**CHM Leadership Certification**

**Level #10, Course #8**

**MAKING FAMILY WORSHIP FUN FOR ALL AGES**

**Litiana Turner, SPD Children’s Ministries**

**(Presenter’s Notes)**

Slide 2

Say: **What do you see?**

In many of your homes right now, whether you are zooming in from home or as you sit here in this training you probably have sitting on your kitchen bench some fruit, they may be in a bowl or a basket, hanging off the side of the door. As you can see on my slide here, I have a bowl of mandarins Your fruit bowls may have… pineapples, pears, bananas, pawpaw, apples. If you are home right now, you might be able to run to your kitchen and bring back your fruit bowl. Please look at the fruit bowl on my slide…

Say: **I want to invite you to turn to a person beside you and just share with each other what you see?**

I’ll give you a few moments to talk with each other…or if you are alone reflectively jot down on your writing pad what you see? As words come into your mind about what you see please add them to the chat so we can engage with each other…

Slide 3

Say: **Words that might have popped into your conversation… or been written down on our chat include…**

**Mandarins, Fresh juice, Sweet, Clemantines, Bright Orange Colours, Fruit, Summer Days…**

Slide 4

Say: **Fruit or mandarin segments… Did anyone say fruit/mandarin segments?**

Slide 5

Say: **Did anybody say seeds? In the chat??? I am wondering if when you looked at that first picture of the fruit bowl with the mandarins in it, did anyone put down or discuss with their partner that they saw in that bowl…SEEDS!**

Slide 6

Say: **A citrus orchard or a row of mandarin trees… did anyone type in our chat that they saw ….a , plantation of citrus trees??? From that fruit bowl picture we began with did anyone look ahead and “see” that there is a potential for Kingdom growth here, that the bowl of fruit potentially represented a whole orchard of new trees…**

Slide 7

Say: **Moms, Dads, leaders of children we need to remember that phrase that Dr Covey popularized “Start with the End in Mind”…**

Slide 8

Say: **Right now I just want to ask you to consider … Why are you sitting in this specific workshop? What is your end goal? What do you hope to achieve? What life lessons do you want for your child to have from these seasons of his/her life with you?**

**What is YOUR reason or your purpose to pursue ‘Making family worship fun for all ages?... you might want to Make Family Worship fun for all ages, because;**

1. **you loved your family worship experience as a child and you want to emulate that with your children, or it could be that**
2. **you are new to this walk with Jesus and you’d like to introduce your family to Him through family worships, it might even be that**
3. **your experience of family worship was not positive and you hope to be different in the way you approach worship time with your kids…**
4. **Or maybe you’re not sure why you should but you know that as a parent it sounds like the right thing to do…**

**No matter what your reason, I think two words that should always go together are fun & family, now when you throw worship into that equation it get’s me thinking and wondering…**

Slide 9

Say: **Where did worship first happen on this earth?**

**When I started thinking about worship and where or when did worship first happen ON THIS EARTH and why did worship take place then… something that became really clear to me as I reflected on these IDEAS was that Worship first took place in THE garden OF Eden or in the bush, it happened out in nature…I don’t say that to be disdainful, I say it because when I read again the creation story and as I read it with an intentionality to understand why worship happened when it happened I realized anew that… WORSHIP…any worship is a response to an action or a deed. Here in my reading of the creation story, something absolutely spectacular has happened… where there was a formless void and darkness… THE SPIRIT OF GOD moved over the surface of the waters and God said…”Let there be light!” WOW!!!! And just like that…. There was light…. Now wouldn’t you want to just worship…be still and humble yourself in awe before this creator God?**

Slide 10

Say: **I’m not sure if you’ve seen this book by Karen Holford as she has a wonderful brief introduction on the history of worship…and how it has changed over the years…you may want to download it from the website children.adventistchurch.com/resources**

**This book explores both the ‘why’ and the ‘how’ of intergenerational worship and provides a simple history of worship through the Bible….**

[**https://children.adventistchurch.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2019/09/altogether-wonderful-exploring-intergenerational-worship.pdf**](https://children.adventistchurch.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2019/09/altogether-wonderful-exploring-intergenerational-worship.pdf)

Slide 11

Say: **As I was preparing and reflecting on this time we have together, I would look up from desk in my study at home and see these flowers from my window and one morning when the sun was shining warm and bright I took this photograph and these purple daisy like flowers (African Daisy- osteospermum) just make me smile… why???... because they are bright and cheerful the cornflower blue center is just gorgeous in the sunlight. And when I stop and think that God just spoke and flowers like these just came into existence…I am in awe of this creator God of ours. When I re-read the Genesis creation story, I am in awe of who and what God can do.**

**I see God in the beauty of these daisies, I see Gods’ grace towards me when I spend time with my 70 year old mother, we can all experience God through our senses. Imagine when you may have had the flu and your tastebuds don’t work so well and even your sense of smell is diminished, do you recall that first return of a beautiful scent or that surprise realization when suddenly your taste buds have returned…these small instances point one towards an attitude of gratitude…Our adult selves experience the world in a vastly different way to children. We are able (when we take the time) to reflect on the things we see, hear, touch, smell, taste or feel the presence and power of God in nature that surrounds us and also in the people that we may interact with. I pray that this workshop will assist you to actively mentor this same awareness in your children. That they practice daily being in the presence of Jesus.**

Slide 12

Say: What you prioritize will inadvertently be communicated to your child as important. So if Jesus is important to you, and if you and I spend time with Him daily, your children will get that message loud and clear. You want to have children who love the Lord and yearn to serve Him and his church? Then mums and dads, you and I need to love the Lord ourselves and we need to BE willing to serve and support our local churches and pastors. You’ve heard the saying that “an apple does not fall far from its tree”… well today as we consider **Making family worship fun for all ages** we need to remember that the ultimate goal…the end goal is that our child grows and develops their own walk with Jesus. So that when they are no longer with us, they are confident in who they are, and what their purpose is in life… Research tells us that children are more likely to adopt the faith of their parents. And that “Worship habits formed early on in the child’s life are often lifelong and highly formative.” (Worship in a Box, Finding Jesus by Daron Pratt)

Slide 13

Say: **In Deuteronomy 6 we read this directive which Moses gives to the children of Israel from God. They are living in the wilderness and God says to them for their lives to be fulfilled and prosperous, happy and healthy Moses reminds the moms and dads that they must teach their children …they must pass on their faith to the next generation.**

**4“Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%206&version=NLT)] 5And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. 6And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. 7Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.**

Slide 14

Say: **In her book *Altogether Wonderful*, Karen Holford discusses what we can learn from Deuteronomy 6 family worship that will inspire us in the way we worship today….she points out that the Deuteronomy 6 worship style is…**

**Familiar-using everyday events and moments to teach children about God, His love, His law, and their responsibilities**

**Natural multisensory and interactive as it is closely connected with everyday activities and events**

**About loving God with all their heart, mind, physical strength and spiritual strength – every part of their being**

**Naturally intergenerational as extended families lived together or in close proximity**

**So worship and being in Gods presence and acknowledging God needs to be a natural part of the living …it’s an everyday common occurrence. So how does one make family worships fun and inclusive for all ages???**

Slide 15

Say: **You just say YES!** **In the early 80’s there was a popular advertising slogan for Corn Chips… or as they called it in it’s abbreviated form, CC’s**

**The slogan was basically this, You can’t say No to… CC’s**

**So what are the things which need to happen if we are to make Worship fun for all ages?... I’d like to suggest 4- C’s**

**There are four C’s you cannot say No too.**

Slide 16

Say: **Making Family Worship fun for all ages…**

**I’d like to suggest four C’s**

**Consistency (or a consistent effort/application by the family)**

**Choice (there is a choice given for the types of worship encounters)**

**Clarity ( the worship message is always very clear and simple enough for the youngest child to pick it up)**

**Closeness/Closure ( the impact of the worship is that children and adults are drawn closer to one another and closer to Jesus)**

Slide 17

Say: **Making Family Worship fun for all ages…**

**I’d like to suggest the first C is**

**Consistency or a consistent effort/application**

**Consistent may be defined as “done in the same way over time or not contradictory”**

 [**Consistent | Definition of Consistent at Dictionary.com**](https://www.dictionary.com/browse/consistent)

[**www.dictionary.com › browse › consistent**](https://www.dictionary.com/browse/consistent)

**I’d like you to consider for a moment what a typical day is like for you and your family… Would you say that your family just pop out of bed in the morning ready to face the day or are they more likely to be the leave me alone in the morning type of family… just by considering this honestly you can already begin to determine which times would best work for your family for worship…. Times??**

Slide 18

Say: **AS you look at making family worship fun for all ages…I’d like you to also consider your 5 Daily Essential Moments as a parent… (refer to the ppt)**

**Building Authentic relationships with your kids takes intentionality. We have listed our daily five essential relational moments to help you connect with your kids daily, in a consistent and intentional manner. We have also included some ideas, so you have a place to start from.**

[**https://children.adventistchurch.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2017/03/The-Daily-5-Essential-Relational-Moments.pdf**](https://children.adventistchurch.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2017/03/The-Daily-5-Essential-Relational-Moments.pdf)

Slide 19

Say: **Consider the way that you format your worship? By ensuring that it is done in a simple, clear and concise easily repeated way, will also give it a longer shelf life with your family…Here’s a suggestion!**

* **Welcome & Opening Prayer (5mins)**
* **A couple of songs of praise (10mins)**
* **Meditational thoughts/Reflection (10mins)**
* **Closing Prayer & Challenge (Worship Book) (5mins)**

Slide 20

Say: **Synonyms of consistent include; steady, stable, constant, regular, even, uniform, orderly, unchanging, unvarying, unswerving, undeviating, unwavering, unfluctuating, homogeneous, true to type. dependable, reliable, unfailing, predictable.**

[**Consistent | Synonyms of Consistent by Lexico**](https://www.lexico.com/synonym/consistent)

Slide 21

Say: **Ask yourself can doing something consistently become boring? YES of course it can…and that is why we need to constantly be open and aware of what is happening with our families, what is happening at school for our children, what’s happening in the world around them and the community within which we live.**

**Being consistent or having a routine, is NOT necessarily a bad thing in fact sometimes children and families benefit from knowing that every evening after dinner we will have a time for family worship, however it is in our worship… our responses to God…that we should not be just routine. We need to teach our children and ourselves to celebrate and see God and HIS LOVE FOR US IN OUR EVERYDAY LIVES. (Practicing the presence of Jesus in all that we do) For those things which He chooses to provide for us and those things that are withheld from us. To be at peace or content with what God has blessed us with. This is a choice which we need to consistently make in our worship lives.**

Slide 22

Say: **The second C which I wish to talk with you about is the C of Choice!**

**There always needs to be a choice or a variety of ways that worship is experienced… the reason I say this is because a five year old child’s sense of inclusion or fun in worship will differ somewhat to a 12 or thirteen year old’s sense of participation and connection. I am not saying that they won’t enjoy worshipping together however when we do make the worship time schedule, there definitely needs to be some strategic choices made… that takes into consideration, the child’s areas of joy (passion) and skills (what are they good at/what makes them shine)- gifted at reading or prayer, singing or intercession are they artistic or great at writing…**

**The choices we make on what to include and how we worship need to be strategic not just convenient.**

Slide 23

Say: **For instance, in the Basic Worship Format… keeping in mind that you have a 5 year old and a tween aged person in your home…**

**You may have;**

**Mom welcoming the family to worship & helping 5 year old as they open with prayer (Dear Jesus please be with us as we worship tonight)**

**Dad might lead out in songs and have a child choose their favourite chorus to sing…**

**The Tween aged person might read the meditational thought or passage of scripture (Ask the DBR questions here??)**

**Worship/Prayer Journal where prayers are recorded…**

**Popcorn prayers of thanks and prayer requests…**

Slide 24

Say: **Think of your five senses and imagine experiencing worship with one of the senses highlighted based on a Bible story…**

*\*\*\*You may want to get your audience to actually do this activity in real time so they practice it with each other!\*\*\**

**Another way you could give your family choices in their worship format is where you get them to…**

**Think back through your day, and share with the family one interaction or experience which you are grateful for? Was there one which you wish you could change? What was it and Why?**

**Giving yourselves and your children an opportunity to share authentically in worship time opens the family to having Jesus as a part of the conversation when reflecting on your day, so when you say…”Let’s pray about it…” It has come from a conversation/sharing in worship…**

Slide 25

Say: **“The use of object lessons, blackboards, maps, and pictures, will be an aid in explaining these lessons, and in fixing them in the memory. Parents and teachers should constantly seek for improved methods. The teaching of the Bible should have our freshest thought, our best methods, and our most earnest effort” (Education, p 186).**

Slide 26

Say: **As the parent it is important that you are actively choosing the types of spiritual engagements which you and your children are involved in on a daily basis. So your worship experiences are up to you! Do you require it t be….**

**15mins or 30 mins**

* **Active/Reflective**
* **Parent led/Child focused**
* **Share an experience/Read a Sabbath school Lesson/Short Story/#DBR-Passage of Scripture/ Worship in a Box/The Tuis Worship Workbook (on the 28 Fundamentals)**
* **Prayer**
* **Repeat the process…**

Slide 27

Say: **There are a variety of Discovery Bible Reading Bookmarks which you may use, and they are available in various languages from this website…**

[**https://children.adventistchurch.com/resources/category/discipleship/**](https://children.adventistchurch.com/resources/category/discipleship/)

**You may notice the language and colour schemes adjusted for Women, Men, Girls and Boys…please choose as appropriate for your family.**

Slide 28

Say: The DBR have also been translated into other languages please share with neighbours and friends…

[**https://children.adventistchurch.com/resources/category/discipleship/**](https://children.adventistchurch.com/resources/category/discipleship/)

Slide 29

Say: **The THIRD “C” to be considered is the C of Clarity…**

* **Worship messages need to be very clear, and simple to understand.**
* **Children must experience the wonder and joy of Jesus’ love whenever possible.**

Slide 30

Say: In the **Signs of the Times, August 7, 1884 we are reminded that…**

**“Select a portion of Scripture that is interesting and easily understood; a few verses will be sufficient to furnish a lesson which may be studied and practiced through the day… At least a few verses of spirited song may be sung, and the prayer offered should be short and pointed. The one who leads in prayer should not pray about everything but should express the needs in simple words and praise God with thanksgiving.”**

Slide 31

Say: **I suggest that journaling your prayers may be a sure simple way to consider scripture and to think on them throughout the day… This is a downloadable prayer Journal on the South Pacific Division website which focuses on a different Bible verse every day and encouragers one to reflect on the passage of scripture. It’s a 30 day Prayer/Worship journal and perhaps if it is done consistently a new habit for spending time in the word may begin.**

[**Children.adventistchurch.com**](https://children.adventistchurch.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2017/03/Litiana-Prayer-Journal-SPD.pdf)

[**https://children.adventistchurch.com/resources/category/discipleship/**](https://children.adventistchurch.com/resources/category/discipleship/)

[**https://children.adventistchurch.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2017/03/Litiana-Prayer-Journal-SPD.pdf**](https://children.adventistchurch.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2017/03/Litiana-Prayer-Journal-SPD.pdf)

Slide 32

Say: **The final “C” I wish to highlight and which we need to say yes to is Closeness. During our Family worship times, the ultimate goal is to draw ourselves and especially our children into a closer and more intimate relationship with Jesus.** It should be the special object of the heads of the family to make the hour of worship intensely interesting. By a little thought and careful preparation for this season, when we come into the presence of God, family worship can be made pleasant and will be fraught with results that eternity alone will reveal.

Slide 33

Say: **We are told in Deuteronomy 6:4-7 “Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%206&version=NLT)] 5And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. 6And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. 7Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.**

Slide 34

Say: **Right at the beginning of this workshop we established that the first worship opportunity that took place on this earth, happened in the Garden of Eden.**

* **Worship began as an opportunity to be still a while and enter into conversation with our Creator God.**
* **Worship was and is about a personal connection to Jesus**
* **I’d love to suggest that worship should not just be an activity that is slotted in at the beginning of the day or somewhere after dinner in the evening before people retire to their bedrooms/ rather that worship is what we do throughout the day…**

**That our everyday living breathing life is about practicing being in the presence of Jesus… oh how wonderful that would be….**

Slide 35

Say: **Alan Reynolds in the book *Reading the Bible for the Love of God,*  points out that;**

“…worship provides an insight into who Christians are and why they are here. It unleashes for them the power, through God’s grace, to become more than they are. Worship for the Christian is not relegated to certain times or special occasions. However, Christian history has shown that to maintain and assist this daily, vital connection of experiencing God, Christians need to adopt various forms of worship.”

**So how can one make family worship fun for all ages … I’d like to conclude with the instructions given in Romans 12 the Message Version…**

Slide 36

Say: **So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.**

Slide 37

Say: **Additional Resources to Consider**

Slide 38

Say: [**https://children.adventistchurch.com/resources/category/discipleship/**](https://children.adventistchurch.com/resources/category/discipleship/)

Slide 39

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Slide 40

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Slide 41

Say: **Faith Shaper - Shaping Faith @ Home**

**Making lifelong disciples of children and youth is a key priority of our church. We believe that it is time to have the important discussions on what formational experiences they need. In partnership with the Interdenominational National conversation**[**here2stay**](http://www.here2stay.org.au/)**South Pacific Division and Australian Conferences Children’s Ministries have put together 7 Essential Experiences that will shape this faith that stays. We want this faith to be deep, and it needs to be strong and active.**

**As you plan to give your children the 7 essential experiences they need for life-long faith, have a look at the following checklist as a starting point. Tick off how many practices you do. Put a start beside those that you are going to try. Don’t be afraid to adapt this list to fit your family and situation.**

[**https://children.adventistchurch.com/resources/category/discipleship/**](https://children.adventistchurch.com/resources/category/discipleship/)