

NOTES FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE FAMILY DEVOTION

This family devotion is meant to be conducted on New Year's Eve. A suggested setting would be the family dinner table or living room. It would be helpful to prepare your family for this Devotion by sharing with them the reasons for having such a Family Devotion. If your family has not had the habit of conducting family devotions, this might be a way to start.

This Family Devotion is specially designed to facilitate an informal family gathering for parents with children who otherwise cannot make it for Watch-night Service. It should take around 30 to 45 minutes. The main thing is to keep to the objective of the Devotion, which is an occasion for the family to reflect and review together the past year, and to usher in the new year by way of re-dedication to the Lord.

Things to prepare beforehand:

1. A copy of the Order of Family Devotion (for you the leader).
2. Computer or equivalent to play the songs and video of Brother Tze Ming's homily.
3. Everyone should have a piece of paper with writing material.

Order

1. Word of Greeting and Opening Prayer by leader
2. Song:
3. Sharing and Praying Together
4. Hear the Word: Homily by Brother Tze Ming
5. Response Song:
6. Prayer of Covenant Renewal

Tips for Sharing and Praying Together. The sharing may be framed around the following questions:

- What are some things in the last year you are thankful for?
- What are some things you found difficult or challenging?
- What do you look forward to most in the New Year?
- What can we do as a family in 2021 to "get deep," "get real," and "get lost"?*

You may want to ask your family to prepare their answers beforehand, or everyone can just be given a piece of paper there and then to write their response down. You should prepare what you want to share beforehand, and lead by example in being the first to share. Close the sharing with prayer for one another.

*We are the church that desires to get deep in God's Word, as we learn to be disciples of Jesus Christ.

We are a church that desires to get real in fellowship, as the Spirit shapes us to love one another. We are a church that desires to get lost for the kingdom, as we participate in our Father's costly mission to reconcile sinful humanity and fallen creation to Himself.

NEW YEAR'S EVE FAMILY DEVOTION, 2020

1. Word of Greeting and Prayer

O Lord, our heavenly Father, you are a faithful, covenant-keeping God. On this New Year's Eve, we come together knowing that we are your people. We want to testify to your goodness in our lives; we want to feed on your Word; and we want to renew our commitment to walk with You and live for You. Bless us, O Lord, during this time, with your presence, by Your Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen.

2. Song: His Mercy is More [<https://youtu.be/l1GiZL60c80>]

3. Hear the Word - Scripture Reading and Homily

Leader:

Our scripture reading for today is taken from Mark 15:40-16:8 [Read in unison or responsively]

[Play YouTube video of Homily: <https://youtu.be/8AFpadCoNV0>]

4. Sharing and Praying Together

Leader:

What are some things in the last year I am thankful for? What are some things I found difficult or challenging? What do I look forward to most in the New Year?

I'll go first... [followed by sharing from other members of the family]

What can we do as a family in 2021 to "get deep," "get real," and "get lost"?

5. Response Song: Living Hope [<https://youtu.be/4VDVg42kRPs>]

6. Prayer of Covenant Renewal (Together)

*I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing, put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,
exalted for you, or brought low for you;
let me be full, let me be empty,
let me have all things, let me have nothing:
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours. So be it.
And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.
Amen.*