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Worshipping God together as a family.

When you have a young family, life can take place at a frenetic pace and there is often little time to talk about God and worship him together. The current situation is very difficult for many, but it has resulted in many families having more time to spend together – particularly now schools are closing from Friday 20th March. In these uncertain times, spending time remembering that God is in control and refocusing on His love and care is vital for all of us, including our children. To help you with this we have put together some ideas and resources and pray that God will bless your families as you spend time with Him. In addition, if you would find it helpful, Susannah Morriss (susannahmorriss@ntlworld.com) is happy to send you the link for the Mustard Seed material that we would have been using in Hope Street.

A good starting point might be to ask your children what they most enjoy on a normal Sunday morning and make sure that you include some of those activities.

Things you could include:

Prayer. There are many different ways to pray. Young children might like to draw something that they want to talk to God about, you might want to write a family prayer together, each person could say a prayer and then blow a bubble to represent that prayer being heard by God. Try to include thanks and worship as well as petitions. The websites below will give other suggestions.

Some activities. This could include a game, a puzzle, craft or some colouring preferably related in some way to the story. Older children might like quizzes or word-searches. Again, the websites below will give you more ideas.

A bible story or short passage. You could use a children's bible that is age appropriate for your children. There are some suggested below or you are welcome to borrow one from church if needed. Older children often like to take a turn to read. For a change, you might want to watch a visual re-telling on-line. You could then talk about what the story tells us about God and ourselves.



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Drama. You might want to try acting the story out together. This is a fun way to help re-enforce the message.

Worship. If you are a musical family, you might want to sing some songs together. If not, you could listen to some worship songs, singing along and doing actions. Older children may prefer just to listen and very young children might enjoy using shakers etc.

Memory verse. Including a memory verse could be fun, possibly with a prize if it is learnt well.

Snack. A sweet snack could be fun, after all the bible teaches us: 'Your words are more precious than gold, than much pure gold, and sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.' Psalm 19 v 10

Resources for prayer:

www.flamecreativekids.blogspot.com has a [prayer cube](#) you can roll to help you start your prayer

www.gatherforbread.com has some simple [prayer prompts](#) for young children to use

Nancy Guthrie- What every child should know about prayer - a useful book to teach children about prayer

Resources for activities:

www.faithsprouts.blogspot.com

www.craftingthewordofgod.com

Pinterest also has lots of ideas.



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Bible story resources:

Zonder Kids - The Beginner's Bible, Lion Hudson - The Lion First Bible, Sally Lloyd-Jones - The Jesus Story Bible book, Scripture Union - The Big Bible Storybook, The Hands On Bible (really excellent, two versions for different ages)

Individual or sets of Bible stories for younger children:

Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen - Stories Jesus told, Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen - Animal Tales, Candle books - My Story Time Parables, Katherine Sully - My first Bible Stories - This is a set of large and beautifully illustrated books which retell stories from the old testament

Bibles for older children that use easy to understand language and are presented in an engaging way: NLT Hands on Bible, NIV Adventure Bible, The Action Bible - a cartoon version of the whole Bible.

Devotionals for kids: CWR - Topz - daily devotional for 7-11 year olds with cartoons, quizzes and wordsearches to keep older children interested. CWR - Pens - daily devotional for 4- 6 year olds. Abbey Land - Devotions below the surface - a weekly devotional for younger primary school aged children

www.christiethomaswriter.com has a helpful [printable poster](#) that shows lot of the creative things you can do when studying the Bible with kids

Resources for sung worship:

There are lots of CDs/ Audio downloads with worship songs for kids. These can be bought on Amazon or the Christian online bookstore Eden or just streamed on youtube or spotify.

Popular songs include:

Rend Collective - Sparkle Pop Rampage – a current favourite is called [‘King of me’](#)



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Veggie Tales - 25 Favourite Very Veggie Tunes- these are very silly but the kids love them

Cedarmont Kids - Sunday School songs - lots of classic Christian kids songs.

Resources for young children:

<http://www.dltk-bible.com> is particularly helpful for use with 3 – 5 year olds.

(Written by Salome Hidalgo, Sarah Braithwaite, Dawn Hazell and Susannah Morriss – thank you so much)