

Together For Worship -Mark 1:1-3

A guide to worship as a family in your home

Before you begin, make sure to 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. Note- Follow the guide below in whichever order is best for your family.

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.
 - ✓ Hark the Herald Angels Sing
 - ✓ Angels We Have Heard on High
 - ✓ Joy to the World/Hope is Here
 - ✓ Emmanuel
 - ✓ O Come All Ye Faithful

Catch the Idea Together

- ⊕ A great way to begin looking into God's Word during family worship is to catch the idea together which simply means to "hook" everyone in to the discussion.
 - ✓ As we open up to the gospel of Mark today, we are going to talk about how God prepared the way for Jesus, the Messiah, to come. As we think about how God prepared people for the coming of the Messiah, here are a few questions to think about:
 - What are things our family prepares for? What do we do to prepare for them?
 - "How are you preparing your heart for Christmas this year?"
 - ✓ Mark, also known as John Mark, is the author of this gospel which he wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Mark was a great friend of Peter and was his secretary and interpreter. In the gospel of Mark, we see that Mark wrote accurately all that Peter had passed onto him. In the gospel of Mark the people had for the very first time in history a systematic account of the life and words of Jesus. Mark recorded specific events from the life and ministry of Jesus to show and prove to a Roman audience that Jesus IS the Christ, the Messiah, the anointed one of God, the Son of God who served, suffered, died and rose again as the suffering servant depicted by Isaiah. Throughout our journey in Mark we will see that this gospel is fast-paced and shows the power of God through vivid details of the events in the life and ministry of Jesus.

Discuss His Word Together -

- ⊕ Open up God's Word and read Mark 1:1-3

- ⊕ How did God prepare Mark to write about the good news of Jesus?
 - ✓ One of the great things is to see how the Bible connects together. If you read through Acts 12, specifically verse 12, you will see that Peter was miraculously released from prison and came to the home of the people who were praying for him. The home belonged to Mark's mother. Peter and Mark became close friends and Peter tells us in 1 Peter 5:13 that Mark is like "my son" showing the close relationship they had. Mark also had a relationship with Paul.
 - ✓ Talk about what this relationship could have looked like and all that Peter told Mark about the life of Jesus, His death and resurrection.
 - ✓ How do you think this prepared Mark to write the good news about Jesus?
- ⊕ How did God prepare the hearts of people for the Messiah?
 - ✓ First, talk about prophecies from the Old Testament that pointed to Jesus coming.
 - ✓ Now look back at verses 2 & 3- This prophecy is from Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3. This shows that Mark identifies John the Baptist as the predicted one who prepares the way of the Lord.
 - ✓ How did the prophecies about Jesus from the OT and the prophecies about John the Baptist help prepare the hearts of the people for the Messiah? (talk about how the prophecies from the Old Testament were fulfilled in Jesus. Then talk about how, according to the ESV Gospel Transformation Bible, "John the Baptist's preparatory ministry marks the continuation of God's long standing gracious pursuit of His people.")

Applying What We Are Learning Together

- ⊕ Take time to think through how to apply what we are learning
 - ✓ How is God working to prepare your heart for what He is going to do this Christmas?

Closing Prayer Together

- ⊕ Closing Prayer Points
 - ✓ Pray for God to prepare your hearts for what He is going to do this Christmas.
 - ✓ Pray for God to use you to reach your neighbors with the gospel this Christmas season.
 - ✓ Pray for God to move in and through our new sermon series in the gospel of Mark.
- ⊕ 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.