

# A House of Prayer

## Opening Song

If time permits, open singing/playing "Holy Spirit by Brian & Katie Torwalt." Some people may need or want the lyrics so one option is to play a lyric video on youtube or put the lyrics on the tv while someone plays an acoustic or piano if you feel comfortable leading.

## Story

Every home starts the same way—with space. Empty rooms. Quiet corners. Moments where voices echo because there isn't much noise yet. At first, it's easy to notice God there.

But slowly, the house begins to fill—not with bad things, but with life. Shoes pile up by the door. Calendars crowd the fridge. Evenings blur together with practices, homework, screens, and exhaustion. The TV is always on. Phones are always nearby. Conversations get shorter. Silence becomes uncomfortable.

One night, after everyone is asleep, a parent stands in the doorway and realizes something painful: "We live together... but we don't slow down together anymore." They can't remember the last unhurried meal. The last family prayer that wasn't rushed. The last time God felt centered instead of squeezed in or rushed before bed.

**The house didn't stop loving God. It didn't choose rebellion or distance. It simply filled every room with noise until there was no space left to notice His voice.**

**God was never asked to leave.  
He was just quietly crowded out.**

## Scripture

### **Matthew 21:13**

**"My house shall be called a house of prayer."**

Jesus didn't say a perfect house. He didn't say a calm house or an organized house. He said a praying house.

Sometimes our homes aren't loud because something is wrong—they're loud because life is full. God isn't offended by busy homes. He's simply waiting to be invited back into the rooms that have been filled with noise.

## Family Reflection

If someone could be invisible in our home for one week, what single word would they use to describe it? Or if our home had a heartbeat, what would it sound like?

- Prayer and peace?

- Laughter and love?
- Worship and gratitude?
- Or mostly rushing, distraction, and stress?

There is no right or wrong answer here. No guilt. No shame. Just honesty. God can only heal what we're willing to notice. **Take some time to let each person answer honestly and openly.**

## Opening the Doors Together

Jesus said His house would be a house of prayer. A house of prayer isn't built with long or impressive prayers—it's built with open doors.

Every time we pray, even one sentence, it's like opening a door and saying, "God, You're welcome here."

Ask each person: **Which room in our house needs God the most right now?** Let everyone answer freely. No correcting. No explaining.

Have each person pray one simple sentence over the room they chose. *Example: "God, we invite You into our living room. I pray that what we watch and talk about honor You."*

Then ask: **What do we want our home to be known for?** (Prayer. Joy. Peace. Worship. Love etc)

Have the dad or head of the home pray over everything shared, asking God to help your house become what you just named. Even take some time to repent if necessary.

## Closing Blessing

( Feel free to add anything or even do a repeat after me saying it together)

Jesus, make this house a place where Your presence feels safe. Where peace lives. Where prayer feels normal. Where love is louder than noise. Amen.

**Extended Worship Time:** Play or sing, "House of Miracles by Brandon Lake" or another worship song. If you can play a guitar or piano, that is a bonus. If you want to just put it on youtube with the lyrics on your tv, that works great as well. The point is intentional worship time together as a family.

## House of Prayer Devotional | Night 2: A House That Listens

### Opening Song

Be Still-Hillsong Worship (Find a youtube video with lyrics or if you are able lead your family with an acoustic or piano)

### Opening Story

**There's a difference between noise and nearness.**

Most homes are full of sound. Music playing, video games, conversations overlapping, tv's blaring. Even when the house gets quiet, our hearts often don't. Thoughts race. Worries replay. Tomorrow feels loud.

Picture a family sitting in the same room. Everyone is close... but everyone is somewhere else. Screens glow. Minds wander. Bodies are present, but attention is scattered.

Later that night, when the house finally settles, someone whispers a simple prayer: "God, I want to hear You... but I don't know how anymore."

Not because God stopped speaking.  
But because listening requires space—and space is something we don't make very often.

God has never been silent.  
We've just been living at a volume that makes whispers hard to hear.

### Scripture

#### **1 Kings 19:11-12**

**<sup>11</sup> The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. <sup>12</sup> After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.**

God wasn't in the wind.  
He wasn't in the earthquake.  
He wasn't in the fire.

**He was in the whisper.**

God often speaks softly—not because He is distant, but because He is near

## Family Reflection

Ask together:

**“What makes it hard for us to slow down and listen?”**

You might hear answers like:

- “We’re always busy.”
- “Screens distract us.”
- “My mind won’t stop.”
- “I don’t know what I’m supposed to hear.”

There is no wrong answer. No shame. God is patient with every one of them.

## Practicing Stillness Together

Tonight, we are going to practice stillness. (If we have any distractions or moving around, we will start over to ensure we remove all distractions. It is so hard and rare for us to just be still. The wind, the earthquake, and the fire would have all been very noticeable. However Elisha had to be still to notice the the gentle whisper.

Sit together in silence for **60 seconds**. I would recommend setting a timer so the person leading isn’t distracted with counting.

**Tell your family:** “For the next 60 seconds, we are going to sit in silence. (If they have anything in their hands that could distract like chip bags, noisy toys, floor fans, etc. remove them) As you are sitting there, ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you or bring a word or phrase into your mind that He wants to speak. No pressure if you don’t hear anything.

### **Explain to kids:**

“We’re not trying to hear something loud. We’re just giving God room to speak if He wants to.”

**Note for leader:** I like to start with maybe a deep breath in and deep breath out a few times to calm their breathing.

**START 60 SECOND TIMER (Do it a few times or longer if you have older kids)**

After the quiet, ask:

- “Did anyone feel peaceful?”
- “Did a word come to mind?”
- “Did anyone feel distracted?”

All answers are okay.

Then have each person pray **one simple sentence**, like:

- “God, help me learn to listen.”
- “God, thank You for being close.”
- “God, quiet my heart.”

If someone gets a word, it may be God trying to speak. If it feels significant, encourage them that God just spoke to them and they can hear from the Lord. Encourage them to make space everyday to be still and invite Him to speak. I would also encourage you to write it down because it may be significant.

### Closing Blessing (Have your family repeat after you)

“Jesus, teach our home how to slow down. Quiet our hearts.  
Help us notice Your voice and trust Your nearness.  
Make this home a place where listening feels safe.  
Amen.”

### Closing Song

Voice of Truth - by Casting Crowns (Repeat same steps as opening song)

# House of Prayer Devo Night 3 | A House That Speaks Life

**Theme:** Words shape the atmosphere of our home

**Focus:** Speaking life intentionally

**Estimated Time:** 15–20 minutes

## Opening Song

### **Goodness of God – Bethel Music**

Find on YouTube or play on an acoustic or piano. Find lyrics for everyone to see if possible.

Leader tip: Don't worry about singing "well." Even listening quietly together counts.

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## Opening Story

Our home has a specific sound. Not just music or noise, but words.

- The things we say when we're tired and grumpy.
- The tone we use when we're rushed because we procrastinated a little too long.
- The passive aggressive comments we say without thinking.

Some words pass quietly through a room. Others echo for a lifetime. We may forget the sentences spoken in our homes, but the feelings they planted never leave us. Over time, words shape the atmosphere of our home more than we realize."

### **Then say:**

Tonight isn't about shame. It's about opening our eyes and choosing words that bring life to each other.

## Scripture Reading

**"The tongue has the power of life and death." - Proverbs 18:21**

Words never arrive empty handed. They either build or break. They either bring life, or slowly drain it. God isn't asking us to be perfect because we all fall short and need His

grace. However He is inviting us to speak life and purpose.

## Family Reflection

Ask the questions slowly. Let answers come naturally.

### Question 1:

“What kind of words do we hear the most in our home?” (No correcting. Just noticing.)

### Question 2:

“How do we want people to feel when they hear our words?”

If needed, offer examples:

- Safe
- Encouraged
- Loved
- Seen

## Speaking Life

Our words can't be taken back but they can be chosen. Go around the circle. Each person speaks **one life-giving sentence** to the person on their right.

*(This may be funny and awkward for the kids at first but give them space and tell them to take this seriously)*

**Examples** (feel free to read aloud if kids need help):

1. “I feel safer and happier when you're around.”
2. “I love the way you care for others.”
3. “I'm glad you're my mom/dad.”
4. “You are really funny.”
5. I appreciate all the work you do around the house.

### Leader note:

- Awkward is okay.
- Quiet is okay.
- Tears are okay.

Afterward, pause and say:

It may be a little awkward to do this, but the words we speak over each other really matter. When we build each other up, our home becomes stronger. We are literally speaking life into our home.

## Prayer

Invite anyone who wants to pray **for the family**.

Prompt ideas:

- “God, help our words bring life.”
- “God, help us pause before we speak.”
- “God, heal words that hurt.”

If no one volunteers, the leader closes.

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## Closing Song (Choose One – optional)

**The Blessing - Kari Jobe / Elevation Worship**

**-or-**

**Speak Jesus - Charity Gail**

*\*Follow Same Steps as first song*

## Closing Blessing

Have everyone hold hands if comfortable.

Leader reads and everyone repeats:

“Jesus, let this house be full of life. Guard our words. Heal the places that careless words have wounded. Teach us to speak with love, patience, and grace. Let our voices reflect Your heart.

Amen.”

## Night 4: A House of Peace

### Opening Worship Song:

Goodness of God – Bethel Music (Find lyric video on YouTube or Play and sing it if that works better for your family.)

### Opening Story

There are times when our home experiences conflict. However, every home experiences conflict. Not because something is wrong, but because people are close. When we are with our family, we see our true selves. Different personalities. Different moods. Different needs. Stress shows up. Words get sharp. Sometimes our patience runs thin.

Sometimes peace doesn't leave our home all at once. Sometimes It slips out quietly through small arguments, raised voices, slammed doors, or silence that lasts a little too long.

And often, after things calm down, everyone feels the same thing:  
*"I wish I had handled that differently."*

Peace isn't the absence of conflict.  
Peace is knowing how to return to each other when things fall apart.

### Scripture

**Colossians 3:15**  
*"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts."*

There are moments where the things we do and say, can make peace something hard to return to. Some of us want to do whatever we can to return the peace instantly. There are others that you may need to be alone and process. Peace doesn't mean pretending nothing happened. It means letting Jesus lead us back toward forgiveness, humility, and repair.

God's peace doesn't ignore tension. It wants to enter it if we will allow it.

### Family Reflection

Ask together:

**"What usually steals peace in our home?"**

You might hear:

- "Being tired."
- "Feeling rushed."
- "Not feeling listened to."

- “Misunderstandings.”
- “Stress.”

No one is in trouble. We’re not fixing, just noticing.

Then ask:

**“How do we usually respond when peace is broken?”**

Do we raise our voices?

Shut down?

Avoid each other?

Rush past it?

It is important to know how we respond or our members of our family responds. Awareness is the first step toward change.

## Practicing Peace Together

Explain gently:

“Peace isn’t about winning arguments. It’s about protecting relationships.”

Invite everyone to think of **one simple phrase** that helps bring peace back, like:

- “I’m sorry.”
- “Can we try again?”
- “I didn’t mean to hurt you.”
- “I need a moment.”

Have each person say one phrase out loud—not aimed at anyone, just practiced.

Then invite short prayers, one sentence each:

- “Jesus, help me calm down before I react.”
- “Jesus, help us forgive quickly.”
- “Jesus, bring peace back into our home.”

## Closing Blessing (Speak Over Your Family)

“Jesus, rule this house with Your peace. Teach us to slow down, listen, and forgive. Heal what has been hurt. Help us return to love quickly. Make this home a safe place again. Amen

**Closing Worship Song** Peace Be Still – The Belonging Co.

# House of Prayer | Night 5: A House of Gratitude

## Opening Song (Optional)

God I'm Just Grateful-Elevation Worship

(Find Lyric Video on YouTube or if you play an instrument and want to lead your family

## Opening Story

There was a family who thought they had a problem with their house. Too loud. Too messy. Too rushed. Too many reminders. Too many eye-rolls. Every night felt like survival mode.

Get everyone fed, bathed, in bed, repeat.

Get everyone fed, bathed, in bed, repeat.

Get everyone fed, bathed, in bed, repeat.

One evening, after a long day, the power went out. No lights. No TV. No Wi-Fi. No chargers. At first there was panic. Groans. Complaints.

“This is the worst.”

“What are we supposed to do?”

“I can't sleep without noise.”

They lit a few candles and sat at the table because there was nothing else to do. And in the quiet, someone laughed. Then someone told a story. Then someone noticed, “*It's actually kind of nice in here.*” Before heading to bed, the mom said, “Let's try something. Before we sleep, everyone say one thing you're thankful for.”

At first it was small.

“My bed.”

“Food.”

“Not being scared of the dark.”

Then it got honest.

“I'm thankful Dad came to my game.”

“I'm thankful Mommy listens when I'm upset.”

“I'm thankful we're together.”

The lights came back on an hour later.

But something in that house stayed lit. The next night, with the power fully restored, they did it again. Not because they had to but because they wanted to.

And they realized something powerful:

**Nothing about their house had changed.**

Same walls. Same kids. Same noise. Same mess.

**But gratitude changed the atmosphere.**

Gratitude didn't make life easier. It made the family *see* differently. The house didn't become perfect. It became *aware*. Aware that the noise meant life. The mess meant presence. The chaos meant people they'd miss someday. And slowly, that house became known for something. Not being quiet. Not being clean. Not being perfect.

But being **thankful**.

A house of gratitude isn't built in one night. It's built one sentence at a time.

"Thank you for..."

"I'm grateful that..."

"I don't say this enough, but..."

And those words? They don't just fill the room. They change it.

## Scripture

<sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- Philippians 4:6-7

Notice how it says don't be anxious about anything, but in every situation with prayer and petition **WITH THANKSGIVING** present your requests to God. Prayer is basically any conversation that we have with God. However petitions is the things that we ask God for.

A lot of times we treat our relationship with God in the same way we treat our parents. We are really good at talking and asking for things. "Can I buy me this?", "Can you make me that", etc. Yet most times we fail to be thankful. So many times we remain in our nervous, anxious state because we do not include gratitude into our prayer life.

Whenever we practice thanking God for things we already have, it is scientifically proven that we become more joyful, hopeful and optimistic. Which in turn increases our faith to remind ourselves of God's past faithfulness. It shifts our focus off of the things that we don't have to how good He is.

Gratitude isn't pretending everything is perfect. It's choosing to notice what is still good even when life feels messy.

Gratitude changes the atmosphere of a home.

## Family Reflection

Ask together:

1. When you're stressed, worried, or frustrated, what usually comes out of you first. Requests or Gratitude? What do you think that reveals about your heart right?
  2. What are things that we don't always thank God for. Or things we used to thank Him for but no longer do?
  3. What would need to change in our words or habits for our home to become a place marked by gratitude instead of anxiety?"
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## Practicing Gratitude Together

Explain:

"Gratitude grows when we say it out loud."

Go around the room and have each person say **one thing they're thankful for today**. It can be serious or simple.

Then add one more round:

**"Name one thing you're thankful for about our family."**

**"Name one thing you're thankful God has done in your life?"**

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## Closing Blessing (Speak Over Your Family or Repeat after Me)

"Jesus, open our eyes to see Your goodness.  
Teach us to notice before we complain.  
To give thanks before we rush on.  
Let this house be full of gratitude.  
Amen."

**Closing Song (Optional)**

Gratitude- Brandon Lake Lyric Video

# Night 6: A House That Abides

## Opening

Everything we've talked about this week has one thing in common.

None of it works by doing it once. They work by daily consistency over time. Prayer isn't a moment. Listening isn't a trick. Peace isn't automatic. Gratitude isn't a mood.

They all depend on Abiding. In other words, they all rely on staying connected.

## Opening Story

Most families have at least one phone charger that everyone fights over. Maybe it lives in the kitchen, or the living room... or next to someone's bed. And somehow every night someone says: *"Hey... who took the charger?"* Because at some point during the day the phone ran out of battery. It didn't stop working because it was a bad phone. It didn't break. It didn't suddenly become useless.

It just disconnected from its power source.

So what do we do? We plug it back in. And usually we don't plug it in for five seconds. We leave it connected long enough for it to recharge.

The interesting thing is this:

Phones are designed to stay connected regularly, not just once. If you charge it one time this week and never plug it in again, it won't last long. And in a lot of ways, our relationship with Jesus works the same way.

It's not about having one powerful moment with God. It's about staying connected to Him over time. Jesus actually used a picture like this when He said:

***"Remain (Abide) in me, and I will remain (abide) in you." - John 15:4***

He wasn't talking about visiting Him once in a while. He was talking about staying connected, like a branch connected to a tree. Because life flows through connection. And tonight we're going to talk about what it looks like for our family to stay connected to Jesus in everyday life.

## Scripture

**'Remain in me, as I also remain in you.' - John 15:4**

Abide means to remain. It means don't disconnect. Don't drift. Don't disappear when it gets busy or messy. Abiding is what we do between the big moments.

It's choosing to come back:

- After a hard day
- After an argument
- After forgetting to pray
- After snapping instead of listening"

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## Family Discussion:

Ask:

'When life gets busy, what usually pulls our attention away?'

Let answers come.

Then ask:

'What helps us reconnect?'

Say:

"Abiding doesn't mean adding more. It means noticing when we've drifted and then returning."

1. When do you feel closest to God during your day?  
(For some it might be praying, being outside, worship music, reading the Bible, or just being quiet.)
2. What are some things in life that make it easy for us to forget about God or drift away from Him?  
(Busyness, phones, stress, school, sports, arguments, distractions.)
3. If abiding means “staying connected to Jesus,” what are some small ways we could stay connected to Him as a family during the week?  
(Short prayers, thanking God at meals, worship music in the house, talking about our day with God.)
4. Why do you think Jesus wants us to stay close to Him instead of only coming to Him when we need something?

## Prayer

Either the discussion leader prays to become a house that abides, or have your family say short popcorn prayers.

## Closing Blessing

**Repeat after me:**

“Jesus, help our home stay connected to You. In ordinary days. In stressful moments. In quiet spaces. When we drift, pull us back. When we forget, remind us. When we fail, welcome us. Teach us how to abide.

Amen.

## Closing Song

Abide – Live: The Worship Initiative.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q6UdXd1vtcs>

# Day 7: A House of Legacy

## Opening

Tonight is different. Not because it's the last night of this series but because it asks a question we don't usually stop to ask.

One day, this house will be quiet.

One day, your mom and I won't be here. One day, you won't be here either. That's not sad, it's just true...

So the real question isn't: How do we live today?

It's:

**What will still be living when we're gone?**

## Story

Most of us can remember something about people we've lost. Maybe it's not their voice. Maybe not their face exactly. But you remember what they stood for.

You remember:

- How they treated people
- How they made you feel
- What they believed
- What they made room for
- What they wouldn't compromise

Even though they're gone, something about them is still alive.

That's legacy!

Legacy isn't what you leave to people. It's what you leave in them.

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## Scripture

## Psalm 145:4

'One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.'

This verse assumes something important. Faith doesn't disappear when one generation dies. It's handed forward."

This house will not be remembered for its size. Or its furniture. Or how busy it was. It will be remembered for what it formed...

This week wasn't about creating memories. It was about shaping people.

Because one day:

- Our prayers will be prayed by other mouths
- Our words will echo in other homes
- Our values will show up in decisions we'll never see":

Your mom and I are not just raising children. We are shaping what comes after us.

## Family Reflection

1. What are some things our parents or grandparents passed down to us that still affect how we live today?
2. When people think about our family years from now... what do we hope they say lived here?
3. What are some things that we do that could hinder reaching that goal?
4. If our great-grandchildren could watch one ordinary day in our house this week, what would they learn about God?
5. Is there anything in our family story that we hope stops with us instead of continuing into the next generation?
6. What do we want to pass on that can't be taken away by time?

## The Legacy Moment

Prayer, listening, peace, gratitude, abiding,  
those weren't the point. They were the tools.

The legacy is:

- How we love
- How we forgive
- How we return after failure
- How we trust God when life is uncertain

## Closing Prayer

God, thank You for the time You've given us together.

Teach us to build something that outlives us.

Not fame.

Not success.

But faith.

Let what begins in this house  
continue long after we're gone.

May generations we'll never meet  
be shaped by what You do here.

Amen."

## Closing Song

### The Blessing

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u9VL7AhXBKY&list=RDU9VL7AhXBKY&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u9VL7AhXBKY&list=RDU9VL7AhXBKY&start_radio=1)