FAMILY WORSHIP CAN BE HARD, BUT IT DOESN’T HAVE TO BE
David Murray Provides Parents with a Practical and Doable Resource for Daily Family Worship

WHEATON, Ill.—Many parents have good intentions for daily times of family worship. It’s important for families to spend time reading the Bible, praying, and praising God together, but often these good intentions fail to last because of three common problems: an overly ambitious plan, the absence of a plan, or the perceived lack of a spiritual benefit.

In Exploring the Bible Together: A 52-Week Family Worship Plan (Crossway, May 2020), counselor and professor David Murray helps families establish regular family devotions through realistic aims, a clear plan and direction, and stimulating interaction with Scripture and prayer. This book covers key passages in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, providing a big-picture overview of the whole Bible over the course of a year.

52 weekly “expeditions” are each divided into 6 days, with each day consisting of
• a short passage of Scripture (an average of 5 verses);
• two questions (one for older kids and one for younger kids);
• a brief application lesson;
• and a short prayer prompt.

On the importance of family worship, Murray explains: “As God made us to be worshippers, we flourish best as individuals, groups, and societies when the worship of God is at the center of our existence. Worship is a blessing and brings blessings to us. As the old saying goes, ‘The family that prays together stays together.’ When we are relating to God rightly, we are far more likely to relate to one another rightly. Worshipping together as a family also tends to improve our private devotions and increase our enjoyment of church worship.”

In just a few minutes a day, Exploring the Bible Together helps families with children of all ages have a clear plan to study the Bible and worship God on a daily basis. And for children ages 8 and up, Murray’s Exploring the Bible: A Bible Reading Plan for Kids is a companion resource that follows the same reading plan as this book, with spaces for children to fill out answers each day.

Exploring the Bible Together also features artwork by illustrator Scotty Reifsnyder.
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David Murray (PhD, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) is professor of Old Testament and practical theology at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary. He is also a counselor, a regular speaker at conferences, and the author of Exploring the Bible. David and his wife, Shona, attend Grand Rapids Free Reformed Church.

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