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 1:12-26

For young children: God is powerful and in control of all things, but God's people must always be faithful to pray and to act in light of God's word.

For older children and adults: The apostles must replace Judas who died after betraying Jesus. Someone who witnessed the resurrection of Jesus must take Judas' place. Matthias is chosen by casting lots. God's is sovereign and His plans will always be worked out according to His will, yet God's people must always be faithful to pray and to act in light of God' word.

Question: When should we pray and give thanks to God? (See 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Pray: Ask God to accomplish his purposes in your life.

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; Philippians 3:9; Hebrews 8:12).

For older children and Adults: What are the sacraments or ordinances? *The sacraments or ordinances given by God and instituted by Christ, namely baptism and the Lord's Supper, are visible signs and seals that we are bound together as a community of faith by his death and resurrection. By our use of them the Holy Spirit more fully declares and seals the promises of the gospel to us.*
(The New City Catechism: Q43, http://www.newcitycatechism.com/New_City_Catechism.pdf)

Suggested Hymn: #83, *Be Thou My Vision*

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.