

**November 1, 2020**

## **Sacred Spaces**

**Genesis 8:20-21; 12:6-8; 28:16-22; 1 Samuel 7:10-12**

In this week's lesson, Scripture shows us a variety of ways and places that God's followers worshiped. From Noah's altar to Jacob's stone, we see that praising God can happen anywhere, anytime. The student book author writes, "We can experience God's presence in a worship service on Sunday morning, but we might also experience God's presence in a hospital room, as people gather around a dying family member to pray or to sing. We might experience God's presence in the home as family members share love."<sup>1</sup> God meets us where we are.

Many people who regularly attended church services are now worshiping at home via videoconference or offline as a family. "We have experienced that the Church is not a building but a community gathered in prayer. We've also realized that our homes can also be places of prayer. . . . Perhaps it's time to create a prayer space at home that is available any time of day or night to anyone in your household. In the midst of . . . worries of this world right now, working together as a household to build a home altar or sacred space may be an excellent way to create order and peace."<sup>2</sup>

A home worship center allows us to draw close to the Creator and provides a focal point for our praise and prayer. But how do you create one? The wonderful thing about an at-home worship space is that you can personalize it to fit your home and your needs. Find images or objects that are most inspiring to you. Cover a small table or a mantle with colored cloth. You can change the cloth for different seasons in the liturgical year. Follow this link for a list of colors: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/liturgical-colors.php>. Place candles, a cross, a Bible, a Nativity set—anything that reminds you of your relationship with God. When it comes to worship, it's not where an altar is located or what's on it (although candles and other things like that are nice). It's who we meet there that makes it sacred, and how we are changed as a result that makes it special.

1. When have you worshiped God outside of traditional church services?
2. Do you think creating a home worship center would benefit your spiritual journey? Why or why not?
3. What would you include in your home worship space?

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<sup>1</sup>From *Adult Bible Studies*, Fall 2020, by Chuck Aaron (Cokesbury, 2020); page 90.

<sup>2</sup>From [rowsofsharon.com/2020/03/24/making-an-altar-for-home/](https://rowsofsharon.com/2020/03/24/making-an-altar-for-home/).