

## Establishing Godly Family Worship

Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services

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## Worshipping the Lord

1. **Corporate** – worshipping as a congregation. (*Hebrews 10:25*)
2. **Private** – daily private study of the Word. (*2 Timothy 2:15*)
3. **Family** – teaching within the home. (*Deuteronomy 6:7*)

## The Christian Home

**Deuteronomy 6:4-9** *“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.”*

## Growth vs. Pass/Fail

### Satan's Desire

*1 Peter 5:8*

- Minimize the importance or maximize your failure.



### God's Desire

*1 Peter 5:10*

- Growth



Conviction -> Action -> Improvement

## Why Family Worship?

- Created to worship.
  - You and your children will worship something.
- We are stewards.
  - Time, Money, Relationships, etc.
  - Point our children to Christ as often as possible.
  - It is our responsibility and calling as parents.



## Why Family Worship? Cont.

- Models biblical living
  - Offers regular opportunity for confession of sin, forgiveness and reconciliation.
  - Reading and understanding scripture.
  - Prayer
- Builds relationships
  - Family worship will give you a window into your child's heart.
  - Relationship with the Lord, Spouse, Children, Friends.
  - You get the chance to speak directly into their lives.
  - A healthy vibrant church comes from healthy vibrant families.

## For What Purpose?

- Worship is to be part of our daily lives.
- Refocuses our minds and hearts.
- Glorifies our great God.
- Increase interest in God's word.
- Grow in knowledge.
  - What does the passage teach?



## Ephesians 6:4

**Ephesians 6:4** *"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."*

"Without some regularity and structure and purpose, it is one of those things that we assume we are doing but never actually do. Consistent, father-led family worship is one of the best, steadiest, and most easily measurable ways to bring up children in the Lord's discipline and instruction."<sup>1</sup> Donald Whitney

<sup>1</sup> Donald S. Whitney, *Family Worship: In the Bible, in History, and in Your Home* (Distributed by The Center for Biblical Spirituality, Shepherdsville, KY, 2005), p. 7.

## Guarding Family Time

**Ephesians 5:15-17** *"See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is."*

- Busyness is the most common barrier to family worship.
- We rarely take time to just stop and think.
- What is most important to you? Mission?
- Purpose to invest your time.
- Exercise your choice and your authority.
  - How do you decide if you will make a commitment?
    - Do I have time? vs. What am I saying "no" to by saying "yes"?
    - Could I do this? vs. What do I want to do well?

## Common Objections

- Children too young.
  - Keep it short.
- Children won't participate.
  - Make it fun.
  - Their presence is mandatory if they are going to enjoy the privileges of being in your home.
- I'm a single parent.
  - Do what you can.



## Common Objections

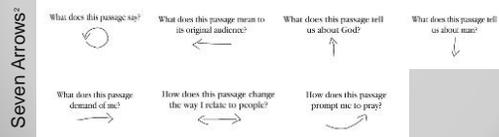
- No children in the home.
  - We can all grow and encourage each other.
- Husband won't lead.
  - Engage him, encourage him, support him and as a last resort find a way to respectfully lead family worship.
- I'm not a teacher, I don't know the Bible well enough...
  - Start somewhere, it will get easier.

## How to do Family Worship?

### • Read Scripture

**Psalm 119:105** *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."*

- Ask questions.
- Discussion.



<sup>2</sup> Rogers, M. 7 Arrows for Bible Reading. Retrieved from <http://life.biblechurch.org/tefom/disciplined-publications/4280-7-arrows-for-bible-reading-by-matt-rogers.html>

## How? Cont.

### • Sing

*Psalm 69:30 "I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving."*

- Jesus Loves Me.
- Choose a song that fits the reading.

### • Pray

*1 Thessalonians 5:17 "Pray without ceasing."*

- Adoration
- Confession
- Thanks
- Supplication

## How? Cont.

- How long?
  - Start small, work up to 15-20 minutes a day.
- When?
  - Consistency will help ensure it occurs.
- Make it a Priority.



## Just Get Started

- Make a commitment to start, maintain, or reengage family worship.
- Find two other families who will hold you accountable to family worship.
- Dad's find another father who is willing to teach/learn with you on how to engage your family in worship.
- Wives support your husbands and let them grow as a teacher.

## Resources

- Long Story Short by Marty Machowski
- Old Story New by Marty Machowski
- The Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd-Jones
- Josh McDowell's Family Devotions by Josh McDowell
- The Beginners Family Worship Handbook by Tony Kummer  
[http://www.accounseling.org/uploaded/Marriage\\_and\\_Family/family-worship-guidebook.pdf](http://www.accounseling.org/uploaded/Marriage_and_Family/family-worship-guidebook.pdf)
- A Neglected Grace: Family Worship in the Christian Home by Jason Helopoulos

## That Our Children Might Know Him

*Psalm 78:1-7 "Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments; And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God."*