

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.

Scripture Reflection

Read passage: Acts 13:1-12

For young children: God raised up Paul and Barnabas to go and share the gospel with people all over the world. Christians today are called to continue this mission.

For older children and adults: This passage recounts the beginning of Paul's first missionary journey. God sets apart Paul and Barnabas to go to the nations showing that His heart is behind this worldwide mission. God also uses the church to raise up the two men to go the nations. Finally, God demonstrates His power over Satan by blinding the false prophet Elymas. The church today is still called to participate in God's worldwide mission.

Question: Do you know or know of anyone that God has called to be a missionary in another country? In what ways has God used them to accomplish His mission?

Pray: Pray for those you know that have been called to the nations.

Weekly Catechism Questions

For Children: What is justification? *It is God regarding sinners as if they had never sinned and granting them righteousness.* (Zechariah 3:1-5; Romans 3:23-26; 4:5; 5:17-19; 8:33; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

For older children and Adults: What do justification and sanctification mean? *Justification means our declared righteousness before God, made possible by Christ's death and resurrection for us. Sanctification means our gradual, growing righteousness, made possible by the Spirit's work in us. (The New City Catechism: Q32, http://www.newcitycatechism.com/New_City_Catechism.pdf*)

Suggested Hymn: #656, A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

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.