



LAZARUS CHURCH

A message for leaders & heads of household who will be hosting:

First, we're so glad you're reading this. You're about to embark on hosting worship in your home. This may feel new for you but God's people have been doing this for centuries so you're in good company with the church of ages past!

You can call this time a devotional, table talk, family worship, house church... whatever you choose to call it is fine by us!

You may be wondering "How on earth do I get started? I'm not a pastor!"

Start just like we would on a normal Sunday at Birnham Woods:

- *Set out some chairs*
- *Brew some coffee*
- *Say hi to people when they arrive (seems doable so far, right?)*
- *Follow the instructions on each page & read aloud the parts in bold*

The next few pages will guide you through everything step by step. The videos are not "live" so feel free to visit with your family or guests as everyone is getting settled and then begin.

Videos referenced in this resource are available at LazarusChurch.com.

Ready? Let's do this!

Welcome

Good morning Lazarus Church!

We're going to get started by sharing lows & highs.

- A low would be the most unpleasant or challenging thing you faced this week.
- A high would be the best or your favorite part of the week.

Note for leaders: Start with the youngest person in the room and go clockwise. Take notes for prayers later.

Introduction to Read, Pray, Sing

After celebrations and challenges are written down for prayers later, move into household worship time:

One of the practices Lazarus Church encourages for families is a devotional format where households gather to read from the Bible, pray, and sing a song together.

People are usually on board until the “sing” part. We sing because the Bible contains a lot of songs and God’s people have been singing for a long time. That said, a song is also a great opportunity for meditating on a lesson or Bible reading so feel free to use it that way today.

Read

Ask for a volunteer to read each of the following passages aloud while others follow along.

Reading #1

Matthew 22:35-40 (CSB)

35 And one of [the Pharisees], an expert in the law, asked a question to test [Jesus]: 36 "Teacher, which command in the law is the greatest?" 37 He said to him, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. 38 "This is the greatest and most important command. 39 "The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. 40 "All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands."

Reading #2

Matthew 28:16-20 (CSB)

16 The eleven disciples traveled to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped, but some doubted. 18 Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. 19 "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 "teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Reading Reflection

Visit LazarusChurch.com to watch [VIDEO 1](#). Then pick discussion questions that best fit your group.

Discussion Questions: Kids

- Who are some people you see a lot but don't know very well?
- What do you think Jesus means when He says, "Love your neighbor"?
- In the story Pastor Mark shared, the block party helped people get to know each other. What are some other ways you could get to know someone?
- Why do you think Jesus wants us to love other people?
- Can you think of someone you would like to come with you to Lazarus Kids?

Discussion Questions: Youth

- In Pastor Mark's story, work demanded his attention. What demands your attention?
- What makes it hard to love people who are different from you?
- Can you think of a "love your neighbor" example (either something you did or a kindness someone showed you)?
- Why do you think Jesus connects loving God with loving other people?
- What part of following Jesus feels exciting to you and/or what part feels challenging?

Discussion Questions: Adults

- Where do you notice busyness crowding out intentional love for others in your life?
- Why is it important to hear forgiveness before hearing a call to action?
- In what ways can church activities accidentally become a substitute for loving neighbors?
- In the message, *repentance* is described as a "do over." Is this like or unlike how you typically think about repentance?
- What fears or hesitations do you have about inviting others to join you in your walk with Jesus?
- How might the Holy Spirit be inviting you to take one small step of faith this week?

Pray

Close in prayer. You may choose to say something from the heart (doesn't have to sound fancy!) or read the prayer below. If possible, lift up specific celebrations and prayer requests that were shared earlier.

Dear God, we lift before you the events of this weekend. Help us love you, love our neighbors, and invite people to walk with us as we walk with you.

Sing

- Option 1: Visit LazarusChurch.com or click here to watch [VIDEO 2](#).
- Option 2: Pick a favorite song from the "Read/Pray/SING" playlist at YouTube.com/LazarusChurchTX.