



LEADING FAMILY WORSHIP

MAIN POINT: *The Lord intends for the primary responsibility to fall on husbands leading our wives and fathers leading our children to know and see Jesus Christ as our supreme authority, savior, and treasure.*

"FAMILY WORSHIP" - *an intentional time in the day which typically includes reading Scripture, praying, and singing together.*

FAMILY WORSHIP IN THE BIBLE

Abraham

Gen. 18:19 - ...For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD...

Gen. 22:7...where is the lamb for a burnt offering?

Moses

Deut. 6:7 ...You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Joshua

Josh. 24:15 ...as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Job

Job 1:5 - ...he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually.

Asaph

Psalms 78:4-7 ...We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. 5 He established a testimony...which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, 6 that the next generation

might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, 7 so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments...

Paul

Eph. 6:4 - Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

HOW TO LEAD FAMILY WORSHIP

Pray for your own heart

- We want our families to know and see Jesus Christ as our supreme authority, savior, and treasure. In order to do that, we must continually beg the Lord for this to be a growing reality in our personal lives.
- It should be a primary goal to kindle the fire in our own hearts toward the Lord so that our families are drawn to the warmth and the glow of what's inside of us.

Plan

- Get the when & where. During this season of your family's life, when is the best time to meet for 10-20 minutes?

Read

- Find something that works for your family's ages. You can begin by reading a chapter in a gospel, NT letter, psalm, or proverb. Take turns reading and then have a brief discussion.
- As you read, think about what this text teaches us about:

God

- Character: Who he is & what he's like
- Conduct: What he's doing
- Concerns: What things, events, people he's concerned about

People

- Created in God's image - "original design"
- Fallen condition - "sin's effect"
- How God's people should live - "redeemed life"

Relating to God

- Things to praise & thank God for
- Sin to confess & repent

- Promises & truths to believe

Relating to others

- How we should interact with & treat others
- Ways to pursue reconciliation with others
- Ways to love, serve, and care for others

Pray

- Respond by praying together.
 - Pray something based on the text.
 - Pray for a burden on your mind.
 - Pray out of the TGC prayer directory.
 - Use the acronym **ACTS** as prayer guide (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication).

Sing

- Singing is a way to demonstrate unity around a common truth - helping our hearts meditate on truth.
 - Play a song, sing acapella, or sing along to music from an album.
 - Artists: Sovereign Grace Music, The Gettys, & The Corner Room. For younger kids - Sovereign Grace Kids, Seeds Family Worship, Rain for Roots, and Ellie Holcomb.

2 THREATS TO FAMILY WORSHIP

Busyness

"Busyness does not mean I am diligent. Busyness does not mean I am faithful. Busyness does not mean I am fruitful...The sluggard can be busy—busy neglecting the most important work, and busy knocking out a to-do list filled with tasks of secondary importance. When considering our schedules, we have endless options. But there are a few clear priorities and projects, derived from my God-assigned roles, that should occupy the majority of my time during a given week. And there are a thousand tasks of secondary importance that tempt us to devote a disproportionate amount of time to completing an endless to-do list. And if we are lazy, we will neglect the important for the urgent." - C.J. Mahaney

"Were you formed for this world only there would be some force in this objection, but how strange does such an objection sound coming from an air of eternity? Pray, what is your time given to you

for? Is it not principally that you may prepare for eternity? Have you no time to invest in your family for what is the greatest business of your and their lives?" - Samuel Davies

Passivity

- The church programming and the church community are a good supplement, but a poor substitute for discipling your kids. The primary job of the church is to come alongside the family.
- Pastors should aim to equip members by teaching biblical principles (Eph. 4).

A GOD-SIZED VISION FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

"We deeply want a revival of domestic religion. The Christian family was the bulwark of godliness in the days of the puritans, but in these evil times hundreds of families of so-called Christians have no family worship, no restraint upon growing sons, and no wholesome instruction or discipline. How can we hope to see the kingdom of our Lord advance when His own disciples do not teach His gospel to their own children? Oh, Christian men and women, be thorough in what you do and know and teach! Let your families be trained in the fear of God and be yourselves 'holiness unto the Lord'; so shall you stand like a rock amid the surging waves of error and ungodliness which rage around us." - Charles Spurgeon

RESOURCES

Leading

Family Worship by Donald Whitney
Family Worship by Joel Beeke
Family Driven Faith by Voddie Baucham

Reading

Advent & New Year Resources
ESV Study Bible

Singing

Sovereign Grace Music
The Gettys
The Corner Room

Praying

TGC Prayer Directory