

FAMILY WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

全年家庭崇拜手冊

by

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The family is the first institution that God established. It is also the means by which to fulfill God's creation purpose: "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the [creation]" (Gen 1:28). Moses instructs the fathers of the Israelites to teach God's commandments diligently to their children when they sit in their homes (Deur 6:7). Paul in Ephesians 6:4 commands, "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." Family worship led by the father not only lets the father have an opportunity to teach the word of God, but it also increase the unity of the family. By worshipping God at home we proclaim, "Christ is the Lord of my household."

Holidays provide special opportunities for us to "remember the deeds of the LORD" (Ps 77:11). This project picks one holiday from each month so that the family can follow it throughout the whole year. All the songs can be found in *The 2008 Baptist Hymnal*. It is intended to be led by the father with whole family participating (young and old). Depending on the age of the children the father can assign different children to lead the singing or read the Scriptures. May we not hide the glorious deeds of the Lord from our children, but teach the next generation to know the law of God so that our children can set their hope in God and not forget His works but keep His commandments (Ps 78:4-7).

January - New Year's Day

1. **Songs:** Another Year is Dawning (635); In Christ Alone (506)

2. **Scripture Reading:** Psalm 90; Philippians 3:12-16

3. **Message:**

Life and time are precious gifts from God. Our life on earth is very brief compared with eternity in heaven. May Psalm 90:12 be our prayer, “So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.” By the wisdom of God we will know the purpose and goal for our life.

First, what is our goal? If we do not have a goal then we do not know where we are heading. But if set the wrong goal, we are heading in the wrong direction. Paul knows clearly that his goal is “for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Second, we should “forget what lies behind.” This means to forget our past failures; we should learn from past failures but do not let them entangle us. We also need to forget our past successes so they will not keep us from working harder.

The New Year gives us a new opportunity to review the purpose of our life and to set the goal for the year to come. Together as a family we will press on towards the goal.

4. **Sharing and Application:**

- a. Review the goal for the prior year and share the lessons gained from it.
- b. Set goals for the year as a family and an individual. (This could be contemplated during the Christmas holiday)
- c. At the end, write down specific goals for following up and see how God leads in accomplishing the goals.

5. **Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for the New Year. May you grant us wisdom, endurance, and focus for the coming year. Bless the goals of our family and each individual so that we can grow to be more like you. Amen

February - President's Day

1. **Songs:** Eternal Father, Strong to Save (643); If my people will pray (430)
2. **Bible Reading:** Proverbs 8:12-16; 21:1; 29:2, 4, 12, 14; 1 Timothy 2:1-2
3. **Message:**

President's day is for us to remember the great presidents we have had, especially George Washington. Washington was a president who knew the importance of prayer. Before he left home for serving the government his mother instructed him, "Remember that God is our only sure trust. To Him, I commend you ... My son, neglect not the duty of secret prayer." In June 1774, as the Colonies were seeking God's will whether they should break ties with England, He made this entry in his diary: "Went to church and fasted all day."

In his farewell speech Washington spoke about the importance of religion and morality for our nation: "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, *religion* and *morality* are indispensable supports." (emphasis added)

On this President's Day let us pray especially for our president and all the leaders in our government because God commands us to pray for "kings and all who are in high positions" that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way."

4. **Sharing and Application:**

- a. Assign one child to share the story of George Washington beforehand.
- b. Everyone share about his favorite president.
- c. Plan to visit some memorial site for a former president.

5. **Prayer:**

Dear God, you are the King of kings and Lord of lords. From your authority you ordain kings and rulers. On this President's Day we pray especially for our president _____ and government officials, May they fear the Lord and lead our country with justice and wisdom. Amen

March – St Patrick Day

1. Songs: Be Thou my vision (83); God will make a way (85)

2. Scriptures Reading: Acts 16:1-15; Romans 10:13-18

3. Message:

God is the one who calls and sends people to share the Gospel. God does not need us but He chooses people to carry out the work for him. The book of Acts does not end at chapter 28; it continues to this day. We are all still in Acts 29 -one church planting organization calls itself “Acts 29.”

Young Patrick was kidnapped to Ireland at age fifteen. For six years he was enslaved and served as shepherd. Yet he was never alone; the faith he learned from childhood grew real to him. One day he heard the voice of God telling him to escape. Miraculously he was able to return home and became a great theologian. But he never forgot the “barbarians” he saw in Ireland. Like Paul, God revealed the vision of Macedonia to him. Patrick saw a vision of the Irish people calling him to “come back and walk once more among us.” He followed the call and devoted the rest of his life to the people who kidnapped him. There are many legends surrounding the life of Patrick in Ireland. But, most importantly, because of his obedience; Patrick brought the Gospel to the entire nation of Ireland. It was the Irish monasteries that preserved the civilization of the West during the collapse of the Roman Empire. As we celebrate St. Patrick’s Day, we should remember the work of God in the history and the life of St. Patrick.

4. Sharing and Applications:

- a. Have a child prepare to share the customs and history of Ireland in advance.
- b. Share some legends or stories of St. Patrick.
- c. Will we go to a foreign land when God call us? How can we prepare for that?

5. Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you that your salvation is for all nations and all tribes. Thank you for sending missionaries all over the world to advance your kingdom. May you continue to send people out and may we be ready to be sent out also. Amen

April – Easter

1. **Songs:** The Power of the Cross (232); Because He Lives (449);
2. **Bible Reading:** John 20:1; 1 Corinthians 15:3-6
3. **Message:**

Easter is the most important day for Christianity. Early Christians worshiped on Sunday to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The resurrection is a historical fact as recorded in John 21. In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul writes that the Gospel is: Christ died for our sins, buried and rose on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ reveals three important meanings:

- a. **Victory over death:** 1 Corinthians 15:55
We are freed from the reign of death and are no longer subject to it.
- b. **A new life:** Romans 6:3-4
The power of resurrection gives us power to live a new life.
- c. **Hope for the future:** 1 Corinthians 15:22
Jesus is the first fruit of resurrection. One day we will be all like him and raised from the death.

4. **Sharing and Application:**

- a. Let the parents and the children who have already been baptized share their testimony again and their spiritual walk with Christ.
- b. This is a good opportunity for the father to present the Gospel and invite his children to accept Jesus as their Savior.

5. **Prayer:**

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for sending your only Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins and raise him from the dead so that we can have eternal hope. May the power of resurrection live in our life and transform our lives, so that we can live a life worthy of the calling we have received. Amen

May - Mother's Day

1. **Songs:** Rejoice in the Lord Always (586); Fairest Lord Jesus (47)
2. **Bible Reading:** Gen 2:18-24; 1 Sam 1; 2 Tim 1:5; Prov 31:10-31
3. **Message:**

Today is Mother's Day. We thank God for giving us a mother's love and care. We will learn from three different mothers in the Bible:

- a. Eve - Her husband's helper: Gen 2:18-24

To be a mother is first to be a wife - a suitable helper for her husband. Being a helper does not make a wife inferior to her husband. It is God who ordains different functions and roles for the husband and wife.

- b. Hannah - A mother of prayer: 1 Sam 1

Hannah turns to God when she is in bitterness and she also dedicates her son to God.

- c. Timothy's mother and grandmother: 2 Tim 1:5

Passing the spiritual heritage to children is the best gift they can receive.

4. **Sharing and Applications:**

- a. Let everyone give thanks to the mother and ask how he or she can be more helpful.
- b. Let girls share what type of wife and mother they want to be.
- c. Let boys to share what type of wife they want to marry.
- d. Parents should share how they came to know each other

5. **Prayer:**

Dear Lord, thank you for giving us such a wonderful mother. May you especially bless her today. Give her your favor and success in whatever she does. May our girls grow up to be godly mothers and may our boys marry godly women. Amen

June - Father's Day

1. **Songs:** God, Give Us Christian Homes (653); Rise Up, O Men of God (373)

2. **Scripture Reading:** Proverbs 17:6

3. **Message:**

The father is the key figure for the home, church and society. Today we will learn four different characteristics related to fatherhood:

a. **Father's Role:** Ephesus 5:23-25

The father is the head of the family. This means that he is the leader of the home. The first step for a father to lead is to love his wife like Christ loved the church and gave himself up for church.

b. **Father's job:** Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21

Do not: exasperate your children.

Do: bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

c. **Father's blessing:** Genesis 27:34; Matthew 3:16-17

The father's blessing has spiritual power over children

d. **Father's heart:** Malachi 4:5-6

Our society is experiencing this curse because many fathers do not turn their hearts to their children.

4. **Sharing and Applications:**

a. Let everyone take turn to give thanks to the father.

b. Let Parents share their parents' stories and photos so that the children can know their heritage.

5. **Prayer:**

Let the father give a blessing to each child. Follow the pattern from Matthew 3:17: "*This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.*"

July - Independence Day

- 1. Songs:** Star-Spangled Banner (644); My country tis of thee (646)
- 2. Scripture Reading:** Psalm 33; 2 Chronicles 7:14
- 3. Message:**

The Declaration of Independence is the birth certificate of our nation. It states clearly that all human beings are created by God and that our rights are unalienable because they come from God. The Christian faith plays a key role in our country. There is no doubt that America was founded on Judeo-Christian principles. Many documents, statues, and historical sites still testify to this truth.

- The Inscription on the Liberty Bell is from Leviticus 25:10, "Proclaim liberty throughout the land and to all the inhabitants thereof."
- "In God we Trust" is our national motto and is printed on our coins and bills.
- The Ten Commandments and Moses are seen in many places on our Supreme Court building.
- Congress starts meetings with prayers; This tradition began in the year 1774.
- When Presidents and other federal officials take their oaths of office, they often place their hand on a Bible and conclude their oaths with the words "so help me God".

Christianity can have such strong influence in our country because there are many God-fearing Christians in this land. Thus we have seen God's blessing upon this land. But as our nation is moving away from God, we need our nation to return to God.

4. Sharing and Applications:

- a. Read a portion of The Declaration of Independence and try to find how many names of signers you know.
- b. Try to name other examples of Christian heritage in America.
- c. Plan to visit some historical site demonstrating America's Christian heritage.

5. Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for your blessing upon this country throughout history. Please forgive us when we turn away from you when we are prosperous. We humble ourselves and turn from our wicked ways. May you hear our prayer and heal this land. Amen

August - Missions Day (Hudson Taylor)

1. **Songs:** We've a story to tell to the nations (356); People need the Lord (359)
2. **Scriptures Reading:** Mt 9:35-38; 28:18-20
3. **Message:**

In 1860, Hudson Taylor, the founder of the China Inland Mission, wrote to his sister:

“If I had a thousand pounds China should have it- if I had a thousand lives, China should have them. No! Not China, but Christ. Can we do too much for Him? Can we do enough for such a precious Savior?”

Hudson Tyler sailed for China at the age of twenty-one and spent fifty-one years in China. His descendents continue to work among the Chinese up to this day. When the interior of China was finally opened to Westerners, he found no mission organization willing to support him, so he started CIM in 1865. Through CIM thousand of missionaries were brought into China. He did give China more than a thousand lives.

Before ascending back to heaven Jesus gave the Great Commission to the disciples commanding them to make disciples of all nations. Missions is God's heartbeat. When Jesus saw the crowds, “he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd”. The reason why God keeps Christians in this world is because of missions. The purpose of the Church is to carry out this Great Commission. In heaven there is no mission work to do. May we catch the heart of Christ and get involved in missions.

4. **Sharing and Applications:**
 - a. Discuss who we should share the Gospel with and what action we should take.
 - b. Prepare and pray to join an overseas short-term mission trip.
 - c. Share which country or place that God has put burden on you and why.
5. **Prayer:**

Dear Lord, we thank you for your salvation through Jesus Christ. May we see your heart for the lost and get involved in missions locally and globally. We want to see all nations and all tribes come to the knowledge of God. Amen

September – The Feast of Trumpets (Jewish New Year)

1. **Songs:** All Creatures of Our God and King (11); The King Is Coming (291)

2. **Scripture Reading:** Psalm 81; Lev 23:23-25

3. **Message:**

The Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah: literally is the “Head or beginning of the year) is the new year of the Jewish civil calendar. It is signified by the blowing of the trumpet (shofar: ram’s horn). Jews believe this day is the birthday of the world.

The blowing of trumpets has the following significances:

- a. Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of Creation; we give praise and glory to the Creator. “With trumpets and sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord” (Ps 98:6).
- b. The holiday reminds us of the grace of God to Abraham when God prepared a ram to substitute Isaac. Isaac is the foreshadow of Christ. (Heb 11:17-19).
- c. The trumpet is used during war. It reminds us that we Christians are in spiritual warfare. However, since we know that Jesus has defeated Satan, when we put on Christ we will triumph over the enemies (Eph 6:11-13).
- d. The holiday reminds us of the return of Christ. With the sounding of the trumpets of God, Christ will descend from heaven and we will meet the Lord in the air. (1 The 4:16-17)

4. **Sharing and Applications:**

- a. Buy a toy trumpet or make a paper shofar for little children to blow.
- b. What spiritual war are we fighting as a family and an individual? How can we put on the armor of God to fight?
- c. How can we be better stewards of God’s creation?

5. **Prayer:**

Dear God, You are the Creator of the world. We thank You and praise You for Your wonderful work of creation. We thank You that You promised that Christ will come again to bring us into Your new heaven and new earth. Amen

October - Reformation Day

- 1. Songs:** A Mighty Fortress is Our God (656); O Church Arise (663)
- 2. Scriptures Reading:** Romans 5:1-11
- 3. Message:**

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther, a priest and professor at the university of Wittenberg, Germany, posted the Ninety-five Theses on the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg. This act opened the curtain of the Reformation. Luther had been bothered by the corruption of the Roman Catholic Church. The triggering issue was the selling of Indulgences. The Catholic Church believes that purgatory is a place for the dead to pay off his or her debt of sin before going to heaven. The Church at that time encouraged people to buy indulgences for their deceased relatives to shorten the relatives' time in purgatory.

Luther never intentioned to start a revolution; the theses were just intended for debate. However many people were waiting the first shot. In a very short time the Reformation had spread across the entire continent of Europe. Luther affirmed that Christians are saved by faith not by works. When Luther stood before the emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, he was ordered to retract his published views. He refused and stood firm saying, "Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me. Amen."

Luther devoted the rest of his life to church reform. Besides translating the Bible into German, he also composed many hymns. God use one man "accidentally" to accomplish His great purpose.

- 4. Sharing and Applications:**
 - a. Share an experience when we have had to stand firm for the truth.
 - b. Where might God call upon us to stand up for His truth? How can we prepare for it?
- 5. Prayer:**

Dear God, thank you for protecting and leading your Church. Thank you for sending your Son Jesus Christ die for us, so that we can be saved faith and not by works. We thank God for Luther who spoke up and stood firm for the truth. May we be like Luther and speak for Your truth today. Amen

November – Thanksgiving

1. Songs: Great is thy faithfulness (96); Give Thanks (576)

2. Scriptures Reading: Psalm 103

3. Message:

On September 16, 1620, a group of Pilgrims in pursuit of religious freedom left from England for the New World (modern day America) on a ship called the "Mayflower". After a few months of rough voyage, they finally landed in Massachusetts on December 26 and established Plymouth Colony.

Life was hard in the New World. Out of 103 Pilgrims, fifty-one died in the first terrible winter. When spring came, they became acquainted with some Indians. Among them was Squanto who was kidnapped and enslaved in Europe. But a Christian monk bought him and taught him English and the Christian faith. Finally Squanto made his way home, only to find that his entire tribe had been wiped out by a plague brought by the European explorers. But God's providence prepared and preserved Squanto just in time for the Pilgrims. Fluent in English, Squanto taught the Pilgrims how to survive in the new land. After the first harvest was completed, the Pilgrims invited the Indians to celebrate together and give thanks to the Lord.

4. Sharing and Applications:

- a. Let parents share about the time when they first arrived in America.
- b. Let everyone share about what he or she is thankful to God for.
- c. Share words of appreciation to one another.

5. Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for being with us in every stage of our lives. In good times or difficult times, we know You are with us and guiding us. Help us to give thanks to you and to trust in you always, even in times of trouble. May we become a people who always give thanks and trust in You. In Jesus' Name, Amen

December – Christmas

1. **Songs:** Joy to the World (181); O Come, All Ye Faithful (199); Silent Night (205)

2. **Scriptures Reading:** Luke 2:1-19

3. **Message:**

History is His Story:

Caesar Augustus was ruling, but God was in charge. God caused Caesar to do the census that fulfilled His prophecy of Jesus' birth. Proverbs 21:1 says "The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases."

We can learn the following lessons from Jesus' birth:

a. Good news for all (v10-11)

The birth of Jesus is a great joy because Jesus is Savior, the Christ, the Lord, and is for all the people.

b. "Let us go and see" (v15)

We have learned the good news but we need to take action to go and see. The shepherds hurried off to see Jesus without delay.

c. Spread the good news (v17)

We need to share the good news to other people.

d. Return with a new spirit (v20)

When we find God (or God finds us) we will be filled with joy and return with a new spirit.

4. **Sharing and Applications:**

a. Let parents share the experience and photos when each child was born.

b. Let everyone share his or her favorite Christmas experience.

c. How we can make room for Jesus in our heart?

5. **Prayer:**

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to die for our sins. Thank you Jesus, you are the King of kings and the Lord of lords yet were born in a manger. May we not only make you our Lord in our heart but also share the good news to other. Amen

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Trumpeter Ministries Inc.

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二、集結行動

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英文每日靈修

Monday – Friday 週一到週五:

1) 8 am - 8:40 am EST (5 am PST, 7 am CST, 8 pm 北京)

2) 5 pm - 5:40 pm EST (2 pm PST, 4 pm CST, 5 am 北京 週二到週六)

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三、一起爭戰

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四、一同歡慶

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1. 支票 By check :

Title: Trumpeter Ministries Inc.

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Pastor Lenny Cheng 鄭立新牧師從小成長於台灣, 在高中時決志信主, 為第二代基督徒. 赴美取得電腦碩士後, 於紐約金融界擔任電腦工程師多年。2001年起擔任帶職英文堂區牧, 2007年蒙召至美南浸信會神學院進修道學碩士, 2010年至2021年六月擔任紐約豐收靈糧堂英文堂牧師。2021年七月開創「吹號者事工 Trumpeter Ministries」推廣: 「搶救下一代」、 「每日靈修」、 「聖經世界觀」和「在家教育」等事工。鄭牧師與師母育有四個成年女兒並皆在家教育(homeschooling, k-12)。

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