



For They Know His Voice

ALTARS 2025

ALTARS IN THE HOME

The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

Genesis 12:1

"For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what he has promised him."

Genesis 18:19

Table of Contents

Building an Altar of Worship in the Home	4
You Are A Priestly Home	4
For They Know His Voice	5
Resource Notes	5
Day 1 — Jesus Is Our King	6
Day 2 — Jesus Gives Us Joy	8
Day 3 — Jesus Brings Us Together	10
Day 4 — Jesus Gives Us Ears to Hear Him	12
Day 5 — Jesus Welcomes Us Into His Presence	14
Day 6 — Jesus Is Holy	16
Day 7 — Jesus Is the Center	18

Building an Altar of Worship in the Home

In Scripture, altars were built as places of worship and offering, symbolizing encounters with God. For Israel, altars in the temple allowed Levites to minister and atone for sins, a practice made complete by Jesus' sacrifice. Though physical altars are no longer needed, their purpose remains: to be places where God meets and reveals himself to us.

In the book of Genesis, we start to see a pattern emerge in a family that God set apart to bless. Wherever Abraham pitched his tent, he built an altar of encounter. Following his example, wherever his son Isaac established his home, he also built an altar. And after Isaac, his son Jacob also inherited the family's value for the presence of God and built an altar where he lived.

Our homes are also meant to be places of encounter and expressions of worship. God desires to be at the center of family life, using the altars we build in our homes to influence generations. What works in the home will work in the nations. We, like Abraham and his sons, are invited to build altars in our homes, allowing the presence of God to shape generations.

You Are A Priestly Home

As parents, you are priests in your home, leading your families in worship, prayer – lives set apart for God. Scripture calls parents, not pastors or leaders, to invest in the next generation and build altars at home.

Being a priest means offering costly worship, living vulnerably before God in your leadership and interceding for those entrusted to your care. We must also be open and vulnerable with our families, pursuing God's promises without settling for less than we know is available in him.

Make family worship part of your culture. When you prioritize this as parents, your children will encounter God, and your family will be transformed. You will be drawn deeper into God's heart and better equipped to guide your children's faith and understanding of God. Ultimately, God will be honored in the center of your home.

For They Know His Voice

This year, we are intentionally seeking the voice of our Shepherd as we lead up to the week of Altars. In a world full of noise, Jesus is still speaking. His voice isn't drowned out by headlines, screens, or even our internal chaos. His words cut through with clarity, peace, and power.

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."
— John 10:27

This is how Jesus identifies his people — not by their gifts or achievements, but by their recognition and response to his voice. The Greek word used for "listen" is *akouō* — a word that means to hear with understanding, to respond, and to act. It's not passive; it's relational. It's hearing that leads to movement. We often make hearing God feel complicated. But Jesus makes it simple:

"My sheep know my voice."

This is not optional — it's essential. To hear him is to follow him. To follow him is to live. And when we learn to hear him together as a family, something holy forms, not just habits, but unity. Not just activity, but identity. We become a people gathered, not around preference or performance, but around the voice of the Shepherd. He is still speaking.

As you build a culture of worship in your family, engaging together in prayer and reading his Word... be ready to listen and respond.

Altars in the Home: Resource Notes

This guide is intended to help your family create a worship space at home, but it is not the only way. Each family can adapt your worship practices to fit your unique needs. The focus should be on putting Jesus at the center of your home — with prayer and worship, understanding, and responding to his word as key components.

In building a worship culture at home, consider your values and expectations.

Start with prayer, discerning the values you want to instill in your family worship time.

Communicate these values to your children, explaining how behaviours fit within them. For example, if honor is a value, discuss how to honor God during worship. If a child interrupts or laughs during prayer, gently remind them of the value of honor. Encourage engaged and thoughtful behavior, reinforcing how it aligns with family values. Understanding the values behind expectations helps children grasp their importance.

We pray that God's presence will be tangible in your homes as you build an altar of worship with your family, making him the most valued presence in your life.

Day 1

Jesus Is Our King

SCRIPTURE READING

TIME TO COMPLETE: 25-35 minutes

(Appoint someone in your family to read it)

ISAIAH 9:2-7

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

JOHN 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- What does this teach us about God?
- What is Jesus saying about himself?
- What is Jesus saying to me today?

ACTIVITY — King Jesus Name Banner

Instructions:

1. Create Name Strips:

Write one of Jesus' names or titles on each colored paper strip (examples: Savior, Light of the World, Good Shepherd, Prince of Peace, Emmanuel).

2. Define the Names:

On the back of each strip or on a separate small piece of paper, write what that name means or how your family sees Jesus living out that title.

3. Decorate the Strips:

Add drawings, stickers, or symbols related to each name (like a lamb for Good Shepherd, a heart for Savior).

4. Assemble the Banner:

Punch holes in the top corners of each strip and string them along a length of yarn or string. Alternatively, tape the top edges to the string.

5. Display Together:

Hang the banner somewhere in your home where everyone can see and remember who Jesus is.

Optional: Each family member can choose a favorite name and share why it's meaningful before adding it to the banner.

WORSHIP SONG

King Jesus - Brooke Ligertwood.

FOR THE LITTLES

Put on worship music and make the King Jesus Name banner together. Get them to repeat the names of Jesus, and use them often throughout the week. You can pick a few, or even one verse to read and highlight to them.

FOR WORSHIP TIME

- It might be a good idea to pick them up and hold them, so they can feel connected and be encouraged to sing the words they know.
- Emphasize "We are worshiping Jesus!" and tell them "He loves you so much!"
- Let them repeat the name of Jesus.

PRAYER TIME

Using the things you learned about Jesus, continue to worship him through prayer together. Tell him how much you love him! Ask together what Jesus is speaking to you.

Day 2

Jesus Gives Us Joy

SCRIPTURE READING

TIME TO COMPLETE: 25-35 minutes

(Appoint someone in your family to read it)

PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
He refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
They comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
Forever.

PSALM 16

Keep me safe, my God,
for in you I take refuge.
I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;
apart from you I have no good thing."
I say of the holy people who are in the land,
"They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight."
Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more.
I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods
or take up their names on my lips.
Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup;
you make my lot secure.
The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
surely I have a delightful inheritance.
I will praise the Lord, who counsels me;
even at night my heart instructs me.
I keep my eyes always on the Lord.
With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.
Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest secure,
because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
nor will you let your faithful one see decay.
You make known to me the path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- What does this teach us about how God cares for us?
- What does this teach us about where our joy comes from?
- What is Jesus saying about himself?
- What is Jesus saying to me today?

ACTIVITY — Family Drawing Activity: Jesus Cares for Us

1. Read the Scripture Together:

Begin by reading one or more Bible passages about Jesus caring for his people (for example, John 10:11-18, Psalm 23, or Luke 15:3-7).

2. Draw Your Picture:

Give each family member paper and drawing materials. Invite everyone to draw a picture showing Jesus caring for them in a unique way, along with themselves experiencing joy.

3. Share Your Drawings:

Take turns sharing your drawings with the family. Talk about how Jesus cares for each person differently and brings joy to your lives.

4. Create a Family Gallery:

Find a wall or space in your home to display all the drawings together. Arrange them so everyone can see and be reminded of God's care.

5. Encourage and Reflect:

Remind each other that everyone in your family has a personal relationship with God, who is the same loving Shepherd and Provider for all. Celebrate that he fills each of your lives with joy.

WORSHIP SONG

The Joy - The Belonging Co.

FOR THE LITTLES

Choose one or two lines of scripture to read that they would understand. Make a happy face drawing that they can color, and emphasize that Jesus makes our hearts happy because he cares for us.

FOR WORSHIP TIME

- It might be a good idea to pick them up for a portion and dance with them, so they can feel your joy as you worship!
- If you have any children's instruments, this would be a great song to bring them out.

PRAYER TIME

Using the things you learned about Jesus and the joy that he gives us, continue to worship him through prayer together. Tell him how thankful you are for him!

Day 3 Jesus Brings Us Together

SCRIPTURE READING

TIME TO COMPLETE: 25-35 minutes

(Appoint someone in your family to read it)

EPHESIANS 4:4-6, 15-16

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every way the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

ROMANS 12:4-5

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- What does this teach us about how God wants us to worship together?
- What does this teach us about how God wants us to treat each other?
- What does this teach us about our need for Jesus?
- What is Jesus saying about himself?
- What is Jesus saying to me today?

ACTIVITY — Love Like Jesus Sticky Notes

This passage reminds us that Christ is not only the leader of each of our lives but also the head of our families and the church. As a family, spend some time brainstorming ways you can love and encourage one another like Jesus does. Write down your ideas together, then each person can choose one thing to practice during the week.

To help everyone remember, try placing **sticky notes** with kind reminders or encouraging words around your home, in places like the bathroom mirror, fridge, or on bedroom doors. These little notes can be simple prompts like “*Show kindness today*” or “*Remember to listen with love.*”

Keep talking as the week goes on. Share how you’re doing with your acts of love, and chat about anything that makes loving each other harder. Remind each other of Jesus, who lovingly brings your family together.

Finish by thinking about all the ways Jesus loves your family every day, and thank him for being the heart of your home.

WORSHIP SONG

King of My Heart - Bethel Music

FOR THE LITTLES

Draw a simple family portrait to put somewhere visible in your home. Tell them, Jesus loves our family and keeps you together.

PRAYER TIME

Using the things you learned about Jesus’s love and the family he gives us to love, continue to worship him through prayer together.

Day 4

Jesus Gives Us Ears to Hear Him

SCRIPTURE READING

TIME TO COMPLETE: 25-35 minutes

(Appoint someone in your family to read it)

JOHN 10:3-5

The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."

ISAIAH 30:21

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- What does this teach us about how we can know more of Jesus?
- What does this teach us about who Jesus is?
- What does this teach us about how we follow Jesus?
- What is Jesus saying about himself?
- What is Jesus saying to me today?

ACTIVITY — Recognizing the Shepherd's Voice

After reading the verses together, invite everyone to stand up and spread out in a larger space like your living room or backyard. Choose one person to be blindfolded, they are the "sheep." Another family member will then be the "shepherd," their job is to gently guide the sheep using only their voice. The rest of the family can act as "strangers," calling out other directions or distractions. The blindfolded person must try to listen carefully for the shepherd's voice and follow only their instructions. Once they reach the goal, switch roles so everyone gets a turn!

After the game, sit together and talk about what it felt like to listen for one voice among many. Was it hard to tell which voice was the right one? What helped you recognize the shepherd's voice? Use this as a way to reflect on how Jesus speaks to us, through Scripture, through prayer, and sometimes through others and how we learn to know his voice better the more time we spend with him. Remind one another that even when life feels noisy or confusing, God promises to be with us, guiding us with his voice, saying, "This is the way, walk in it."

End with a simple prayer, asking Jesus to help each family member hear and follow his voice more clearly in everyday life.

Ask them what they learned about Jesus in this activity.

WORSHIP SONG

Open our Eyes - Steffany Gretzinger

FOR THE LITTLES

Gently call your child's name from a short distance, then move closer and call again. Watch how they respond to your voice, turning, crawling, or smiling. Remind them, "Just like you know my voice, we can learn to know Jesus' voice too."

PRAYER TIME

Using the things you learned about Jesus, continue to worship him through prayer together. Ask Jesus to open your eyes to know him more!

Day 5

Jesus Welcomes Us Into His Presence

SCRIPTURE READING

TIME TO COMPLETE: 25-35 minutes

(Appoint someone in your family to read it)

HEBREWS 10:19-22

Therefore brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

REVELATION 3:20

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- What does this teach us about God's presence?
- What does this teach us about how we can be in his presence?
- What does this teach us about what Jesus did for us?
- What does this teach us about how God wants us to live?
- What is Jesus saying to me today?

ACTIVITY — Inviting Jesus In

Give each family member a small paper or sticky note. On it, write or draw something they want to invite Jesus into, like their worries, their day, their family, or their dreams. Then, gather together and place all the notes near a door or window. One person pretends to be Jesus knocking gently. As Jesus “knocks,” invite each person to come forward, pick up their note, and say out loud how they are choosing to welcome Jesus into that part of their life.

Afterward, focusing on settling into Jesus’ presence by starting with what we already know and love about him. Begin by naming Jesus’ names or qualities we know about Jesus. From there, lead your family into a time of worship, resting in who he is and letting his truth sink deep into your hearts. Share what Jesus spoke to you.

WORSHIP SONG

In Your Presence - Dan Musselman (Instrumental)

Presence - LO Worship

FOR THE LITTLES

Turn down the lights, grab some pillows and blankets and get down on the floor together. Encourage them to rest; maybe even close their eyes, and be with Jesus while the music is playing.

PRAYER TIME

Using the things you learned about Jesus, continue to worship him by being in His presence through prayer together.

Day 6

Jesus Is Holy

SCRIPTURE READING

TIME TO COMPLETE: 25-35 minutes

(Appoint someone in your family to read it)

ISAIAH 6:1-5

I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!”

And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

ISAIAH 57:15

For thus says the One who is high and lifted up,
who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:
“I dwell in the high and holy place,
and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit,
to revive the spirit of the lowly,
and to revive the heart of the contrite.”

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- What does the word “Holy” mean?
- What does this teach us about Jesus?
- What does this teach us about why we should worship God?
- Why do you think the angels say “Holy” three times?
- What is Jesus saying about himself?
- What is Jesus saying to me?

ACTIVITY

The Bible teaches us that God is holy, distinct and set apart, unlike anything or anyone else. He is the King of all of Heaven and all of Earth.

Have them draw Isaiah 6:1-5. Ask them if they think this was before Jesus came, or after. When they are finished, cover each drawing up with a darker, thick piece of paper. Explain that God is so Holy, that going into his presence with any sin meant death. Isaiah was writing this before Jesus, so he thought he was going to die! Peel back the paper, and tell them that Isaiah was seeing behind the scenes, behind the veil to see Jesus for who he really was.

Cover up the drawings again. Get each person to rip the paper in half like the veil that was torn in two, to reveal the drawings again. Talk about the last devotional where we can now go into his presence, and not die.

Talk about Isaiah 57:15. Ask them what it means to be lowly and contrite? Isaiah was writing before Jesus came and died. This scripture shows us that God will always come and meet us — just as he is in perfect Holiness — the King on the throne when we humble our hearts before him. Even before Jesus died on the cross, God's heart was to be with his people, especially those that needed him the most.

WORSHIP SONG

Holy Forever - Bethel Music

FOR THE LITTLES

Get them to say "Jesus is Holy, Holy, Holy"

PRAYER TIME

Using the things you learned about Jesus' holiness and, continue to worship him through prayer together. Scripture also says that we should be holy in our actions, because we are meant to reflect him. Ask God to help your family be holy and set apart for him.

Day 7

Jesus Is the Center

SCRIPTURE READING

TIME TO COMPLETE: 25-35 minutes

(Appoint someone in your family to read it)

COLOSSIANS 1:16-17

For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- What does this teach us about who Jesus really is?
- What does this teach us about how we should see Jesus?
- What does this teach us about how we should worship Jesus?
- What does it mean that Jesus is holding everything together?
- How is Jesus speaking to you?

ACTIVITY

Light a candle and put it in the middle of the room. Move the candle to one corner of the room, or down the hall. Ask them what is different about the room when you move the candle around. Ask them if it's better to move the candle to the corner or to the center of the room.

Talk about the verse, and how Jesus is before everything and at the center of everything holding it together. Jesus IS the center, but sometimes we can move him around to different places. Talk about how much better it is for everyone in the home when Jesus is worshiped at the center.

As you go into worship, keep the candle in the center of the room.

WORSHIP SONG

Christ is the Center - The Belonging Co.

FOR THE LITTLES

Put the Bible in the middle of the room, and tell them "The Bible tells us about Jesus and Jesus is in the center of everything!"

PRAYER TIME

Using the things you learned about Jesus, put him at the center of your worship and prayer time together.

"MY SHEEP LISTEN TO MY VOICE; I KNOW THEM,
AND THEY FOLLOW ME."

John 10:27