



Naming: TRAIL MARKER FOUR: Family Worship

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

Invite parents and children (in small groups) to make an acrostic poem using the words FAMILY WORSHIP. An acrostic poem uses the letters in a topic word to begin each line. All lines of the poem should relate to or describe the topic word. Eg:

Shines brightly
Up in the sky
Nice and warm on my skin

Ask them to think about words that describe worship at home (home devotions) and worship at church. Provide each small group with an A3 piece of paper and some colourful textas. If you have time share poems in large group.

Equipping PARENTS

SAMPLE

1. Family Worship in the home:

Family worship (or home devotions) is a great way to teach our children about the rhythm of worshipping in church.

Discuss handout: *Ideas for home devotions* (Appendix 1).

Model how being creative can help children become more involved and absorbed in the devotion: Invite small groups to illustrate a verse of Psalm 100. This psalm is a great call to worship. *'Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.'* Psalm 100:2 (Appendix 2). Collate all the illustrations to make a book. Explain how this can be used in future as a devotional tool. Children will enjoy revisiting the psalm as well as their art and will be happy to engage in discussion about it.

2. Family Worship in church:

This can be a touchy and sometimes emotional subject for parents, so tread carefully. The aim of this session is to encourage parents as they bring their children to worship. We want parents to feel comfortable about bringing their active little ones to worship. Talk about your own experience of worship as a child. Invite parents to share their experiences.

Discuss handout: *Calm Sheep* (Appendix 2).

As the leader be familiar with what worship is and how your congregation welcomes families with young children. You may need to make changes to the handout to suit your context.