

Household Worship Guide Aug 23 – Aug 29, '26

This household worship guide is designed to complement our Lord's Day sermons. Its purpose is to help focus your heart, mind, and life on the preached Word throughout the week, seamlessly connecting your household worship with our church's gathered worship.

We aim to enhance your thoughtful hearing of God's Word and encourage its deep meditation, so that it might truly take root in your lives. Therefore, during the early part of the week, this guide will help you reflect on the truths proclaimed on the Lord's Day just past. This reflection helps to solidify the Word's spiritual impact. Then, as the week progresses, we will turn our attention to the upcoming Lord's Day, preparing our hearts and minds. In this rhythm, we celebrate each Lord's Day as the pinnacle of our week.

Corporate worship is vital. It prepares us for the week ahead and offers a precious foretaste of our heavenly fellowship. Yet, our worship extends beyond the church gathering. This guide also encourages regular worship of God, both as families and as individuals, throughout the week.

FAITH BIBLE CHURCH (OPC)

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Prepare your heart for worship: Take a few moments of quiet before the service. Pray that the Lord would open your ears to hear His Word, soften your heart to receive it, and strengthen your will to obey it.

AM Sermon	Matthew 14:34-15:20 - <i>What Really Makes You Unclean</i>										
PM Sermon	Psalms 51:1-17 - <i>The Sacrifice God Refuses</i>										
Read the sermon text(s), then discuss one or more of these questions	- What is the main idea of the sermon(s)? - In one sentence how did the sermon(s) impact you? - Which of the following did you find in the sermon(s)?<table><tr><td>A sin to confess</td><td>An example to follow</td></tr><tr><td>An error to avoid</td><td>A command to obey</td></tr><tr><td>A promise to claim</td><td>A prayer to pray</td></tr><tr><td>A blessing to enjoy</td><td>A warning to heed</td></tr><tr><td>A fault to abandon</td><td>A principle to live</td></tr></table> Something new (to you) about God, Christ, or yourself?	A sin to confess	An example to follow	An error to avoid	A command to obey	A promise to claim	A prayer to pray	A blessing to enjoy	A warning to heed	A fault to abandon	A principle to live
A sin to confess	An example to follow										
An error to avoid	A command to obey										
A promise to claim	A prayer to pray										
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- Is there something that 'shines' from the text—whatever impacts most, or draws attention? - Is there something you don't understand, or a question the text raises in your mind? - Is there a personal application to your life? - Is there something you plan to share with someone else—and who will you share it with? - How do ideas in the text interrelate? Or with other passages in this book—or in the whole Bible? - How do you see Jesus Christ in the text?											
Praise	Psalms 130:1-6 (waiting on the Lord for mercy)										
Pray	- Pray that you would hide the word read and preached in your hearts, and bring forth its fruit in your lives. - Pray for a member of our church, for your family, and for a non-Christian friend/family member.										

Reading	Isaiah 29:13-14 - True worship requires a transformed heart rather than empty, hypocritical religious performance.
Keys	• Honoring God with lips while the heart wanders far is not worship but rebellion in disguise. • Human traditions elevated to divine authority quietly dethrone the very God they claim to serve. • True wisdom hides itself from those who trade humble hearing for polished, self-assured religion.
Questions	1. Where have I mistaken careful religious habit for actual nearness to the God I claim to worship? 2. What tradition do I defend more fiercely than I defend the plain command of Scripture itself? 3. If God searched only my heart this morning, would He find worship there, or performance?
Notes	Isaiah's word to Judah is Matthew's word to us, exposing lips that honor God while the heart wanders far, a wound only the gospel Jesus preached at Gennesaret can heal. Many of us have mistaken careful habit for nearness to God, and that confusion has cost us more than we know. We often defend inherited custom more fiercely than we defend Christ's own plain word, and this is a subtler idolatry than we like to admit. A heart searched honestly this morning would likely show far more performance than worship, and that discovery should sober rather than shame us. Take heart, weary saint, for the Lord who exposes this lip-service does not despise you for it. He sent His own Son to purchase the very heart-devotion you cannot manufacture. Lay down the polished form and come to Him now with the plain, unadorned cry of a sinner who needs washing, not applause.
Praise	Psalms 50:7-15 (God desires sincere thanksgiving)
Pray	1. Lord, expose the ways I replace your truth with empty human traditions. 2. Pray for a specific application or give thanks for change in you from last Lord's Day's sermons. 3. Grant [Name] a pure heart, and open the blind eyes of [Name].

Reading	Psalm 139:23-24 - God alone can expose the hidden sins that defile our hearts and lead us astray.
Keys	• Every sinful action flows directly from a corrupt and desperately wicked heart. • We constantly blame external circumstances for the darkness residing within our souls. • Divine grace alone can purify the polluted well of human desires.
Questions	1. What evil thought have I excused as harmless simply because no one else witnessed it? 2. Do I fear external contamination more than the corruption already residing within my own chest? 3. Am I willing to let God search me, or do I prefer searching myself and stopping short?
Notes	Jesus taught in Matthew 15 that evil thoughts, murder, adultery, and slander proceed from the heart before they ever reach the hand or the tongue, which is exactly the terrain David begs God to search in this Psalm. We excuse private thoughts as harmless far too easily, forgetting that no one else needs to witness them for God to see. Most of us fear outward contamination more than the corruption already lodged in our own chest, which is precisely backward. Self-examination alone flatters us, because we stop searching exactly where the discovery would cost us something. Do not recoil from this searching, dear saint, for the God who examines you already loves you in Christ before He finds a single fault. He examines you to heal, not to condemn. Bring Him your anxious thoughts and hidden ways this very hour, and cast every discovered idol on the cross where Jesus already bore its guilt.
Praise	Psalm 19:11-14 (Cleansing from hidden faults)
Pray	1. Search my heart, Lord, and root out the hidden sins that defile me. 2. Pray for a specific application or give thanks for change in you from last Lord's Day's sermons (make it unique). 3. Purify the inner desires of [Name], and grant new life to [Name].

Reading	Jeremiah 31:31-34 - God promises a new covenant where he writes his law directly upon our transformed hearts.
Keys	• David's plea for a clean heart previews a covenant no sinner could ever self-produce. • Old covenant sacrifice could soothe conscience temporarily but never rewrite the heart's true affections. • New covenant obedience flows from a heart already changed, not toward a heart hoping to change.
Questions	1. Do I still treat sanctification as my project to complete rather than grace already given? 2. Where have I substituted external religious performance for the inward transformation only God can grant? 3. Am I trusting my own resolve to keep God's law, or trusting the covenant Christ already kept?
Notes	David's plea for a clean heart in Psalm 51 is the very mercy Jeremiah promises later, a covenant where God Himself writes obedience rather than leaving it to human willpower. Many of us still treat sanctification as our own unfinished project rather than grace already at work beneath the surface. We substitute polished external performance for the inward transformation only the Spirit can produce, and that substitution never satisfies. Your slow, halting growth this year is not proof of failure but evidence of a covenant kept on your behalf by another. You who feel the gap between the law's demand and your daily failure, take heart, for the new covenant was cut precisely for people who cannot keep the old one. Rest your whole confidence in Christ, who fulfilled the covenant you break, and ask Him again tonight for the clean heart only He can give.
Praise	Psalm 103:8-12 (God removes our transgressions)
Pray	1. Father, thank you for writing your law on my heart and forgetting my sin. 2. Pray for a specific application or give thanks for change in you from last Lord's Day's sermons (make it unique). 3. Renew the weary spirit of [Name], and draw the rebellious heart of [Name].

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Thu Aug 27

Reading	Matthew 15:21-24 - Christ intentionally tests our faith to expose our deep need for his sovereign mercy.
Keys	• Christ's silence is never absence, though it feels indistinguishable from rejection in the moment. • The woman's persistence exposes whether our faith clings to Christ or merely to quick answers. • Being outside Israel's covenant never disqualifies a heart that cries out for mercy.
Questions	1. Do I mistake God's silence for His absence, and quietly stop praying when answers delay? 2. Would my faith survive if Christ seemed to ignore me the way He first ignored her? 3. Do I secretly believe some people are too far outside grace for Christ to help them?
Notes	Jesus's delay toward this Gentile woman tests whether her faith rests on quick answers or on Him alone, the same heart-level faith this week's sermons pressed upon us regarding true cleanness. Many of us mistake silence for absence and quietly stop praying when God delays. Our faith would likely crumble under this woman's test, since we cling more to answers than to Christ Himself. Some of us secretly write off certain people as too distant from grace, forgetting that no one stands outside the reach of a Savior who came seeking exactly such outsiders. Take heart, weary intercessor, for the Christ who seemed silent toward her was already moving toward mercy the whole time. He is no less faithful toward you in this present delay. Cast your impatience on Him now, and keep asking until the answer comes.
Praise	Psalm 86:1-5 (Prayer of a poor and needy soul)
Pray	1. Lord, grant me the persistent humility to seek your mercy despite my unworthiness. 2. Pray for the preparation for preaching God's word this Sunday. 3. Deepen the trusting faith of [Name], and shatter the stubborn pride of [Name].

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Fri Aug 28

Reading	Matthew 15:25-28 - Genuine faith humbly accepts God's harsh verdicts and turns them into pleas for grace.
Keys	• Great faith does not demand a full table, only a genuine crumb from Christ's hand. • Humility before Christ, not pedigree or status, is what He calls great faith. • Christ commends persistence that keeps kneeling even after receiving a hard answer.
Questions	1. Would I still call it faith if all Christ ever gave me were crumbs? 2. Do I equate great faith with great blessing, rather than with great clinging to Christ? 3. Have I ever walked away from Christ offended, when kneeling longer would have brought the answer?
Notes	This woman's crumb-faith answers the very question this week's sermons raised about what actually makes someone clean before God, since her humility, not her pedigree, is what Christ calls great. Most of us would stop calling it faith the moment the answers shrank to crumbs. We quietly equate great faith with great blessing, when Christ defines it instead by great clinging. Too many of us have walked away offended at a hard providence, when kneeling a little longer was exactly what stood between us and the mercy already extended. Beloved, Christ delights to meet even crumb-sized faith with a whole harvest of mercy, because He delights in you far more than your discouragement admits. Do not rise from your knees too soon. Keep asking Him for the mercy He is already inclined to give.
Praise	Psalms 145:14-19 (The Lord upholds all who are falling)
Pray	1. Pray that your household would imitate this woman's humble, persistent faith rather than walking away offended by hard providences. 2. Pray for your own heart's readiness to hear God's word preached this Sunday, that distraction and self-sufficiency would not choke the seed sown. 3. Grant relentless prayer to [Name], and reveal Christ's beauty to [Name].

Household Worship Guide

Sat Aug 29

Reading	Deuteronomy 23:3-6 - God's holy justice rightly excludes rebels, magnifying the scandalous grace shown to outsiders later.
Keys	• Old covenant boundary lines existed to guard, not to permanently exclude, a repentant heart. • Grace overturning a Moabite exclusion previews the wider gospel welcome fulfilled in Christ. • No lineage or history disqualifies a heart that turns in genuine faith toward God.
Questions	1. Do I quietly believe my past disqualifies me more than Scripture's own record of grace suggests? 2. Where have I built boundary lines around who deserves welcome that God Himself later erased? 3. Am I more impressed by pedigree than by the humble faith God actually delights to honor?
Notes	This old covenant boundary against Moabites sets up the very grace that welcomes Ruth, a foreigner, into the Messiah's line, echoing this week's whole theme that true cleanness before God has never been about ancestry or status. Many of us quietly believe our past disqualifies us more than Scripture's own record allows. We build boundary lines around who deserves welcome, then watch God erase them by His own sovereign design. We are far more impressed by pedigree than He is, since He has always delighted to honor humble faith over impressive lineage. Take heart, outsider and insider alike, for the God who wrote this law is the same God who fulfilled it in mercy toward a Moabite widow. No history disqualifies you from Him. Come now in faith, and let Him write your name into the story of grace.
Praise	Psalms 87:1-6 (nations gathered into Zion)
Pray	1. Lord, strike me with the awe of your holiness and the wonder of grace. 2. Pray for the reading and preaching of God's word tomorrow. 3. Keep [Name] steadfast in grace, and awaken the dead conscience of [Name].