

# *faith practices:* WORSHIP

- Place a candle on your dinner table. Light it as you begin your meals, with the words of John 8:12, "Jesus said 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.'" Teach the others to respond with an adaptation of Matthew 5:16, "May our lights so shine before others that they may see our good works and give glory to our father in heaven."
- Look over the first three commandments (Exodus 20:1-8). Take a moment to figure out what they mean to you or your family. What does worship have to do with establishing God as more important than anything? How does the first commandment affect the others that follow?
- Remember your baptisms. Place a small bowl of water on the kitchen table. Encourage the ritual of dipping fingers in the bowl to celebrate the cleansing and refreshment of our baptisms as you make the sign of the cross on your forehead.
- Check out your local Christian book stores for a variety of CDs and cassettes to fill your car time with inspiration and praise.

## RESOURCES

- *1•2•3 Church*. Gail Ramshaw.
- *Sunday Morning*. Gail Ramshaw.

Both are available from Augsburg Fortress Publishers. 800/638-3522.

Your pastor or church leader has access to number of catalogs that provide information on additional resources. You might also browse local Christian bookstores for other resources.



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*"Let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe."*

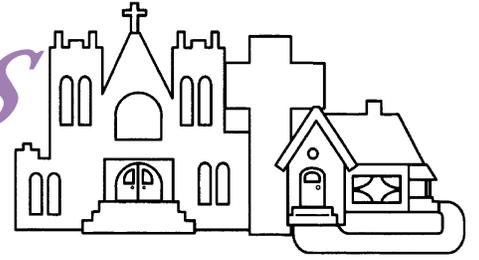
— *Hebrews 12:28b*

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- L** As disciples, we are called to do the things that enrich our journey with Jesus. Worship brings us into God's presence and calls us to prayer and praise. The psalmist David extends this invitation, "O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our maker." Shall we join him?
- C** Yes! Lord, inspire us to come to you in our worship.
- L** Shall we put God first in our hearts and in our lives?
- C** Yes! Lord, inspire us to come to you often in our daily worship.
- L** Shall we gather for regular worship and faith growth in community?
- C** Yes! Lord, inspire us to come to you in our worship.
- L** Shall we participate in the Holy Sacraments and receive God's grace as they bring us the indwelling Spirit of God?
- C** Yes! Lord, inspire us to come to you in humility.
- L** Leaders in homes and families, will you find informal and creative ways to give God praise through art, craft, song or daily prayers?
- C** Yes! Lord, inspire us to come to you in our daily worship.
- L** Children, will you be open to learning special ways you can give God praise?
- C** Yes! Lord, help us to put you first in all we say and do.
- L** Join me, in prayer, as we honor our call to discipleship.
- C** Thank you, Lord, for giving us a voice and a heart to thank and praise you. Amen.

# *nurturing lifestyles*

that are Christ's style



## WORSHIP

These pages will help people in whatever family relationships they live to honor their call to discipleship with songs and praise to God.

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*"Let everything that breathes praise the Lord."*  
— *Psalms 150:6*

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## BRINGING IT HOME

Have you ever gotten a compliment from someone? It's a good feeling to have someone notice you and the things you do. People compliment others to express admiration and recognize accomplishments. Teachers share stickers and comments. Cheerleaders shout their praise and loyalty to a team. Parents and families have celebrations to mark accomplishments and honor each other.

*What are some ways you compliment other people? How do you show your love and admiration to friends and family members?*

## WORSHIP IS A WAY OF GIVING GOD A COMPLIMENT!

We use songs and prayers to express our love for God and our appreciation for the amazing gifts God gives. And we grow in our amazement as we become familiar with God's saving activities throughout history and listen to God's Word for us today. Worship services refresh us through God's loving embrace in the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. Through worship we are energized by God's Spirit to live lifestyles that are Christ's style!

Worship is not dependent upon the time, place, the formality of its content or the tradition of its music. Worship has to do with an attitude of reverence for God and genuine expressions of love, thanksgiving and devotion. Worship can be public or private, indoors or outdoors, upbeat or reflective.

Look through the following ideas to nurture worship in your family. Choose one, two or more. Feel free to adapt them to fit your situation.

- Make it a priority to worship regularly with others. It will strengthen your faith identity in community.
- Take some time to offer simple explanations of each part of your congregation's worship service over a Sunday brunch — "Confession means to say we're sorry for the mistakes we're made. Absolution means that God loves us and forgives us, etc."
- Connect prayers and phrases from a congregational worship service with ordinary moments in your daily life.
- Enrich your greetings and leave-taking with this prayerful exchange: "The Lord be with you. And also with you."
- Pray the offertory prayer (*LBW*, p. 67) as a morning, evening or mealtime prayer. "We offer with joy and thanksgiving ...."
- Make the "sign of the cross" as a part of your devotional or prayer ritual at home.
- Give your children a blessing as you leave or at bedtime. You might say:

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*"May the Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you."*

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- Find a way to honor Sunday as a special family day — a day set apart to celebrate God's activity and presence in your lives. Schedule a special symbolic meal. Make it a ritual you can repeat often.
- As you admire the wonders of God's creation, make it a point to honor the Creator.
- Give God thanks as you nurture the many talents and abilities God has given you. Consider sharing your gifts of song, dance, drama or instrument with others in your congregation.