



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

JOASH WANTED TO OBEY GOD



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of [2 Kings 12](#); [2 Chronicles 24](#) from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

The mimic octopus is a very interesting creature. It has the amazing ability to change color and shape to look like other sea creatures. When the octopus feels threatened, it often mimics the appearance of a toxic animal like the lionfish or sea snake to scare away predators. When the danger has passed, the mimic octopus returns to her normal colors and goes on about her day.

As we learn more about the life of King Joash, we see that he wanted to follow God, but the sin in his heart led him to worship false gods. Joash turned away from God, so God turned away from Joash. Much like the mimic octopus, a person's own ability to change their sinful heart is only temporary. We might try to do better and make wiser choices, but the sin in our hearts is too pronounced to hide.

The only real, lasting change for our hearts must come from Jesus. His death and resurrection have broken the power of sin. Everyone who believes in Him is forgiven and has been forever changed by His grace!

Joash wanted to obey God. He honored God at first, but in time, his actions showed that there was still sin in his heart. Jesus wants to change our hearts. When we trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior, He gives us new hearts that want to live for His glory.

***Pray:** God, help us not to trust in our own ability to change our hearts, but to trust in what Jesus has done to change our hearts. Help us to know the eternal forgiveness and joy that comes from knowing Jesus as Lord.*



Family Worship Experience

— LEARN SCRIPTURE —

The key passage below is focused on at church. Consider talking about what this passage means and memorizing it as well.



Family Worship Experience

— SING SCRIPTURE —

Finish your family worship experience by playing the Key Passage song to worship and as a further way to memorize Scripture.



Family Prayer Time

Mornings

Ask God to help you trust in Him in all situations today. Ask for His help in remaining faithful to Him as you interact with others. How did the people around Joash lead him away from God? Why is it important to trust in what God's Word says is true rather than trust in what others might say?

Evenings

Thank God for His faithfulness to us even when we are not faithful. Praise Him for His patience toward the Israelites when they turned away from Him and for His patience toward your family. How was God patient with the Israelites? Why does God show patience to those who turn away from Him?



Family Activities

For Fun

Play hide-and-seek as a family. After the game, talk with kids about how we cannot hide our sin from God. The only hope we have is found in Jesus. When we place our trust in Him, He forgives our sin, changes our hearts, and gives us eternal life.

To Serve

Work as a family to plant evergreen shrubs in your flower beds or yard. You may also add seasonal plants or flowers to beautify the property. Afterward, talk as a family about the differences between plants and how evergreen shrubs will remain green throughout the year. Talk about the way our good words might make us feel better, but that is only temporary change. Jesus is the only one who can eternally change our hearts.



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

ISAIAH WARNED OF GOD'S JUDGMENT



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of [Isaiah 22; 48](#) from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

Have you ever been at school or in a building when the fire alarm goes off? The startling sirens are so loud and harsh, but it's all for our good. The alarm gives a warning of the danger that is nearby, and it alerts you to look for safety. As much as we may dislike the alarm, we should be thankful for the protection it gives.

God used the prophet Isaiah to be an alarm for His people. He told them God's judgment of sin was coming soon. The Israelites did not listen to Isaiah's warning, and they suffered great consequences. Although the Israelites didn't listen to the warning of Isaiah, God's message also included hope. Isaiah shared the good news that the people would one day be set free. God loved His people enough to give them a warning and point them toward the hope found in Him.

The Bible tells us that one day Jesus will return, and God will judge all sin. The good news of the gospel is that Jesus has already paid the price for sin and there is salvation for all who believe in Him. We should listen to the warning the Bible gives us and look for the safety that comes through trusting in Jesus.

God sent Isaiah to warn of His coming judgment. A greater day of judgment is coming when God will judge sin for a final time. Jesus came to die on the cross and rise again. Everyone who repents of sin and trusts in Jesus will be safe from God's judgment and have eternal life.

***Pray:** You are holy and righteous, and we know that You are right and fair to judge sin. Thank You for loving us enough to give us warnings and to provide safety for us through Your Son, Jesus. Help us to turn away from sin and turn to Jesus as Lord.*



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Family Prayer Time

Mornings

Praise God for the warnings He gives us about sin and the hope we have by trusting in Jesus. Thank Him for the patience and love He shows to us while we are still sinners.

Evenings

Pray for those who ignore God's warnings about the consequence of sin. Ask God to be patient with them and to show them the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. Why is it right and good for God to punish sin? How does it feel to know that Jesus took the punishment that we deserve?



Family Activities

For Fun

Practice safety drills in your home. Have a fire drill, tornado, or earthquake drill. Talk with kids about the plans you have in place for emergencies. While no one wants to think about these worst-case scenarios, it is good to have a plan that protects everyone in the family. One day, God will judge sin, but His plan also included good news of Jesus dying on the cross to give eternal life to all who believe in Him.

To Serve

Lead kids to have a yard sale or bake sale to raise money for victims of natural disasters or other crises. Consider making a donation to disaster relief teams in your area. Visit sendrelief.org to donate and learn more about worldwide needs and responses.



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

ZEPHANIAH WARNED GOD'S PEOPLE TO REPENT



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of [the Book of Zephaniah](#) from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE

Have you ever felt that sick-to-your-stomach feeling that comes when you're waiting to be punished for doing a bad thing? You know you did wrong and undeniably deserve the coming punishment, but that knowledge still doesn't make it pleasant! The terrible sick feeling comes because you know the punishment is coming, and you just wish there was some way out of it!

The prophecy of Zephaniah told the people about a future day when God would judge all the sin of the world. He described the frightful day as a time of darkness, wrath, and destruction. Everyone who heard this news got that sick-to-your-stomach feeling because they knew punishment was coming!

But wrapped up in all the bad news of judgment, God provided good news for His people. Zephaniah gave the people hope because God would save all those who trust in Him. He will protect them from the punishment, and He will fix everything broken by sin. On the same day that God will judge sin, He will make all things right and new for His children! That's just what the doctor ordered to get rid of the sick feeling in your stomach!

Zephaniah prophesied about the Day of the Lord—a day when God will judge the world for its sin and Jesus Christ will return. Jesus will make everything like new, and everyone who trusts in Him will be safe.

***Pray:** We know, God, that You will one day judge the world for sin. We all deserve to be punished for our sin, but we thank You for showing Your love by sending Jesus to die on the cross. You have promised to save those who trust in Jesus, and through Him You will make all things new.*



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Family Prayer Time

Mornings

Praise God for the promise to one day fix all things broken by sin. How does this promise help us worry less about when we are wronged or hurt?

Evenings

Pray for urgency and excitement to share the gospel with others. Why should the Day of the Lord make us more eager to tell others about Jesus? How can we provide hope to those who fear God's judgment of sin?



Family Activities

For Fun

Mark your calendar for a "Special Day" later this week, but don't tell kids why the day is special. Talk about the day often and remind kids that it is coming. When the day comes, surprise the family with a trip to get their favorite dessert. As you enjoy dessert, talk about how the Day of the Lord is a day of hope and joy for those who believe in Jesus. Explain to kids what it means to trust in the Lord and how they might respond if God is leading them to believe.

To Serve

Set reminders on your phone for several moments throughout the week. Use these moments to text or call fellow church members and ask how you can pray for them. After praying for their needs, remind them that the Day of the Lord is coming. Jesus will fix all that is broken and make all things new.



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

WE ARE TO REPENT OF SIN



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of [Matthew 3](#) from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

Have you ever seen one of those TV shows where people buy an old, run-down house and make it look totally new again? It's always fascinating to see how they can take something that everyone believed was ruined and make it into something beautiful and special. But that is nothing compared to the work God does to bring dead hearts back to life!

John the Baptist pointed people to Jesus. He lived in the wilderness, ate locusts and honey, and he told the people to prepare for the coming Messiah. As John saw Jesus coming toward Him, he called Jesus the lamb who takes away the sin of the world. John knew Jesus is the Messiah that brings new life to dead things.

If we repent and believe in Him, Jesus forgives our sin and changes our hearts. We are credited with His righteousness and our changed hearts want to follow and obey Him. Those who are dead in their sin find new life in Jesus! It is the greatest restoration project you could ever imagine!

John called people to repent. When we realize that our sin deserves God's punishment and trust in Jesus to save us. We can turn from our sins and live for Jesus. Jesus changes our hearts so we can love God and people.

***Pray:** Jesus, You are the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Help us to turn away from sin and turn to You. Give us opportunities like John to point others to You.*



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Family Prayer Time

Mornings

Pray for your teachers, classmates, co-workers, or family members who need to hear about Jesus. Ask God to give you the opportunity this week to tell them who Jesus is and what He has done to save us.

Evenings

Take time to repent and ask God for forgiveness of sin. Ask for His help in turning away from the sins that are repeated in your life. What does it mean to repent? Why is it good to confess sin to God and to one another?



Family Activities

For Fun

Plan a trip to a flea market or secondhand store. Work as a family to select an item that you think you can “flip” into something new and better. It could be a new coat of paint on a lamp or a complete re-purpose of an old coffee table. Over the next few weeks, work on the renovation project and discuss how Jesus gives the ultimate restoration and renovation by giving us new hearts when we believe in Him.

To Serve

Volunteer as a family to renovate an elderly neighbor’s flower beds or paint part of his or her house. Talk with kids about how this project reminds us of the work Jesus does in the hearts of those who believe in Him. While we were dead in sin, Jesus died for us to give us new life if we repent and believe in Him!