide to your particular household situation. This is not meant to be a heavy burden. It is an aid in helping members of your household to grow in Christ.

**Families with young children-** Don't feel like your devotions have to be long and tedious. Start with short amounts of time, then get longer as the children get older.

**Families with older children-** Also, don't feel like your devotions have to be long and tedious. Avoid 'preaching' to your family. Instead, let the word of God speak for itself.

**Couples without children-** This guide is for you as well! Household devotions will help you go deeper in your study of God's word and grow together in Christ.

**Singles who live alone-** Utilize this guide as part of your regular devotion time.

Begin today! This discipline will help you and other members of your household grow in their walk with Christ. It will also aid you in passing on the faith to the next generation.