

# MASILJ IN THE FAMILY

"Masilj" originates from a three-year-old's attempt to say "family." Since then, we have referred to our family group as Masilj. For many years, we have gathered with a few families and had Masilj together. Over time, some families have realized they can use the same concept at home with just their own family. From this, the need to write down how to easily implement Masilj at home has emerged.

Masilj consists of 5 parts: Food, play, worship, the Bible with application, and creative prayer.

## FOOD

Coming together around the dining table to eat together is a very good way to have time to talk as a family. For some families, this happens daily, while others may need to schedule certain days to "make it happen" with shared meals. Make the most of this time to converse with each other about what is happening in life.

Here is a simple description of how you can carry out a Masilj.



During such a meal or at another time during the week, you can take the opportunity to have a Masilj. Since there are four different parts, you can divide yourselves into four "groups" (if you are more than four in your family). Each group picks a slip with one of the parts written on it. You get a few minutes to prepare what you want the family to do together based on that element. Then, you come together, and each "group" leads its element. Together, you can have decided how much time each element can take so that one of them doesn't take up all the time you've planned for the Masilj.



## PLAY

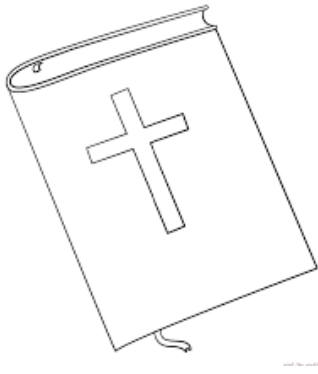
There's almost no limit here, except for time and space. Engage in activities that everyone can participate in. It can be simple "sit still" games or more active ones. As an adult, you might learn many new games from the younger members of the family!

## WORSHIP

If someone in the family can play an instrument, they can lead if you want to sing. You can also use recorded worship songs. Remember that worship doesn't just have to be singing; it can include other elements such as gratitude and focusing on who Jesus is and what he has done. Be creative and find new ways to express your worship.



## THE BIBLE



You might have a Bible reading plan that you follow. In this element, you can read where you are and then lead a discussion based on what you've read. Perhaps prepare some questions that might be good to reflect on. Anyone who can read can lead this element. If there are two people, the one who can read can read it to the younger one during preparations, and the younger one can come up with questions about the passage. If you don't have a specific Bible reading plan to follow, the person leading this element can decide what to read and lead the discussion around the text.

## CREATIVE PRAYERS

There are many simple ways to pray creatively. Let the prayer subject guide how you pray. Here are a few different ways to think about it:



### CHOICE OF LOCATION

You can choose a geographical location – on a high mountain where you can see the city you're praying for, a playground where you pray for families in the area, etc. Alternatively, it could be a specific spot in the room—hide under a table when praying for those in slums, stand in a doorway when praying for upcoming guests, enclose yourself in a closet and pray for those in prison, and so on.

The choice of location can add a physical and symbolic dimension to your prayers, creating a tangible connection between the space and the subject of your prayers. It allows you to engage with your surroundings as you lift up specific concerns and people to God.

### BODY POSTURE

You can use your bodies to "build" something, like a tower. Stand in a formation that resembles a map, lie down on the floor in a specific pattern, lift someone up high, create a human structure that represents a church building, and so on.

By incorporating body postures into your prayer, you're adding a physical and visual element to your communication with God. It's a unique way to express your thoughts and intentions, using your bodies as a living representation of your prayers. This creative approach can make the act of prayer more engaging and memorable.

### PLAY AND PRAY

You can incorporate various games into your prayer time, such as passing the prayer around in a circle by touching the next person's hand, throwing a ball to the person you want to pray, hiding items that need to be found before praying, prayer scavenger hunts, etc.

Integrating play into prayer can make the experience more interactive and enjoyable. It adds an element of fun and creativity to your time of communication with God, making it more accessible, especially for younger participants. This approach can help make prayer a dynamic and engaging activity for the whole family.

When you have Masilj, it's not just about having a devotion together. It involves many more aspects, such as everyone feeling they have a voice in the family and others are listening to them, as an adult expressing your faith together with your children, as a family finding a language to share faith with each other, everyone participating in leading and thereby practicing leadership skills, and much more.

On the next page there are some simple cards you can use to determine who does what. Cut them apart and laminate them if possible. Use them frequently!

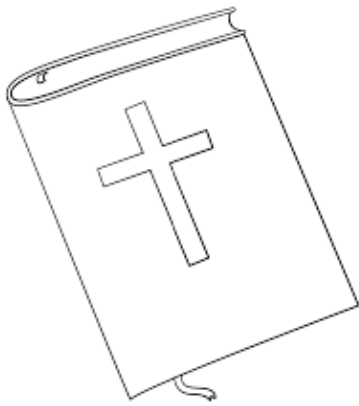
Good luck with having Masilj together!



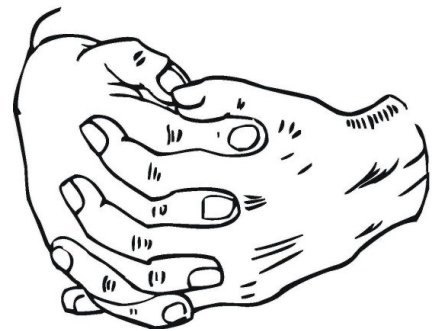
**PLAY**



**WORSHIP**



**THE BIBLE**



**CREATIVE  
PRAYER**