

Rediscovering Worship Family Worship

*“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.”
Deuteronomy 6:6-7*

The Duty of Parents

- The most important training a child has is at home – Proverbs 22:6
 - A child is at school for about 35 hours a week.
 - A child is at church for about 3-4 hours a week.
 - A child is at home for 100+ hours a week.
 - Even allowing for sleep, this is by far the most time a child spends anywhere.
- The Bible emphasizes the importance of training a child during everyday life – Deuteronomy 6:6-7
- Today, our society has shifted the responsibility of training children from parents to “experts” and “professionals”.
 - This has even crept into our churches as we push programs that divide the family into separate ministries.

Elements of Family Worship

- Family worship does not have to be complicated or perfect.
- It is best for family worship to mirror the style and philosophy of church.
- Bible Reading
 - While there are many fine devotionals out there, the Bible should be the center of our worship.
 - A children’s Bible may be appropriate for small children.
 - Read a chapter a day, read through a book – do something!
- Singing
 - Don’t just listen to music – make music!
 - Sing choruses or hymns.
- Prayer
 - Discuss prayer requests.
 - Let kids that are willing to participate.
- Spiritual Discussion
 - Talk about the Bible passages read.

- Scripture Memory
- Read from Devotionals, Christian Biographies, other Books.
 - These should be supplemental and do not replace the Bible.
 - Christian fiction such as *The Chronicles of Narnia*.
 - Classics such as *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

Making Time

- Families simply do not have the same amount of control over their schedules that they had a century ago.
 - Today: both parents work, children have many school and extracurricular activities, we are constantly “on the go”, etc.
 - V.L. Stanfield wrote in 1965 concerning the way family worship “used to be”:
 - “This is the pattern of another generation. Usually, the family gathered in the living room, perhaps before the fireplace. They probably sang hymns, and the father or mother read the Bible. Comments or questions would be offered. Requests for prayer were usually made, and then came prayer time. This family worship service lasted about thirty minutes.”
- There are many ways to make time for family worship:
 - Regular time each day (morning or evening) – read bible, sing, pray, spiritual discussion.
 - Mealtimes – pray, sing, spiritual discussion.
 - Once a week – read bible, sing, pray, spiritual discussion.
 - Holidays – read bible, sing, pray, spiritual discussion.
 - Significant events (birth of child, new home, new job, etc.) – read bible, sing, pray, spiritual discussion.
 - Times of crisis or decision – read bible, pray, spiritual discussion.

Recommended Resources

- *Let the Little Children Come* by Scott Aniol – great guide and lists many resources.
- *The First Step Bible* by Mack Thomas – great for preschool