



AN “AT HOME WORSHIP EXPERIENCE”
of First Baptist Church of Buda, Texas
Sunday, April 19, 2020

AHWE

Hello Everyone, I pray that you had a blessed and meaningful Easter worship time last Sunday, as we celebrated Easter and the resurrection of our Lord in perhaps the most unusual way that most of us have in our lifetime. I hope that you have found these “At Home Worship Experience” resources somewhat helpful during this time that we are homebound and not able to be together for worship. I do believe that very soon we will be back together, and I pray that we will emerge stronger and more unified as the body of Christ than ever before. What a great worship time we will have that day when we get to be together again. Again, please use this “At Home Worship Experience” resource as it best fits your family. Adapt it and use it as it works best for you, and don’t forget to include all who are worshipping with you in your home... even your children.
-Bro. Buddy

*This “At Home Worship Experience” is provided by First Baptist Church of Buda, Texas to be used in the home during this time of home confinement due to the threat imposed by the Coronavirus. During this time when we are unable to meet together we can still do church in our homes and worship our God who is still on the throne, and is worthy of all worship, honour, and praise. This worship experience tool can be used any time you want, but we are encouraging you to go through this worship experience on **Sunday morning, April 19 at 10:45 a.m.** (our regular worship time). This way we can all be worshipping together, at the same time. Follow the provided order of service as closely as possible, but please feel free to adapt the service to what best fits your family and guests that may be worshipping with you.*

At Home Worship Experience Outline

Opening Prayer – Have someone lead in an opening prayer!

Call to Worship – Scripture Reading: Psalm 107:1-16

¹Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. ² Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,³ and (He) gathered out of the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. ⁴ They wandered in the wilderness in a desolate way; they found no city to dwell in. ⁵ Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them. ⁶ Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and He delivered them out of their distresses. ⁷ And He led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city for a dwelling place. ⁸ Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! ⁹ For He satisfies the longing soul, and (He) fills the hungry soul with goodness. ¹⁰ Those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, bound in affliction and irons—¹¹ Because they rebelled against the words of God, and despised the counsel of the Most High, ¹² Therefore He brought down their heart with labor; they fell down, and there was

none to help. ¹³ Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and He saved them out of their distresses. ¹⁴ He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and (He) broke their chains in pieces. ¹⁵ Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! ¹⁶ For He has broken the gates of bronze, and (He) cut the bars of iron in two."

Discuss: Psalm 107 is a wonderful Psalm. This psalm is a song of thanksgiving to God, who has been merciful to his people. It tells us that God will give help to people that ask him for help. Some people think that they do not need help from God, but this Psalm is a reminder of why we do need God and all that He does for us.

- (1) Go through this Psalm 107:1-16 and underline all the statements that say "He (God) is or has done... something." For example: "He is good" in verse 1. Underline each of these. You should find at least 9, but there are actually more if you find the He implied.
- (2) Once you find them and have underlined them have someone read them all aloud. Let each person share which one of these things that God does they are most thankful for in their life and why.
- (3) Have someone read again verses 10-14. How does God work in our life when we turn away from Him and what might be His purpose in times of hardship, struggle and even suffering? How and why is thanksgiving expressed in these verses in time of struggle and hardship? How might this relate to us today in these times we are going through right now?

Sing this Hymn – "Count Your Blessings"

When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed, when you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done.
Count your blessings, name them one by one, count your blessings, see what God has done!
Count your blessings, name them one by one, count your many blessings, see what God has done.

Are you ever burdened with a load of care? Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly, and you will keep singing as the days go by.
Count your blessings, name them one by one, count your blessings, see what God has done!
Count your blessings, name them one by one, count your many blessings, see what God has done.

When you look at others with their lands and gold, think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;
Count your many blessings—money cannot buy your reward in heaven, nor your home on high.
Count your blessings, name them one by one, count your blessings, see what God has done!
Count your blessings, name them one by one, count your many blessings, see what God has done.

So, amid the conflict whether great or small, do not be discouraged, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend, help and comfort give you to your journey's end
Count your blessings, name them one by one, count your blessings, see what God has done!
Count your blessings, name them one by one, count your many blessings, see what God has done.

Sing this Hymn – "Give Thanks"

*Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son
Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son
And now let the weak say, "I am strong!" Let the poor say, "I am rich"
Because of what the Lord has done for us, give thanks!*

Discuss: Reflect a bit on the message of these two songs and the Psalm we just read as you discuss the following.

- (1) What are some things that you may have taken for granted in the past that our present situation has made you most thankful for?
- (2) What are some “surprising” things to be thankful for that have perhaps come out of this challenging time we are living through right now? Discuss
- (3) As the song says, “Count your blessings!” What do you count as the greatest blessings for your personally that have come out of these weeks of being shut in at home and this present situation we are going through? Discuss
- (4) How does reflecting on these things and being thankful despite this difficult time in your life help you personally deal with what you are going through?

Scripture Reading – 1 Thessalonians 5:14-22

“¹⁴ Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. ¹⁵ See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all. ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies. ²¹ Test all things; hold fast what is good. ²² Abstain from every form of evil.”

This is the Apostle Paul’s closing remarks/reminders to believers at the church at Thessalonica. Notice is simple short statements but very powerful statements. These may seem as if independent statements at first, but they may be very much connected in some ways.

Could be possible that not being thankful in all things might quench the Spirit? How?

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Devotional Thoughts: “In Everything Give Thanks” *Have someone read the following devotional and then ask for response. Spend some time discussing the content of the devotional thoughts.

People often say that they really want to know God’s will for their lives. Here’s a verse that plainly states what God’s will for you is, in Christ Jesus: ‘Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you’ (1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18, NKJ).

How do we rejoice always? We’re to live ‘one day at a time’. We’re given enough grace for this day to live for Him. Sometimes I’m rushing around with a ‘to do’ list as long as my arm, when suddenly I remember, I’m living my life today. I should be rejoicing – living in His deep joy.

I read once, that if you want to know how rich you are, make a list of all the wonderful things you have that don’t cost any money. I began to think of the great Salvation, love and mercy that are mine, the comfort of the Holy Spirit, and what a Friend I have in Jesus. There’s the family God’s given me, relationships with friends, and my wonderful Christian brothers and sisters... my church family. He’s given me many gifts in my life that I didn’t have to work for, earn, nor deserved necessarily... the freedoms I enjoy, getting to live in this country, having those friends and family, not to mention the things God pours out on my life every day. Even my health. The list is endless. I have so much to rejoice in.

How do we pray without ceasing? As we go about our day we can breathe our prayer to God, committing our thoughts to Him as we go. It doesn’t even have to be by spoken words. We can pray without ceasing by including the Lord in our thoughts and actions. We can pray with our hands as we make or do something. Billy Graham’s wife had a notice over her kitchen sink saying:

'Divine Service performed here three times a day!' Or it could be even a whisper of 'Lord, please help me'.

How do we give thanks in everything? As we go through our day, continuing our living conversation, we can be thanking Him *in* what we go through. Our verse says, in everything not for everything. We can thank Him for being with us in our situations, giving us strength to meet our needs and grace to meet our difficulties. We can give thanks in pain and in joy. This is His will for us in Christ Jesus.

Prayer: *Lord, Please help me to remember to be in a 'living conversation' with You and to go through this day, with thanksgiving in my heart. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

Closing Prayer & Song - "Family of God"

"I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God. I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood! Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod, for I'm part of the family, the family of God."



SPECIAL NOTE: *This "At Home Worship Experience" is for week 4 (4/19/20). As we continue to be unable to meet we will provide further "At Home Worship Experience" material for you and your family to use at home to worship together. These will be available on our website www.firstbaptistbuda.com Locate the green house "At Home Worship Experience" icon on the front page of our website and simply click there. You may download and print the material for the appropriate date or use it directly from the site. For more information or if you have questions contact our church office.*