



# Discipleship...When You're Stuck at Home

## A GUIDE FOR FEFC FAMILIES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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

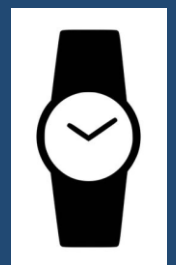


### STAYING COMMITTED TO THE LOCAL CHURCH

Continue to remember the Sabbath by making Sunday different, even as every other day of the week starts to blend together. Sundays are not special because that's the day church service happens to be scheduled. Our church service is scheduled on Sundays because that day is special. The first day of the week is the day of Jesus's resurrection. Use the Livestream and other church resources to let church-life remain a centerpiece of your family's weekly rhythms.

### NEW AND OLD HABITS

What times of the day and week are normally dedicated to discipleship? Sundays? Wednesday nights? Thursday mornings? As much as possible, keep those times set-apart for discipleship. Can this be a time to develop new habits of family discipleship? Interrupted schedules can be the best time to start new habits (or re-start lost ones).



**First Evangelical Free Church - Sioux Falls, SD**

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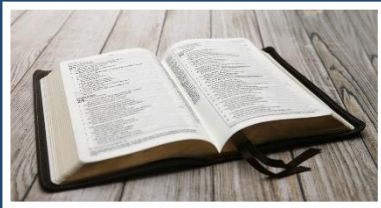
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## FAMILY WORSHIP

Dedicate multiple days a week for worshipping together as a household. It does not need to be fancy or impressive. It can be any time of day. It can be in the living room, at the kitchen table, in a bedroom, or even on the back porch. Don't know where to start? Start with these three key ingredients.



### 1. READ TOGETHER

Find Scripture to read together. There's no one plan that's perfect. There are a lot of great resources out there. You can read through whole books of the Bible together. You can walk through a good catechism. Our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders go through the Westminster Shorter Catechism. The New City Catechism is a newer and simpler option. You can read the Sunday sermon passage. go through AWANA verses, or revisit passages from Sunday School. Depending on the age of your family, you can read from a normal translation or an age-appropriate children's Bible. There are many good ones. The Jesus Storybook Bible, The Big Picture Bible, and Read Aloud Story Bible are good starting points. Try the NIrV Bible for a grade-school level full-Bible translation.



### 2. SING TOGETHER

Sing old songs and new songs. Family worship is a great time to help kids learn about the deep heritage of music from church history. You can also let the little kids chose favorite songs from Sunday School. One idea is to have a hymn of the month. Choose a new hymn every month, learning a new verse each week. If you choose good hymns, by the end of the year, your family will have taken in twelve songs rich in theology soaked in Scripture. The "Hosanna, Loud Hosannas! Student Hymnal" is great for families. If you have musicians in the family, let them learn the songs and play together. If you don't have a musical gene in your family, don't worry. There's nothing wrong with singing along to a YouTube video.



### 3. PRAY TOGETHER

Parents, pray *for* and *with your* children. Feel free to use formal, pre-written prayers, or pray informally. Invite everyone in the family – young and old - to pray. Don't worry if the prayers are not perfect. Our prays are not acceptable because of how impressive they are, but because of Jesus, our Great High Priest, who intercedes for us. Even the littlest ones, having learned that God made all things, can thank God for his gifts. We all can ask for God's help with different problems. Give kids space to confess sins and ask God for forgiveness. Parents can direct their family's prayers to other needs in the church and throughout the world. Sharing ways God has answered prayer is also an opportunity to give God glory and strengthen faith.

**Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.**

– Acts 16:31