



I was glad when they said to me,  
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."  
Psalm 122:1

## My Sunday Worship Book

Name: .....

Address: .....

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# My Sunday Worship Book

## Introduction to Parents

We live in a time when families do not worship together on Sundays anymore. Even when a family goes to church together, the children are not encouraged to sit through the worship service with their parents. It is thought that children cannot relate to the service and alternative programs are often provided for the children on their own. The motive for this may be good but the children do not learn what family worship is.

At the same time, it is not easy for energetic youngsters to sit quietly and to listen to services geared for adults. The idea of the "My Sunday Worship Book" is to help the children to focus on aspects of the family worship service and to find it meaningful.

The first part of the book is for families to read together and to discuss. It tells in a simple way why we go to church and what worship is. The second part comprises of worksheets for making notes during the worship service.

Most children going to school are able to write. There is space to copy the first lines of four hymns. Then the child can write down the reference of the Scripture portion that is read. The section for sermon notes can be used to write an outline of the service, to make short notes or to illustrate the message. The younger child can illustrate the children's talk. The border of the page can also be decorated. There is a space to copy a special verse and to write a personal application. Lastly the child can note something specific he can praise God for and ask of Him.

Parents can encourage children by helping them during the sermon and by talking about the content in the week.

I hope the "My Sunday Worship Book" will help children to benefit from what should be the 'family' worship service. Jesus said: "Permit the children to come to me, and stop hindering them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

Jeanne Marshall

## Why we go to church on Sundays

Many people are excited because it is the year 1999. Next year it will be the year 2000. They say it is the start of a new millennium. A millennium is a period of a thousand years. Nearly two thousand years have passed since the Lord Jesus went back to heaven. He went back to heaven in a cloud forty days after he rose from the dead.

For nearly two thousand years, Christians all over the world have met together on a Sunday, the first day of the week, to worship God. The first day they met together was on the day of Pentecost. It was ten days after Jesus ascended to heaven. On that day God sent the Holy Spirit as He promised. Peter preached to a large crowd and about three thousand people believed.

From then on it has been the custom of believers to meet together on the first day of the week to worship God. Believers call this day the Lord's Day.



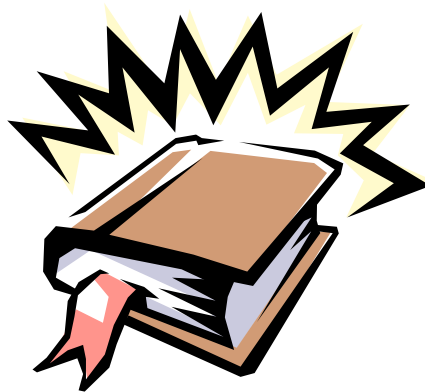
When the believers get together

- \* They worship God by singing psalms and hymns
- \* They study God's Word (The Bible)
- \* They have fellowship
- \* They 'break bread'
- \* They pray to God

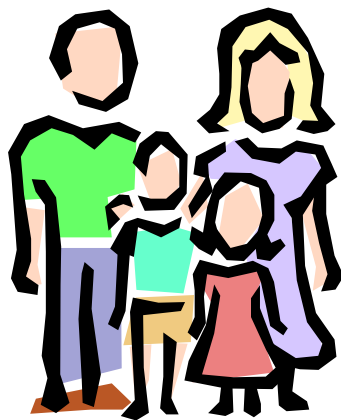
God meets with us in a special way when we meet together in His Name. In Matthew 18:20 Jesus tells us: "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst."



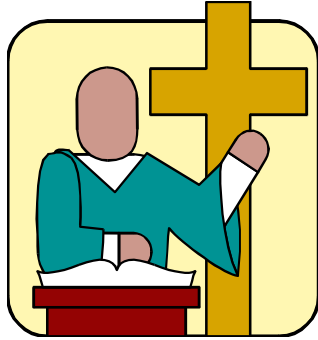
We study God's Word so that we can learn to know God and how He wants us to live. The Bible tells us how much God loves us and the Good News about Jesus. He died on the cross so that our sins can be forgiven.



We sing hymns about God and praise Him.



We worship God in prayer. We talk to Him and tell Him how wonderful He is and how much we love Him. We ask that His will be done on earth. We tell Him what we need and ask God to forgive us all our sins.



Fellowship is when we talk to each other about how wonderful God is. We encourage one another to love Him and to live as He would want us to live.



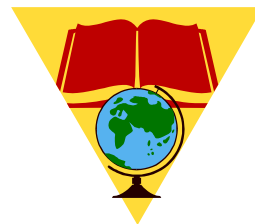
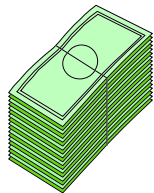
Believers 'break bread' or have 'communion' when they eat bread together. This is to remember how Jesus suffered on the cross because of our sins. The believers also drink some wine/grape juice together and remember that Jesus bled and died for us on the cross so that our sins can be forgiven. When they do this they also remember that Jesus will come back one day, to fetch everyone who believes in Him. Only people who have asked Jesus to forgive them their sins should have communion. That is why children do not take part in the communion until they have been born again and until they are old enough to understand what it means to be born again.



Some Sundays there is a baptismal service. A person who has been born again is baptized in a pool of water by the pastor. The person goes under the water. This reminds us that Jesus died and was buried because of our sins. Then the person comes out of the water. This reminds us that Jesus rose from the dead. When a believer is baptized he is telling people he believes Jesus died for his sins and that he wants to live like Jesus. Jesus told believers to do this.



During the church service it is also a common practice to bring money to God. Giving some of our money to God is a way of saying thank you for all He has given to us. The money is used for God's work. Some is used to pay the pastor, as it is his 'job' to study the Bible and to preach God's Word to us. The pastor visits people in the church who have special needs. Some money is given to help the sick and the poor. Missionaries are given money so that they can go to far away places to tell people the Good News about Jesus.



Now you know why we go to church on Sundays. We go with gladness to meet with God's people and to worship Him, our Savior. We go to hear His Word so that we know how to live for Him every day. We talk to God in prayer and tell Him what we need. We remember that one-day, He will come again, to fetch all His children.

The rest of this book is in the form of worksheets to help you to worship God as you go to church with Mum and Dad on Sundays. You can look back to your notes in the week to remember what you learnt on Sunday when you have your quiet time with God.

Important verses to look up and write out:

Acts 2:42 .....  
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Act 20:7a .....  
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1 Cor 11:23-26 .....  
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1 Cor 16:2 .....  
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Eph 5:19 .....  
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Col 3:16 .....  
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Rev 1:10 .....  
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Date:..... Preacher: .....

Place: ..... Town: .....

First line of hymns / songs:

1. ....

2. ....

3. ....

4. ....

Scripture Reading: .....

My sermon notes and/or illustrations:

What I learnt from the message today:

A special verse: .....

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Something to do: .....

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Something to pray about:

To praise God: .....

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To ask God: .....

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