

How to Worship at Home

Prioritizing your Calendar

JANUARY 1

Arranging your calendar can be the most spiritual thing you do.

-Pastor Derek

Gather

Determine whom you will worship with. (LifeGroup, neighbors, friends, family, kids)
Choose a time and place.

Options: prepare a snack, wear cozy clothes, play the worship-at-home playlist as background music, eat a meal together before or after you worship together, choose a song to sing, ask someone to be prepared to pray, choose one of the hands-on activities and gather supplies, preview "The Time You Have" jellybean video

Activity 1: Balloon Chaos

Blow up a lot of balloons (at least three times the number of people present). Try to get all of the balloons in the air at the same time and keep them there! Don't let any one of them drop! Try it a second time with fewer balloons.

Activity 2: Filling Your Jar

Find a large jar or vase and rocks or other small objects of varying sizes (more than will fit into the container). Attempt to fill the jar in two different ways. After each attempt, notice how many objects did and did not fit. First, put all the smaller objects in the jar, then try to fit in the larger objects. Next, place the largest objects in the jar first, followed by smaller and smaller ones. [You can preview a video of this activity on YouTube- "Put Your Big Rocks First".]

Celebrate the Year

- God is at work in our lives! Share a way that you experienced God last year.
- What did you learn about God last year?
- What did you learn about yourself?

Anticipate

- Watch Derek's Worship-at-Home sermon
- What do you want to prioritize in the year to come?
- Read Ephesians 5:15-17
- How can we say YES to the best things in next year?
- What steps do we take to make sure that the best things are prioritized?
- Why is this hard to do? What will be the barriers/roadblocks?
- Do one of the suggested activities. What does this teach us about everything we try to cram into our lives?
- Do you have a goal, hope, or dream for next year that you'd like to share with the group?

Pray

Choose a prayer method appropriate for those who have gathered

Option 1: Ask everyone to write down 1 goal, hope, or dream on a small piece of paper. (Kids in the group can draw a picture.) Sign your names. Fold up the papers and toss them in a bowl. Everyone picks one at random and then prays for the person they choose. (They can do this quietly if they're not ready to pray out loud.)

Option 2: Instruct everyone to take a rock or a balloon. That object represents a priority or an obstacle. In brief sentences, pray for God's wisdom and strength to prioritize the main things and resist the obstacles. (They can do this quietly if they're not ready to pray out loud.)

Option 3: Ask everyone to pray a single sentence of gratitude to God for something in 2022. Then, a single sentence asking God for something in 2023.

Next Steps

Use the Family or Individual “Building Your Calendar” guides on the Worship-at-Home webpage to prayerfully work through prioritizing your calendar.

How can someone in this group help you prioritize your calendar? Invite them to meet for coffee, text you reminders, etc.