

Simple Family Devotions

Recovering the Lost Treasure of Family Worship

Part 2: The Nuts & Bolts

Pastor Tim Theule

A. Seven “To Be’s” of Family Worship

1. Be FLEXIBLE
2. Be CONSISTENT
3. Be CREATIVE
4. Be PRACTICAL
5. Be REAL
6. Be GRACEFUL
7. Be GOSPEL-CENTERED

B. Three Parts of Family Worship

1. Song

- Use Sunday Worship Service Songs
- Use a hymnal and instruments if available.
- Develop your own body of “Family Worship Music”
- Sing the Lord’s Prayer & the Doxology
- Sing along to recorded music

2. Scripture

- Children 0 -4: Various age appropriate Children’s Bibles, review their Sunday school material.
- Children 4 -10: The Child’s Story Bible
- Children 11 -18: Growth Group Discussion Questions or Daily Bible or other.
- Memorize Scripture, the Lord’s Prayer, Ten Commandments and the Apostles Creed.
- Use a catechism.
- Use a daily devotional (Table Talk, Daily Bread, Walk Thru the Bible, etc)
- Use great Christian devotional books.

3. Prayer

- Pray for one another and your family.
- Use the ACTS Pattern: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication
- Pray about our confession, our Christ, our church, our community, our country.
- Bless your children with the laying on of hands.

C. Four Practical Considerations

1. When is the time for Family Worship?

- What works for you?
- When can everyone be there most consistently?
- Feel free to mix it up in different seasons.

2. Where is the place for Family Worship?

- Somewhere consistent.
- Somewhere comfortable.
- Dinner table, living room, family room or outdoors.

3. How long should Family Worship last?

- Little Ones: 5 – 10 minutes
- Older Ones: 10 – 30 minutes
- Couples: 20 – 40 minutes

4. What about little ones in Family Worship?

- They will learn the pattern quickly.
- Stay in the game, consistency is more important than content.
- Moms & Dads divide and conquer.
- Include stuff for all ages.
- Let them move.

D. Recommended Resources

Rediscovering the Lost Treasure of Family Worship by Jerry Marcellino: a great and stimulating introduction to Family Worship.

The Child's Story Bible by Catherine Vos: (ages 4-10) a great God and Gospel-centered Bible for young families.

The Big Book of Questions & Answers by Sinclair Ferguson (ages 4-10), a catechetical family guide to the Christian Faith.

Luther's Smaller & Larger Catechisms: great historical tool for Family Worship & Instruction by Martin Luther. Available on the Internet

1677 Resolution of a Puritan Church in Dorchester, Massachusetts:

We covenant as a church in Dorchester, Massachusetts, to reform our families, engaging ourselves to a conscientious care to set up and maintain the worship of God in our homes. And to walk in our homes with perfect hearts. We resolve, in a faithful discharge of all domestic duties in seeking to educate, instruct, and charge our little ones and our whole households to seek to keep the ways of the Lord.