



## Family Worship April 23, 2017

### Preparation for Worship

Gather in a quiet place, free of distraction (put silenced cellphones in another room)

Decide who will lead the various parts. A family worship experience should involve everyone, *especially* children! This Family Worship Guide can be adapted by families of 1 or 2 people.

Here are the parts:

- Reading the Call to Worship
- Reading the Scripture
- Reading the Pastor's Devotional and Our Offering to God sections
- Leading the Prayer (your own words, from notes)
- Playing the songs (if you use them) on a laptop, tablet, or phone (Just listen to the songs if you prefer not to sing☺) You can copy and paste the links or find them with Google (skip the commercials!)

Discuss who and what you should include in your prayer. In addition to people within the church family, also discuss friends, co-workers, and neighbors for whom you want to pray. Consider what local, national, or international concern you should include (Whoever is to lead the prayer can take notes—it's OK to look at notes when praying). A simple way to pray is to go by ACTS:

**Adoration:** giving God praise by naming God's beautiful qualities (Almighty, loving, etc.)

**Confession:** pausing for a minute for everyone to acknowledge their sin silently & privately

**Thanksgiving:** naming specific ways God has provided for needs or has answered prayers

**Supplication:** ask God to help or provide for specific people or situations

### Suggested Order of Worship

**Call to Worship** *Psalm 106:1-5*

**Song of Praise** *Above All*  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=SzOgA2RV6Hs&list=PLqk7PmhxKRBfB8zoNyQdWd-RfRap\\_6xJp](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SzOgA2RV6Hs&list=PLqk7PmhxKRBfB8zoNyQdWd-RfRap_6xJp)

**Scripture** *Luke 24:36-43*

**Pastor's Devotional** (on next page)

### Our Offering to God

When we hear the word "offering," we naturally think of giving money to finance God's work. We also think of the time that we volunteer to bless other people. Yet our "offering" also includes how we choose to live as "sent people" in the places where we live, work, and play.

- Did you learn something new? Does it excite you?
- When might someone be interested in hearing about the difference between resurrection and immortality?

**Prayer** (from your notes)

**Song of Faith** (optional) *Because He Lives* [www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPW9xYEyijQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPW9xYEyijQ)

## Pastor's Devotional

Many people believe that we will have life after death because our souls are immortal, but this isn't what scripture teaches. The concept of immortality of the soul was developed by Greek philosophers, including Plato. It became so dominant in Western culture that even after Christianity replaced paganism, Christians often confused immortality with resurrection.

The immortality of the soul is the belief that while each person's body is destined to die, a person's soul never dies, it simply "passes on" to another world. An immortal soul would be like a trick candle that can't be extinguished—after being "blown out," the flame magically reappears. Pagans (and confused Christians) believe that in the afterlife a person lives as a ghost or disembodied spirit. Many pagans claim that immortal souls are reincarnated.

The Jewish scriptures did not teach the immortality of the soul. Instead, they assert that when the Messiah appears on earth, God will resurrect His people who had died. God's children would be re-created perfectly, body and soul, out of stuff that never dies (some theologians say "body, soul, and spirit).

This happened for the first time in the resurrection of Jesus, the prototype of God's new creation. Luke 24:36-43 includes many details that emphasize that the disciples didn't encounter a wispy soul, but the whole man, with a new kind of body. He wasn't limited by time or space, so Jesus could suddenly appear or disappear. When the disciples thought that Jesus was a ghost, he invited him to touch his resurrected body, saying "A ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see that I have." When the disciples still couldn't believe it, he asked for something to eat, which he "ate it in their presence." That settled the issue!

From the beginning, declaring that you believed in "the resurrection of the body," was a key aspect of claiming the Gospel. But because Christians were a minority in pagan culture, they struggled to understand. In 1 Corinthians 15 the Apostle Paul's gave an extensive clarification, because false teachers had confused the church in Corinth (v. 12). In response to the question "with what kind of body will they come?" (v. 35), Paul wrote:

*So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body (42-44).*

So what's the big deal in claiming "the resurrection of the body" instead of "the immortality of the soul"?

1. We will have bodies, just like Jesus! While these bodies will be new and different, many aspects of resurrection life will resemble earthly life. Revelation 21 describes a "new heaven and a new earth." We will live in a new kind of city, the "new Jerusalem."
2. Because we will have bodies, we will resemble ourselves and recognize each other, just as the resurrected Christ resembled his earthly appearance.

How will we look? Will we forever be the age of our death? I doubt it. I tend to think that people will look like they did (or were intended to look) in their prime—about age 25☺. Scripture doesn't say. Perhaps in heaven we won't care!

Will those who died from injuries have their wounds? I doubt it, since some injured persons would look ghastly. I suspect that Jesus retained the holes in his hands and feet to assure his disciples that he was the real deal. After all, for Jesus crucifixion was a badge of honor!