

FAMILY WORSHIP

A family of five is gathered around a large campfire at night. The fire is bright and central, illuminating the scene. The family members are silhouetted against the fire. The sky is dark and filled with stars, with the Milky Way galaxy clearly visible. The trees on either side are lit with a warm, golden light, suggesting they are illuminated by the fire or another light source. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and intimate.

JUNE
2020

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Dear Parent,



Every Christian parent wants to raise families who will grow up to love and trust Jesus. Parents deliberately search for the church that provides the most opportunities for their families to grow up in the Lord. We want Sovereign King Church to be that church!

We must not, however, neglect our homes—where our families see our faith on real-time display every day. According to the Bible, we parents have the primary responsibility for teaching our families about God. His word must be prominent in our conversation and daily life with our kids. Training our families in godliness is not something that we can put off until they're older.

In Deuteronomy 6:4-9, we read:

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

The call to training our families in godliness is comprehensive. To summarize this passage, it is saying we, parents, have responsibility to teach our families during mealtime, drive time, bedtime, in the morning- the whole day through. The elders at Sovereign King Church recognize that we have a responsibility as a church to walk alongside parents as they train their families in godliness. We want to equip parents to pray and plan for the spiritual development of their families. We want to encourage you to begin to have a time of family worship throughout the week. In this guide, you will find out what family worship is and how to do it. It contains weekly bible readings, catechism questions, things to pray for, and song suggestions. It is our prayer that it will help you establish a family tradition that will bless you, your children, and generations yet to come.

WHAT IS FAMILY WORSHIP?

Family worship should be a priority in your home because the home is the training ground for biblical formation in the lives of your children. It is the responsibility of parents, and primarily of fathers, to provide Christian instruction in the home for the purpose of raising your children to know and fear the Lord.

Family worship is simply taking time as a family to worship God at home in a family setting. When a family gathers together at home for prayer, Bible reading, and turning their hearts to the Lord - that is family worship. It is also called family devotions. Unfortunately, few Christian adults today grew up in homes that practiced family worship. You may not have had this modeled for you growing up, and if you are like most Christian families today this has not been a regular part of your life.

There is good news! It is never too late to begin family worship - with teenagers, or with grandchildren. It is OK to start slowly. "Do not despise the day of small beginnings."

What should you do during Family Worship?

Keep it simple.

You don't have to replicate a church service. Simple consistency is far better than trying something complicated which you will give up. Remember, you will fail and have times where family worship is a struggle. Don't give up. Just ask God to help!



Consider including the following elements together during your family worship:

Read: Read a portion of the Bible together. If you have children who are old enough to read you can have them read aloud. Of course, you will want to help with any big words or concepts.

Discuss: After reading the Bible together, work through a simple process of examining what has been read. First, what did the passage say to the original readers? Second, what does the passage mean for all time? Third, how does this passage apply to us as individuals and as a family? You will want to ask questions and get everyone to participate in the discussion.

Sing: Yikes! Did you say singing? One of the ways that God invites us to worship Him is by singing. If your children are younger, and you are enthusiastic about it, they will love it, and you will lay the groundwork for singing in your family for generations to come. If your kids are all teenagers, and you have never tried singing together as a family, you may want to try this in a few months - after family worship has taken root. It can be helpful to use worship CDs or DVDs. Youtube.com works as well. We have a link to a family worship playlist at www.sellersburgkids.com

Catechism: It's a funny word but it just means question and answers. Christians throughout history have memorized catechism questions and answers to help learn the basics of the faith. In this guide we will include catechism questions for you to work on with your family. Every Sunday we will have a time to work on them together as a church.

Pray: End your family worship time with prayer. Let prayer become an important part of your home. Pray for your neighbors, your community, the nation, and the world.

June 7-13th

Bible Passage for the Week

Matthew 5:27-30

Isaiah 2

Verse to Memorize

Matthew 5:1-30

Catechism Questions

Q. 94. What is the fifth commandment? A. The fifth commandment is, "Honor your father and your mother; that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God gives you."

Q. 95. What is required in the fifth commandment? A. The fifth commandment requires preserving the honor, and performing the duties, belonging to everyone in the places God calls them to as children, parents, husbands, wives, servants, citizens, and civil magistrates.

Q. 96. What is forbidden in the fifth commandment? A. The fifth commandment forbids the neglecting of, or doing anything against, the honor and duty which belongs to everyone in the stations of life God calls them to.

Q. 97. What is the reason given for the fifth commandment? A. The reason given for the fifth commandment is a promise of long life and prosperity (as far as it shall serve for God's glory and their own good) to all as keep this commandment.

People to Pray for:

Church:

Bridge Community Church— Pastor Greg Odle

Ministry:

Brian Bunn

Magistrate:

Kevin Baity Clarksville Town Manager

Song Suggestion

Create in me a Clean Heart
Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee

June 14-20th

Bible Passage for the Week

Matthew 5:31-32

Isaiah 3

Verse to Memorize

Matthew 5:1-32

Catechism Questions:

Q. 98. What is the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment is, "You shall not murder."

Q. 99. What does God forbid in the sixth commandment?

A. In the sixth commandment, God forbids the taking away of our own lives or the life of our neighbor unjustly.

Q. 100. What does God require of us in the sixth commandment?

A. In the sixth commandment, God requires all endeavors to preserve our own life and the lives of others from unjust death.

People to Pray for:

Church:

First Southern Baptist Church Clarksville
Pastor Russell Lievers

Ministry:

Daniel Courney

Magistrate

Mark Palmer Clarksville Chief of Police

Song Suggestion

The Glory of the Man— My Soul Among Lions
Psalm 127 —The Corner Room

June 21– 27th

Bible Passage for the Week

Matthew 5:33-37

Isaiah 4

Verse to Memorize

Matthew 5:1-37

Catechism Questions

Q. 106. What is the seventh commandment?

A. The seventh commandment is, "You shall not commit adultery."

Q. 107. What does God forbid in the seventh commandment?

A. In the seventh commandment, God forbids all unchaste thought, words, and actions.

Q. 108. What does God require of us in the seventh commandment?

A. In the seventh commandment, God requires the preservation of our own, and our neighbor's chastity, in heart, speech, and behavior.

People to Pray for:

Church:

Henryville Community Church
Pastor Denny Dillman

Ministry:

John Jacob

Magistrate:

Clarksville Fire Department

Song Suggestion*

Bringing in the Sheaves
Psalm 6 How Long

June 28-July 4th

Bible Passage for the Week

Matthew 5:38-42

Isaiah 5

Verse to Memorize

Matthew 5:1-37

Catechism Questions:

Q. 109. What is the eighth commandment? A. The eighth commandment is, "You shall not steal."

Q. 110. What does God forbid in the eighth commandment? A. In the eighth commandment, God forbids every kind of robbery, theft, or dishonest gain. Whether by an individual, the State, or any other group.

Q. 111. What does God require of us in the eighth commandment? A. In the eighth commandment, God requires us to be honest and industrious, and to help our neighbor in their need.

People to Pray for:

Church:

Reformation Church Shelbyville
Pastor Jerry Dorris

Ministry:

Alex Parks

Magistrate

Sellersburg Town Council

Song Suggestion*

Mighty Lord, Extend Your Kingdom
Psalm 3 You Are My Shield

Why Children Matter by Doug Wilson

A family is a divinely-ordained community. It is a set of defined relationships, with obligations and privileges assigned by God accordingly. It is not an arbitrary collection of individuals, and it is not something that we get to define. God created the family—it was not invented by us in the first place, and so we do not get to reinvent it. For this reason, parents must beware of treating the family as an “assemblage” that results from “techniques” developed by “experts.”

Young parents should therefore come to the Scriptures with a true hunger and openness. This is particularly true of those young parents who didn't see a good model growing up—God is the God of new beginnings. He breaks the cycle, blessing to a thousand generations, and cutting off disasters after three or four. Be encouraged.

“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children” (Eph. 5:1) “The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with singing” (Zeph. 3:17) The juxtaposition of these two passages is intended to make the foundational point that, as God treats us as His children, so also we, in imitating Him, must seek to be like Him in our treatment of our own children. As He deals with us, so also must we deal with our own children.

God has created us as reflective and imitative creatures. We become like what we worship. Idolaters do this (Ps. 115:4) and worshipers of the true God do it (2 Cor. 3:18). This is the way human beings are. There are few places where the ramifications of this are as important as they are in child-rearing.

In the Zephaniah passage, consider first that the Lord our God is mighty. You are much stronger than your children. But His might is deployed for the good of His people, for their salvation, and not for their suffocation. Your purpose is to be used as the instrument of your children's salvation. You are not the ground of that salvation, but you are an appointed instrument. You obviously cannot be saving grace, but you are commanded to imitate it, and to facilitate it.

When the mighty God intervened to save, He did so at great cost to Himself. Jesus, when He took the loaf of bread that represented His broken body, He began by giving thanks. When Jesus went to the cross, He did so for the joy that was set before Him (Heb. 12:2). The sacrifices that you will make for your children should therefore be something you sing over. You are not just to sing when they are being adorable, asleep in the crib. Life is messier than that, and the whole thing should be met with a song. The delight we are imitating here is not “unrealistic.” It takes account of the world as it is, and rejoices still.

A Garden of Grace:

When God created us, He placed us in a garden full of delights, and with just one prohibition in the middle of the garden. Nothing was prohibited out in the world, and only one thing was prohibited in the garden. A severe penalty was attached to that one prohibition, but then God saw to it that when the restriction was disobeyed by our first parents, the severest blow of retaliation would fall upon Himself. What kind of God is this? So the environment of your home is grace. All that you have is theirs. There are standards within this—grace is not an amorphous, gelatinous mass. Grace has a backbone. Grace is a vertebrate. And yet when the standards are broken, the heaviest sacrifices in the work of restoration are made by the guardians of grace—not the enforcers of law, not the pointers of fingers, not the parental accusers, and not the quiver in the voice of parental self-pity.

A garden of grace can contain a tree of law. A garden of law cannot contain a tree of grace. Whatever you do, an attempted tree of grace there will turn into a tree of reward, a tree of merit, a tree of earnings.

Discipline as Structured Delight:

We have a tendency—when in the grip of our own unguided wisdom—to get everything exactly backwards. We think that the gold sanctifies the temple (Matt. 23:17). We think that man was created so that there would be somebody around to keep the sabbath (Mark 2:27) We think that goat milk was created so that we would have something to cook the young goats in (Dt. 14:21)

But discipline is directed toward an end; it is teleological. And no discipline seems pleasant at the time, but the glory of discipline is found in the harvest (Heb. 12:11) Discipline and fruition occupy time, just like your children do. Bringing children up is not abstract bookkeeping, but is rather a story—from planting to harvest. Hardship in a story is grace. Hardship without a story is just pain.

Three L's:

When it comes to Christian living, there are three l's to choose from. There is legalism, there is license, and there is liberty. In the home, legalism occurs when parents try to establish “traditional values” or a “disciplined atmosphere” on their own authority, or in their own name. Strictness becomes the central standard, and parental law is central. License happens when it turns out that legalism involves a lot of work, and there is not a very good return on it. And so parenting turns into a long stream of excuses and lame theories about the ineffectualness of spanking. If you have told 28 people this week that “he didn't get his nap today,” then perhaps you should reevaluate.

Liberty is not some middle position between these two—it is another thing entirely. Liberty is stricter than legalism, and liberty is freer than license. Liberty—purchased for us by Christ on the cross—lines us up with how God made the world. None of our shifts or evasions can do that for us. The righteousness of liberty outdoes the Pharisees (Matt. 5:20) and the joy of liberty outdoes the libertine.

Children matter because as creatures they bear the image of God, as sinners that image is defaced in them, and as saints that image is being restored in them.

By creating the human race in one fertile man and woman, God was declaring that His image was going to grow and mature over the course of generations. When we fell into sin, the curse of our loss was extended over generations. And now that the promised seed of the woman has come, we are given the opportunity to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4) This is part of what it means to put off the old man, and to put on the new (Eph. 4:20-24). God is after a lineage.



