

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FAMILY WORSHIP

Fall 2026



Jesus commissions His church to make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:19-20). The family is an important institution in which disciples are made and grow. The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church aims to help families make disciples.

One practice is family worship. Family worship is a daily, intentional, sustained exercise of reading Scripture, prayer, asking questions, and singing with your family, so that you talk about the whole counsel of God with your family. Family worship is an old, time-tested, Scriptural practice. In Deut. 6:7, the Lord gives responsibility to teach God's commands in a family: *"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."* In Ephesians 6:4, Paul gives a particular instruction to fathers: *"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."* Clement of Alexandria (153- 217) preached that husband and wife should practice united prayer and Scripture reading every morning. In a book to his wife, Tertullian (142-220) commended spiritual unity of marriage through prayer, the Word of God, and singing. The Westminster Confession of Faith, 21.6, states, "but God is to be worshiped everywhere, in spirit and truth; as, in private families daily." Missionary John Paton explains the impact of family worship upon his own life: "When, on his knees and all of us kneeling around him in Family Worship, [father] poured out his whole soul with tears...for every...need, we all felt as if in the presence of the living Saviour, and learned to know and love Him as our Divine Friend."

The Method

There are three key ingredients to family worship: Scripture, singing, and prayer. First, reading Scripture and teaching Scripture is central. Our goal should be to help all members of the family develop a love for God's word. Asking questions, such as the

catechism, are helpful. Letting the children ask questions, even read a portion, can make sure to involve them.

Second, God's people sing! Psalm 118:15 says, "*Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous.*" The New Testament call to address one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Eph. 5:19). Martin Luther once said, "next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise." Singing songs of the Psalter or the Hymnal are crucial, instructing us and our children on the truths of God's Word.

Third, prayer is the chief way in which we show gratitude to God and give to Him our requests. Paul writes in Philippians 4:6, "*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*"

Implementation

To help families disciple, the Session has prepared a Family Worship Guide. This guide includes daily Scripture readings and a weekly prayer. A song is also suggested that will also be sung during congregational worship.

To implement family worship, we offer a few words of advice. First, strive for simplicity. Simplicity can breed understanding instead of confusion. Second, strive for regularity, whether it is the same days of the week or times of the day. Regularity helps clarify expectations. Third, strive for variety. Ask children to read the Bible. Act out the story.

Our desire is to follow Jesus's commission to make disciples. This is a guide to begin with the family. We pray it will be a blessing to you.

Notes on the Readings for Fall 2026

The readings for Fall 2026 take you through the book of Genesis. Genesis is the book of beginnings, written by Moses for the people God had redeemed out of Egypt so that they would know who their God is and what He had promised their fathers. It opens with the creation of heaven and earth, the making of man in God's image, and the fall into sin, and then follows the spread of sin through the generations to the flood and to Babel. Against that darkness God speaks a promise: the offspring of the woman will crush the serpent's head (Gen. 3:15). The rest of Scripture is the unfolding of that promise.

From chapter 12 onward the book narrows to one family. God calls Abram out of Ur and binds Himself by covenant to give him a land, a people, and a blessing that will reach all the families of the earth. That covenant is carried through Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph — often through the least likely person and in spite of deceit, famine, and family division — which is precisely the point. Genesis ends with Joseph's words to his brothers, "you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good" (Gen. 50:20), and with a coffin in Egypt and a promise still outstanding. As you read with your family, watch for the promised offspring, and remember that Paul calls Abraham the father of all who believe and names the gospel itself as the promise preached beforehand to him (Rom. 4:11; Gal. 3:8, 16).

Week of August 30, 2026

Great are You, O Lord, and greatly to be praised; great is Your power, and of Your wisdom there is no end. And man, who is a part of Your creation, desires to praise You — man, who bears about with him his mortality, the witness of his sin. Yet man, this part of Your creation, desires to praise You. You move us to delight in praising You, for You have made us for Yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in You. Amen. (Augustine)

Day 1	Genesis 1:1-2:3
Day 2	Genesis 2:4-25
Day 3	Genesis 3:1-24
Day 4	Genesis 4:1-26
Day 5	Genesis 5:1-32

Weekly Hymn, #236 “To God Be the Glory”

Week of September 6, 2026

You, O Lord, established the world and made known to us the everlasting order of it. You are faithful in all generations, righteous in Your judgments, and marvelous in strength and majesty. Grant us, Lord, to hope on Your Name, which is the first source of all creation, and open the eyes of our hearts to know You, who alone are Most High among the highest. Amen.
(Clement of Rome)

Day 1	Genesis 6:1-22
Day 2	Genesis 7:1-24
Day 3	Genesis 8:1-22
Day 4	Genesis 9:1-29
Day 5	Genesis 10:1-32

Weekly Hymn, #216 “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Week of September 13, 2026

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen. (Thomas Cranmer)

Day 1	Genesis 11:1-32
Day 2	Genesis 12:1-20
Day 3	Genesis 13:1-18
Day 4	Genesis 14:1-24
Day 5	Genesis 15:1-21

Weekly Hymn, #374 “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”

Week of September 20, 2026

Teach me to seek You, and reveal Yourself to me as I seek; for I cannot seek You unless You teach me, nor find You unless You reveal Yourself. Let me seek You in longing, and long for You in seeking; let me find You in love, and love You in finding. Amen.
(Anselm)

Day 1	Genesis 16:1-17:14
Day 2	Genesis 17:15-18:15
Day 3	Genesis 18:16-19:14
Day 4	Genesis 19:15-38
Day 5	Genesis 20:1-21:7

Weekly Hymn, #380 “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Week of September 27, 2026

Grant, Almighty God, that since Thou hast been pleased to make Thyself known to us in Thy Word, we may not be so occupied with the things of this present life as to neglect the light Thou hast kindled; but that we may daily profit under Thy teaching, and so make progress in true godliness that we may at length come to that eternal glory which Thou hast prepared for us; through Christ our Lord. Amen. (John Calvin)

Day 1	Genesis 21:8-34
Day 2	Genesis 22:1-24
Day 3	Genesis 23:1-20
Day 4	Genesis 24:1-27
Day 5	Genesis 24:28-49

Weekly Hymn, #229 “Holy God, We Praise Your Name”

Week of October 4, 2026

O Lord, who hast mercy upon all, take away from me my sins, and mercifully kindle in me the fire of Thy Holy Spirit. Take away from me the heart of stone, and give me a heart of flesh, a heart to love and adore Thee, a heart to delight in Thee, to follow and to enjoy Thee, for Christ's sake. Amen. (Ambrose)

Day 1	Genesis 24:50-25:11
Day 2	Genesis 25:12-34
Day 3	Genesis 26:1-16
Day 4	Genesis 26:17-35
Day 5	Genesis 27:1-29

Weekly Hymn, #224 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Week of October 11, 2026

I thank You, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.
(Martin Luther)

Day 1	Genesis 27:30-28:9
Day 2	Genesis 28:10-29:14
Day 3	Genesis 29:15-35
Day 4	Genesis 30:1-24
Day 5	Genesis 30:25-43

Weekly Hymn, #281 “Rejoice, the Lord Is King”

Week of October 18, 2026

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto Thee, and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in Thy Name Thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of Thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of Thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen. (John Chrysostom)

Day 1	Genesis 31:1-21
Day 2	Genesis 31:22-42
Day 3	Genesis 31:43-32:12
Day 4	Genesis 32:13-32
Day 5	Genesis 33:1-20

Weekly Hymn, #219 “O Worship the King”

Week of October 25, 2026

O God, the protector of all that trust in Thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us Thy mercy, that, Thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we finally lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Gelasian Sacramentary)

Day 1	Genesis 34:1-31
Day 2	Genesis 35:1-29
Day 3	Genesis 36:1-19
Day 4	Genesis 36:20-43
Day 5	Genesis 37:1-24

Weekly Hymn, #247 “We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer, Creator”

Week of November 1, 2026

O God, from whom to be turned is to fall, to whom to be turned is to rise, and in whom to stand is to abide for ever: Grant us in all our duties Thy help, in all our perplexities Thy guidance, in all our dangers Thy protection, and in all our sorrows Thy peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Augustine)

Day 1	Genesis 37:25-38:11
Day 2	Genesis 38:12-30
Day 3	Genesis 39:1-23
Day 4	Genesis 40:1-23
Day 5	Genesis 41:1-24

Weekly Hymn, #239 “Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”

Week of November 8, 2026

Thanks be to Thee, my Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits Thou hast given me, for all the pains and insults Thou hast borne for me. O most merciful Redeemer, Friend, and Brother, may I know Thee more clearly, love Thee more dearly, and follow Thee more nearly, day by day. Amen. (Richard of Chichester)

Day 1	Genesis 41:25-45
Day 2	Genesis 41:46-42:17
Day 3	Genesis 42:18-38
Day 4	Genesis 43:1-14
Day 5	Genesis 43:15-34

Weekly Hymn, #379 “Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

Week of November 15, 2026

O God, who hast prepared for them that love Thee such good things as pass man's understanding: Pour into our hearts such love toward Thee, that we, loving Thee above all things, may obtain Thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Thomas Cranmer)

Day 1	Genesis 44:1-17
Day 2	Genesis 44:18-34
Day 3	Genesis 45:1-28
Day 4	Genesis 46:1-27
Day 5	Genesis 46:28-47:12

Weekly Hymn, #248 “All Creatures of Our God and King”

Week of November 22, 2026

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we Thine unworthy servants do give Thee most humble and hearty thanks for all Thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men. We bless Thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for Thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. Give us that due sense of all Thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we show forth Thy praise not only with our lips but in our lives. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer)

Day 1	Genesis 47:13-31
Day 2	Genesis 48:1-22
Day 3	Genesis 49:1-28
Day 4	Genesis 49:29-50:14
Day 5	Genesis 50:15-26

Weekly Hymn, #212 “Come, Thou Almighty King”

