

Together For Worship -Mark 4:1 -20

A guide to worship as a family in your home

Set aside a time when everyone in your family is ready for a time of worship together in your home. Also, make sure to read through the text first before you begin.

Pray Together-

- ⊕ Spend time together praying for the Holy Spirit to move in your time of worship.

Sing Together-

- ⊕ Sing any or all of the songs below. These are songs for corporate worship on Sunday.
 - ✓ The Lion and The Lamb (Casting Crowns), Lay Me Down, This I Believe, Ancient Words, My Heart Is Yours (if you don't know them, they are available on You Tube).

Catch the Idea Together

- ⊕ Have someone come up with a short story that has a main point with application.
- ⊕ Talk about what you learned from this story.
- ⊕ Then, read this information together about the background of our Scripture passage today:
 - ✓ In this passage today, we see Jesus is teaching in parables. Parables were a very common form of teaching in Judaism and used to convey a story with an intended message. Many parables would illustrate aspects of the secret/mystery of the Kingdom of God. (Mysteries are those truths which had been hidden from all ages in the past and revealed in the New Testament. -see I Corinthians 2:7). In today's text, the parable is about the sower and it depicts the teaching of the gospel throughout the world and the various responses of people to it.

Discuss His Word Together-

- ⊕ Open up God's Word and read Mark 4:1-20
 - ✓ What is the purpose of parables?
 - ✓ Discuss the purpose of the parable in Mark 4:1-9? Look through verses 14-20. What kind of soils are the seeds of the gospel falling on? If time, describe each soil and the talk about the implications. (talk about how the soil represents the heart of a person)
 - ✓ Who is the only one that can bring that kind of transformation as we see in verse 20?

Applying What We Are Learning Together

- ⊕ Take time to think through how to apply what we are learning
 - ✓ Who should be sowing the seeds (sharing the truth) of the gospel? Are we?
 - ✓ Does it give you confidence to know that you can trust God to do what He wants to do when you share the gospel? How can this confidence help us to go out and tell others about the good news of Jesus?

- ✓ Look again at Mark 4:20.
 - What does it mean to bear fruit as a Christian?
 - How should you be responding to the truth of what you read and hear from God's Word?
 - How can you continue to bear fruit and grow as a believer?

Closing Prayer Together

⊕ Closing Prayer Points

- ✓ Pray that we would be confident to share the gospel and trust God for the results of sharing the gospel.
- ✓ Pray for someone who has heard the gospel but has not responded in faith yet. Pray for that person and pray for their salvation.
- ✓ Pray that each of us, and other believers, would respond in faith to the truths we read in God's Word.
- ✓ Pray that each of us, and other believers, would grow as a believer and produce fruit.

⊕ As you pray, an idea is the A.C.T.S prayer acronym.

- ✓ Adoration- How can we adore God in our prayer time (God you are powerful, faithful...)
- ✓ Confession- Take time to confess your sins to God (Remember 1 John 1:9)
- ✓ Thanksgiving - What can we praise God for this week?
- ✓ Supplication - Talk with God about things on your heart.