

DOORPOST SONGS



FAMILY WORSHIP GUIDE

INTENTIONAL MOMENTS OF
FAMILY WORSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP

How do I help my child become a faithful follower of Christ as an adult? It's a question that is close to the heart of any Christian parent. Most parents know they have a part to play, and want to do their part, but don't know what to do or how to start.

There is no magic formula, but research, experience, and Scripture tell us there's one thing you can do for your kids that makes all the difference: teach them to love God's Word!

THESE WORDS THAT I COMMAND YOU
TODAY SHALL BE ON YOUR HEART.
YOU SHALL TEACH THEM DILIGENTLY
TO YOUR CHILDREN.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Doorpost Songs Family Worship Guides are designed to help you do just that. Each one pairs with an album of Scripture songs you won't be able to get out of your head. (And we think that's a good thing!)

All you need is fifteen minutes a week to create intentional moments of worship and discipleship with your family. (A Bible and a Doorpost Songs album wouldn't hurt either!) Let's see what happens when God's Word becomes part of your family life.



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MORE RESOURCES, MORE FAMILY WORSHIP MOMENTS.
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

WHY FAMILY WORSHIP	2
PROMISES	7
REMEMBER (1000 GENERATIONS)	13
NEW CREATION	19
HIDDEN YOUR WORD	25
LIFT YOUR HEAD	31
GOODNESS AND MERCY	37
AFTERWORD: SO WHAT NOW?	43

WHY FAMILY WORSHIP

AND HOW TO GET STARTED

In a 2017 study, Lifeway Research sought to understand which childhood behaviors were the best predictors of spiritual health as an adult. They hoped to find the answer to a question that is close to the heart of most Christian parents: how can I help my child become a faithful follower of Christ as an adult? Of course, the answer to this question can't be boiled down to a statistical formula. There is no infallible equation for raising kids whose faith becomes their own in adulthood.

But the researchers did find that one childhood behavior had more positive effect on spiritual health than any other: reading God's Word. More than any other behavior – even some you might be surprised didn't make the list – a child who reads and loves God's Word is most likely to become a spiritually vibrant adult.

I'm guessing that didn't really surprise you. After all, God has been telling us about the importance of his Word from almost the very beginning. In fact, at a pivotal point in the history of God's people, as they prepare to enter the Promised Land, comes one of the most foundational commands in all of Scripture. In Deuteronomy 6, God places a huge responsibility on parents to pass down the truth of God's Word – his promises, his commandments, his story – to their children:

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and

with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (ESV)

This scripture is the very heart of Doorpost Songs. It's an invitation to participate in God's design for generational discipleship, and the key to it all is hidden right in plain sight. If you want to help your children follow Jesus, then make God's Word a part of your everyday life, as common as sitting down or walking along, as routine as lying down or getting up, as normal as going in and out your door.

We know most Christian parents want to be spiritual leaders for their children. But many don't know exactly where to start. *I'm not a pastor. I'm not a worship leader. How can I lead my children in worship?*

Don't worry! You don't need some set of specialized skills to create a time of worship for your family! You just need a willing heart. At the core of worship is a very simple process: God reveals himself through his Word and through his presence, and we respond by worshipping. Worship doesn't require a seminary degree or musical talent. *It only requires a heart that is ready to respond to God.*

We want Doorpost Songs to be a tool for you to help create these simple moments of worship in the everyday life of your family. Start by putting the CD in your car and singing along to

these amazing truths from God's Word as you go along your way. Then carve out fifteen minutes once a week and use these family worship moments to create intentional times of worship and discipleship for you and your children.

USING the FAMILY WORSHIP MOMENTS

Each family worship moment is a template for a fifteen-minute time of worship and discipleship based around one song from the Doorpost Songs *Promises* album. Each worship moment includes a passage of scripture to read, a memory verse to learn, lyrics to the song, a short devotional in a writing style designed for your children, discussion questions, and even suggested prayer topics.

You can use all of our suggestions or come up with your own. This isn't a magic formula; it's simply a place to begin, a way for you to step into your role as the primary spiritual leader for your children. It seems like a daunting task – but it's not! Your role is simply to lead them into God's presence and then let HIM do the work! Fill your kids' lives with God's Word and watch what happens.

We want to encourage you to put this weekly time of worship on your calendar. Find a time that works for your family. It might be gathered around the breakfast table one morning each week. It might be the last few moments before bed. In our family it's usually an extension of dinner time. We all linger at the table, read a passage of scripture, talk about it, and pray together. Whatever you decide, set your appointment and keep it – even if you're tired, even it's been the most difficult of days. We promise you won't regret it!

Make your worship time interactive. If you have preschoolers, grab the plastic harmonica they got at church or the toy xylophone that's been sitting in the corner since Aunt Ruth gave it to you last Christmas. Let them play (or pound!) along and make a joyful noise. If your older children are learning to play an instrument, encourage them to learn the songs. If your child is learning to read, let him or her read a section of the scripture or devotional. Encourage every family member to participate in a time of prayer.

Parenting can be a rollercoaster of intense emotion! Sometimes it fills our hearts with incredible joy. And sometimes we feel helpless and alone. But don't forget that you are a dearly loved child of your heavenly Father! It is his calling that is on your life, and it is his power and strength that will accomplish it. Your children aren't the only ones who need to spend time in his presence. You do, too! Our prayer is that these simple moments of worship are life-giving experiences for both you and your children.

Now, call a family meeting, get out the calendars, and let's schedule a time for family worship!

PROMISES

2 CORINTHIANS 1:20

Verse

NO MATTER HOW MANY, HOW MANY PROMISES GOD MAKES
EVERY ONE IS YES IN CHRIST, WHOA
NO MATTER HOW MANY, HOW MANY PROMISES GOD MAKES
EVERY ONE IS YES IN CHRIST, WHOA
AND SO THROUGH HIM WE SAY AMEN
TO THE GLORY OF THE FATHER

Chorus

EVERY ONE IS YES, YES, YES
EVERY ONE IS YES IN CHRIST
EVERYONE IS YES, YES, YES
NO MATTER HOW MANY PROMISES
EVERY ONE IS YES

Bridge

CAUSE HE IS WITH YOU, FOR YOU, FACE IS TURNING TOWARDS YOU
THESE ARE HIS PROMISES
HE WILL DEFEND YOU, SEND YOU, SPIRIT LIVING IN YOU
THESE ARE HIS PROMISES
HE CALLS YOU SON AND DAUGHTER, GIVE YOU LIVING WATER
THESE ARE HIS PROMISES
THE ONE WHO MADE YOU, SAVED YOU, NONE CAN SEPARATE YOU
THESE ARE HIS PROMISES...AND EVERY ONE IS YES!

PROMISES

FAMILY WORSHIP MOMENT

READ IT

Read the Scripture passage aloud as a family. If your kids can read, consider having one of them read or letting them take turns reading.

2 Corinthians 1:20 (NIV)

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.

SING IT

Play the song from the *Promises* album and sing together. You can find Doorpost Songs on Spotify, Apple Music, iTunes, Amazon, and more.

MEMORIZE IT

Pick a section of the verses to memorize as a family. Use the suggestion below or choose your own.

2 Corinthians 1:20a (NIV)

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are
“Yes” in Christ.

LEARN IT

What’s the BIG IDEA?

God keeps all his promises.

A promise is a beautiful thing.

“We’ll build Legos when I get home. I promise.”

“I’m going to take care of you. I promise.”

“You’ll be alright. I promise.”

A promise gives us hope. It’s a hope that something good lies ahead, hope that we’ll be safe and secure.

But a promise can also be a dangerous thing. Sometimes people break their promises, even if they don’t intend to. When a person breaks a promise, we can feel worse than if they never promised anything at all.

In the Bible, God makes a lot of promises! The Bible tells us that God...

- ...will be with us (Deuteronomy 31:8).
- ...is for us (Romans 8:31). (In other words, God is on our side!)

- ...is turning his face toward us (Numbers 6:26). (In other words, God is blessing and caring for us.)
- ...will defend us (Isaiah 19:20).
- ...will send us to tell people about Jesus (John 20:21).
- ...lives inside of us through the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:22).
- ...calls us son and daughter (John 1:12).
- ...will fill us with living water (John 7:38). (In other words, God makes our souls come alive.)
- ...made us (Isaiah 46:4).
- ...saves us (Romans 10:13).
- ...loves us so much that nothing can ever separate us from his love (Romans 8:39).

That's a lot of promises! And that's not even the whole list!

But is God like people? Will he break his promises?

When the Apostle Paul was writing a letter to the church in a city called Corinth, he told them that God doesn't make promises like people do. His message is not "yes' and 'no'," Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 1:19. In other words, God doesn't say one thing and then do the opposite. God is faithful! "No matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ" (2 Cor. 1:20).

Yes, a promise is a beautiful thing. And the most beautiful thing about God's promises is that *every one* is true!

TALK ABOUT IT

Use the questions below or ask some of your own.

1. What are some of God's promises? Can you think of any that are not on the list above?

2. Has anyone ever broken a promise to you? How does it feel?
Has anyone ever *kept* a promise to you? How did that feel?
3. We know we can trust God's promises. How does that change the way we live?

PRAY ABOUT IT

Pray together. Here are some ideas:

- Thank God for his faithfulness.
- Thank God for his promises. You may even think of a specific promise that has been kept in your life and thank God for that promise.
- Ask God to help us remember his promises when life is difficult.
- Ask God to help us be faithful and trustworthy just like him.

DO IT

Here's one way your family can put the **BIG IDEA** into practice.

Create a Promises Chart using some of the promises above or other promises from Scripture. Talk about ways you've seen those promises come true in your life and the life of your family. Tell your kids to be on the lookout for God's promises coming true. Revisit the chart each week as a reminder and ask if anyone saw one of God's promises come true. Place a sticker or some other symbol by that promise to help show God's faithfulness to your family.