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FAMILY WORSHIP 101

FAMILY WORSHIP IS THE REGULAR USE OF SCRIPTURE, SON,G, AND PRAYER BY A FAMILY UNIT, GUIDED BY THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD. LEARNING HOW TO UNDERSTAND, DEFEND, AND IMPROVE FAMILY WORSHIP CAN BRING GREAT BENEFITS TO YOU TIME TOGETHER.

Understanding Family Worship.

Family worship is the regular use of Scripture, song, and prayer by a family unit, guided by the head of the household.

FAMILY WORSHIP IS REGULAR

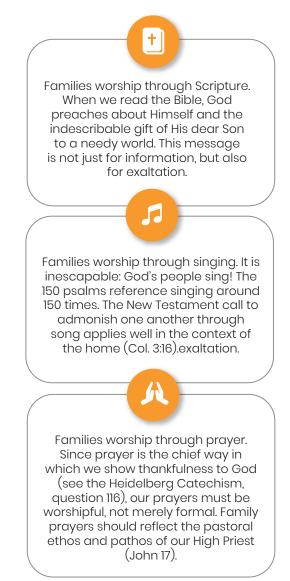
As illustrated by the practice of the early church, weekly congregational worship is insufficient for families that have been touched by God's grace (Acts 2:47; 5:42). Scripture exhorts us to worship God daily, giving glory to Him in all things (Ps. 92:2; 1 Cor. 10:31).

FAMILY WORSHIP IS COVENANTAL

Before God established worship in the tabernacle, his people worshiped in family tents. "The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tents of the righteous..." (Ps. 118:15). Job's piety shines in his prayers for his children (Job. 1:5). The faith of young Timothy blossomed in the fertile soil of family worship (2 Tim. 1:5). Christians must spend time alone with God in their prayer closets (Matt. 6:6). But they should also worship together with their families through the use of Scripture, song, and prayer.

FAMILY WORSHIP IS WORSHIP

Family worship is not merely a religious discipline; it is a meeting with the triune God in a spirit of adoration by means of three key ingredients.



Defending Family Worship.

Scripture requires family worship and yields spiritual growth for both old and young.

SCRIPTURE REQUIRES FAMILY WORSHIP

Specifically, God requires heads of households, like good shepherds, to lead their families into green pastures (Josh. 24:15). God expected Abraham to "command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD" (Gen. 18:19). Consider also the example of Cornelius, "a devout man...who feared God with all his household" (Acts. 10:1). It is no surprise that when Peter came to Caesarea to preach the gospel, Cornelius rallied his household to attendance. "We are all present before God," he said, "to hear all the things commanded you by God" (v. 33).

FAMILY WORSHIP YIELDS SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Family worship is an indispensable instrument for instilling both old and young with a consciousness of the Lord, His Word, and our call to worship. In his research for one of his books, George Barna demonstrates that parents who pass along to their children the baton of spiritual maturity and vitality have one thing in common: they "take God's words" on life and family at face value, and apply those words faithfully and consistently." Missionary John Paton relates the indelible impact family worship left on his life: "When, on his knees and all of us kneeling around him in Family Worship, [our father] poured out his whole soul with tears...for every...need, we all felt as if in the presence of the living Saviour, and learned to know and love Him as our Divine Friend."

Children notice when worship is only a once-a-week activity. God often works powerfully in young lives whose souls are warmed by the incubator of daily family worship.

Improving Family Worship.

Many families are convinced by the need for family worship, but struggle in implementation. In such cases, what can be done?

