



# Chalice Home

Imagination



# Contents

WELCOME

## FAMILY WORSHIP GUIDE

*Special Note: Check [this link](#) for an overview of the Chalice Home structure and the building blocks for creating your chalice home.*

# Welcome to Chalice Home's Celebration of Imagination

Welcome to Chalice Home for January and the theme of Imagination. Each month, we offer two family worship experiences that explore our monthly theme and help us expand our Chalice Homes with additional symbolic objects/tokens.

In our first home worship this month, we honor the way imaginative stories like Lord of the Rings or Pippi Longstocking give us something powerful. Stories allow us to transcend our limits and indulge in an escape now and then. They also allow us to learn life lessons while in a pretend world. To honor this important role stories play in our lives, we invite families to place a favorite book on their Chalice Altar.

In our second home worship, we engage imagination's call to "think outside the box." We will do this by inviting your family to engage in some hands-on creativity. We won't spoil the surprise now but get ready to transform the ordinary into the extraordinary.

As we will discover together, imagination doesn't just help us make our way through life it makes our life *come to life*. In that spirit, may this month's worships illuminate the magic waiting for all of us in the corners and crevices of our days.



# Family Worship Guide on Imagination

Here are two family worship rituals for engaging our monthly theme of Imagination. As always, treat the scripts as inspiration, not rigid instructions. Adapt and enhance as best fits your family!

## Worship Ritual #1

### The Imagined Story That Has Shaped Your Real Life Story

#### A Personal Story to Start Things Off

Instead of jumping right into family worship and formal ritual, we suggest that parents begin by telling a personal story related to the monthly theme. This helps put the worship into context and reminds your children that this family worship is connected to the wider theme exploration that your entire church is doing this month.

So for this family worship, begin by sharing a personal story about a book (perhaps a different one than the one you will offer as your symbolic Chalice Home object) that shaped who you are and how you have lived your life. Be sure to connect your favorite parts of the book or favorite characters to specific times in your life. How has the book served as a type of guide or mentor to you?

Don't invite others to share their treasured story yet. Instead explain that what you just shared is what we will be exploring and sharing together in the worship. In other words, use your sharing as opening words.

#### Centering Sound

Move from "regular time" to "sacred time" by sounding your bell, chimes, ringing bowl, or ringing glass. Here are ritual words to go with your centering sound:

*"To this quiet place of beauty, we come from busy things  
Pausing for a moment for the thoughts that quiet brings."*

#### Chalice Lighting

Use this one or write your own...

May the light of this chalice,  
spark our imaginations.  
May it lead us back to the stories and characters  
that romp and roam the corridors of our minds.  
In the warmth of this chalice, may we remember again  
how thankful we are  
to have others who love us,  
and guide and accompany us,  
as our own stories unfold.



## Centering Music

Here are some songs about imagination for this time of connecting to the theme through music. Choose one that you like the best. While sitting quietly and listening to the song is a good way to center yourself and your family, it may be hard for younger children to listen for the length of an entire song. If that is the case for you, consider playing only a part of the song or inviting your children to draw a picture while listening, maybe a map or drawing of a fantasy place.

- Where Do We Come From?  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7zEwa1XqUk&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7zEwa1XqUk&feature=emb_logo)
- Come and Go With Me  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L9Q2Mmc6tDc>
- Puff the Magic Dragon  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U0PI2djoA10>

## The Giving Bowl

Remember that money is not the only way we are generous to others. So, in addition to or instead of money, consider writing down on small pieces of paper ways you can support others or special organizations this month. Be sure to bring in the monthly theme by talking about how the organization you are supporting helps you heal the world.

Ritual words: *“We drop our coins (papers) in and fill the bowl. Serving others makes us whole.”*

## Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Invite each family member to pick up a rock and share something they are thankful for about the past week while dropping the rock into the bowl of water. The aim here is to make room to notice the good things all around us even though times are hard.

After this first round of joys, invite each family member to choose another rock and share something or someone they have a concern for - someone or something they are holding in their hearts and prayers. This is a way to bring the struggles of others into our hearts.

And don't forget that the rocks love being used in this ritual and they can be pulled out of the water and used as “double rocks” if there are more joys and concerns. :-)

Ritual Words:

*“We listen to each other; it is a holy act.  
To share our joys and sorrows, with grace it flows on back.”*

# Enriching Our Chalice Home:

## The Imagined Story That Has Shaped Your Real Life Story

Inspired by our monthly theme, each family worship ritual guides us in adding a symbolic object/token to our Chalice Home, with each object we add reminding us of a value that grounds our family. This month we honor the way our lives are shaped by the value of imagination and the stories we cherish.

This worship's symbolic token/object(s) - one of your beloved books - will act as a reminder of this gift of imagination and the special role stories play in our lives. And if you find yourself wishing to re-read your favorite story, of course, remove it from the Chalice Home! Just place it there when you aren't reading it to remind you to keep story and imagination in your life.

### Instructions:

Invite each family member to think of one of the books which has most shaped their life. For young children, it will likely be a book read to them at bedtime which is their favorite. For older children, it might be a series they've read or are reading. For adults, it might be a book read during a difficult time in their lives. Whichever it is, search your imagination (and bookshelves) to find it. If you don't have the book on your bookshelves, write the title and author on a card folded to stand like a book. (This may prompt you to buy it or borrow it from a library! While you are at it, why not read it and let it into your imagination again?!)

Share with each other why you chose that book.

- How did it impact you?
- How did it challenge you?
- How did it comfort you?
- What do you remember most about your book?
- What lesson did it teach you?

Whether it is through stories like Lord of the Rings or classic fairy tales, there is something powerful about using our imagination to visit and create new places. It allows us to transcend our limits and indulge in an escape now and then. It also allows us to learn life lessons while in a pretend world.

### Adding Your Symbol to Your Chalice Home:

After sharing, each family member adds the book they chose (or title and author card) to your Chalice Home.

*"I place this book/ to remind me how day after day/ stories and imagination/ guide me on my way."*

Family responds: *"May our lives be filled with stories and imagination!"*



# Bless Your Objects

*"[Spirit of Life and Love], We give thanks for the many ways each of us finds moments of clarity and escape in these books. May we remember to celebrate story and imagination in our lives. May our stories and imagination bring moments of needed escape and wisdom when we need it most."*

## Setting an Intention

As you bring your family worship to a close, pause for a moment to think ahead about the coming weeks and make an imagination intention/promise for how you want to act, what you want to remember, or how you want to treat others.

*"In the coming weeks, to honor my favorite story, I promise to \_\_\_\_\_."*

## Extinguishing the Chalice

*"We gather the warmth of love,  
the light of truth, and the energy of action into our hearts.  
As we return to the world of do and say,  
May we carry these gifts forward into the dawning day.  
Go now in peace.  
Amen."*

**Instructions:** Use your hands in a gather/cupping gesture and bring them to your heart. Repeat after the "warmth of love," "the light of truth," and the "energy of action." View Katie's YouTube video demonstrating how to add a gesture to these words: <https://youtu.be/GEF4Hdm08oM>



# Worship Ritual #2

## The Call to Think Outside the Box

### A Personal Story to Start Things Off

Instead of jumping right into family worship and formal ritual, we suggest that parents begin by telling a personal story related to the monthly theme. This helps put the worship into context and reminds your children that this family worship is connected to the wider theme exploration that your entire church is doing this month.

So, for this family worship, begin by sharing a personal story about how you found a way to use imagination to problem solve, invent or explore a new place by “thinking outside the box.” It might be an everyday story, like when you used toothpaste as a spackle to cover a nail hole. Or perhaps you used your imagination to get yourself out of a mess. Or maybe it was a time when your imagination helped you choose a life path different from the typical path that society expects. The goal is to find a story that exemplifies how imagination helped enhance your life or solve a problem.

Don’t invite others to share their similar stories yet. Instead explain that what you just shared is what we will be exploring and sharing together in the worship. In other words, use your sharing as opening words.

### Centering Sound

Move from “regular time” to “sacred time” by sounding your bell, chimes, singing bowl, or ringing glass.

Ritual words to go with your centering sound:

*“To this quiet place of beauty, we come from busy things  
Pausing for a moment for the thoughts that quiet brings.”*

### Chalice Lighting

Use this one or write your own...

May the flame we kindle  
remind us of the sparks of insight  
that imagination brings.  
When we come to dead ends  
let us lean on our creative thinking  
to help us carve new paths.

*Light your chalice.*





# Centering Music

Here are some songs using imagination for this time of connecting to the theme through music. Choose one that you like the best. While sitting quietly and listening to the song is a good way to center yourself and your family, it may be hard for younger children to listen for the length of an entire song. If that is the case for you, consider playing only a part of the song or inviting your children to draw a picture while listening, maybe a pretend Candyland!

- Imagination - Jess Penner  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EgFlaQqbqBs>
- WILLY WONKA AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY: Pure Imagination Gene Wilder (1971)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1y8aYd9uqFY>

# The Giving Bowl

Remember that money is not the only way we are generous to others. So in addition to or instead of money, consider writing down on small pieces of paper ways you can support others or special organizations this month. Be sure to bring in the monthly theme by talking about how the organization you are supporting helps you heal the world.

Ritual words: *"We drop our coins (papers) in and fill the bowl. Serving others makes us whole."*

# Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Invite each family member to pick up a rock and share something they are thankful for about the past week while dropping the rock into the bowl of water. The aim here is to make room to notice the good things all around us even though times are hard.

After this first round of joys, invite each family member to choose another rock and share something or someone they have a concern for - someone or something they are holding in their hearts and prayers. This is a way to bring the struggles of others into our hearts.

And don't forget that the rocks love being used in this ritual and they can be pulled out of the water and used as "double rocks" if there are more joys and concerns. :-)

Ritual Words:

*"We listen to each other; it is a holy act.*

*To share our joys and sorrows, with grace it flows on back."*



# Think Outside the Box

## Explain:

Inspired by our monthly theme, each family worship ritual guides us in adding a symbolic object/token to our Chalice Home, with each object we add reminding us of a value that grounds our family. This month we honor the way our imaginative and creative thinking helps us live differently or helps us solve problems.

With this in mind, this worship's new symbolic token/object(s) will be a box that helps us remember to "think outside the box." So find a box of your choice. For instance a jewelry box, shoebox or a box that a mug might come in.

First talk a bit about what "thinking outside the box" means: Going against the grain by thinking in non-conventional ways, creative problem solving, etc.

Then use your chosen box to play with the idea. While others might see it as "just a box," how might your imagination see it as more than that?

Now, create together a Sculpture/Creation/ Invention from your box by finding odd but everyday objects like paper towel tubes, old jewelry, bottle caps, old silverware, and other things out of the recycle bin and junk drawer. Add masking tape and imagination!

## Adding Your Symbol:

Add your box sculpture to your Chalice Home.

Close with these words:

*One family member: "We add this creation /to remind us that life is what we make it. / Problems and puzzles will always come our way. / But within those limits, we never have to stay!"*

*Family responds: "May we use our imagination each and every day!!"*



# Bless Your Object

*“[Spirit of Life and Love], We give thanks for the ability to use our imagination to think outside the box. May we not get stuck in ruts, but always creatively find our own way. Blessed be our creative thoughts that help us make the world a more wonderful place, for ourselves and the many others on our journeys. Amen.”*

## Setting an Intention

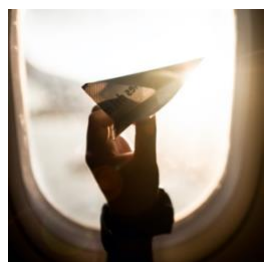
As you bring your family worship to a close, invite each family member to name the place or relationship where you are being called to think outside the box.

*“In the coming weeks, I will try to be more creative at/with \_\_\_\_.” [name the place or relationship where more creative thinking is needed i.e. your work/friendships/school/sports, etc.]*

## Extinguishing the Chalice

*“We gather the warmth of love,  
the light of truth, and the energy of action into our hearts.  
As we return to the world of do and say,  
May we carry these gifts forward into the dawning day.  
Go now in peace.  
Amen.”*

**Instructions:** Use your hands in a gather/cupping gesture and bring them to your heart. Repeat after the “warmth of love,” “the light of truth,” and the “energy of action.” View Katie’s YouTube video demonstrating how to add a gesture to these words: <https://youtu.be/GEF4Hdm08oM>



# Other Resources and Sources of Support

## Soulful Home Family Guides

Parents are invited to explore the themes at home with their family by subscribing to our monthly parent guides, **Soulful Home**. Here's the link to the Soulful Home page on our website: <https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/soulful-home.html>.

There are three types of subscriptions: congregational, family, and gift subscriptions. Check them all out!

## Inspiration Facebook Page

Parents receive spiritual nourishment and inspiration by joining the Soul Matters Inspiration Facebook Page. <https://www.facebook.com/soulmatterssharingcircle/>

## Soul Matters Music Playlists

We create two different playlists on the monthly theme each month: one in Spotify and another in YouTube. Music connects us to the themes in a way like nothing else.

Click [here](#) for links to the [Spotify playlists](#) for each month.

Click [here](#) to check out the [YouTube playlists](#).



# ***Soul Matters Chalice Home Authors***

***Authors: Katie Covey, Soul Matters Director of Religious Education  
Rev. Scott Tayler, Soul Matters Team Lead***

Thanks also to the other [Soul Matters Team](#) members who contribute to the content and shape of these packets.

## **Cover Photo: The Inside Scoop**

This packet's cover photo is of Katie Covey's personal Chalice Home. Katie is one of the authors of Chalice Home.

The playful doors are an imaginary congregational threshold which she hopes will open to a bright future for all the UU families creating a Chalice Home.

Her orchid was a birthday gift 8 years ago from Rev. Emily Conger and Rev. Jaelyn Pema Scott, back in the "old days" of SpiritJam and Day Camp at Boulder Valley UU Fellowship, Lafayette, CO. It has bloomed twice a year ever since.

The photos are of her son, Brett, who is an ER nurse, and of her brother, Ian, who was evacuated from Nigeria and is home safe.

The bike light and patch kit represent the cycle tours she and her husband love to ride together since they met online on Cycling Singles.com.

The chalice was made for Katie by her father, Del Tweedie, from a Juniper branch.

The wooden Giving Bowl is another of Del's creations on the lathe.

The glass container is a recycled spice bottle! The striped rock bowl is an olive oil dish from Barcelona which their daughter brought home for them.

The school bell was given to her father for his service on the Tredyffrin/Easttown School Board in Devon, PA.



***Soul Matters***

© 2020-21 Soul Matters ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Learn more about Soul Matters resources at  
<https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com>

Check us out on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).  
We also have song playlists on [Spotify](#) and [YouTube](#)