



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: Acts 7:1-53

For young children: Stephen defended the truth of God's word. He does this by giving a summary of the whole Old Testament. We should strive to stand for the truth of God's word.

For older children and adults: Stephen had been falsely charged with blaspheming the temple, Moses and the law, and thus God himself. His speech in this passage is not focused on defending himself. His focus is to boldly bring the truth to light and to bear witness to who Jesus is. He does so in a review of Israel's history – how God had dealt graciously with Israel and how Israel had repeatedly responded. We should strive to be bold and true witnesses like Stephen.

Question: Have you ever been in a situation where it was hard to stand up for the truth of God's word? How did you respond?

Pray: Ask for God to give the members of your household courage to stand up for the truth.

Weekly Catechism Questions

For Children: How can you glorify God? *Love God, and do what he commands. Why should you glorify God? He made me and takes care of me.*

(Ecclesiastes 12:13; Mark 12:29-31; Psalm 100; Revelation 4:11).

For older children and Adults: How can we glorify God? *We glorify God by enjoying him, loving him, trusting him, and by obeying his will, commands, and law.*

(*The New City Catechism: Q6*,
http://www.newcitycatechism.com/New_City_Catechism.pdf)

Suggested Hymn: #668, *Doxology*

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.