

Family Worship

A FIRST IRVING DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

WRITTEN BY THE DISCIPLESHIP STAFF

AFFIRMED BY THE ELDERS



FIRST IRVING

version one

DEAR CHURCH FAMILY

Did you know that Family Worship and Discipleship has been occurring for thousands of years within the history of God's people? Building upon the institution of marriage given to us by God in Genesis chapter 2, Family Worship is a part of the very plan that God has for drawing the nations to Himself (Gen 18:17-19). Training children to love and fear the Lord is written of by Moses (Deut 6:4-6; 11:18-21), recorded in the psalms (Ps 78:1-8), given application by Solomon (Prov 1-9), and encouraged by Paul to be implemented for faithful Christian living (Eph 5:25-26; 6:1-4; Col 3:18-21; 2 Tim 1:5; 3:14-15). Family Worship is also a rich part of Church History as it is prescribed daily in the Second (Baptist) London Confession of 1689, and by faithful Christian giants ranging from Tertullian to Martin Luther, and from John Chrysostom to faithful Puritans like Richard Baxter, Matthew Henry, and Jonathan Edwards.¹ The great Baptist preacher, Charles Spurgeon, noted, "If you want to bring up a godly family, who shall be a seed to serve God when our heads are under the clouds of the valley, let us train them [children] up in the fear of God by meeting together as a family for worship."²

At First Irving, we are praying and asking the Lord to bring about faithful ministry and discipleship in our families. We want to encourage you as parents to commit to the process of intentionally and faithfully building a culture in your home that is set on glorifying God in all things. This Guide to Family Worship is meant to help provide resources to get you started on this journey. It will be difficult, distractions and scheduling issues will arise, but we want to encourage you to keep going, remain committed to the

¹ Donald Whitey, Family Worship, 29-35.

² C.H. Spurgeon, "A Pastoral Visit" Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit, vol. 54, 362-363.

imperatives of Scripture that urge you to entrust the glorious gospel to your children. The essence of parenting is to make disciples, and remembering that Christ, who has been given all authority by the Father, promised, “I am with you” throughout your whole life and family ministry.³ There is a cosmic battle that occurs each time you train your child to know and love God at the kitchen table or their bedside—engage in it! Christ is most definitely worth it, and there is no greater treasure that you could entrust to your children than Christ and getting to know Him through years of intentional Scripture study and memorization, prayer, mission, confession, and family singing.

For Christ and the Gospel,

The Discipleship Staff
FBC Irving

³ Joel R. Beeke, *How Should Men Lead Their Families*, 27.

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DEFINING THE TERMS

Before we jump in, let's all get on the same page and define the terminology that will help us understand and communicate about Family Worship. Please use the definitions below to get a more accurate understanding of the definition of the terms (The terms Family Worship and Family Discipleship will be used interchangeably throughout this guide).

- ❖ **FAMILY WORSHIP** is the sphere of worship which incorporates those living under the same roof in a time of worship together.⁴ This includes responses in singing praise, personal reflections from the scriptures, confession of sin and struggle, and prayer.

- ❖ **DISCIPLESHIP** in the family is an intentional relationship where parents walk alongside their children in order to encourage, equip, and challenge them in love to grow toward maturity in Christ. This includes equipping disciples to teach others as well.⁵

- ❖ **SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT** in children occurs over time as a person regularly spends time with God and internalizes what they have learned.⁶

- ❖ **CATECHISM** is a helpful method to learn the Scriptures. Though the term catechism may be equated with another

⁴ Jason Helopoulos, *Neglected Grace*, 26.

⁵ Greg Ogden, *Discipleship Essentials*, 17. Ogden's definition has been modified to fit this guide and the ministry of First Irving.

⁶ John Trent, Rick Osborne, and Kurt Bruner, eds., *Parent's Guide to Spiritual Growth of Children*, 342. Trent, Osborne, and Bruner use the term spiritual growth instead of spiritual development.

denomination or even the Catholic church, there is also a rich history of catechism practice within the Baptist heritage. It is simply a tool used to train children and new believers in the faith. The Greek word for "instruct/train" or "teach" is katecheo, and from this word comes the English word for catechize (and ultimately catechism). Katecheo is used in passages such as I Corinthians 4:19 and Galatians 6:6. Here are two catechisms we recommend:

- ❖ Spurgeon's Catechism: With Scriptural Proofs by Charles Spurgeon
- ❖ The New City Catechism: 52 Questions & Answers for Our Hearts & Minds

FAMILY WORSHIP & THE SCRIPTURES

- ❖ **GENESIS 18:17-19** - ¹⁷ “The Lord said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, ¹⁸ seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? ¹⁹ For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring to Abraham what he has promised him.”

- ❖ **DEUTERONOMY 6:4-7** - ⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 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. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

- ❖ **PSALM 78:1-8** - ¹ “Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth! ² I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, ³ things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us.⁴ 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 in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, 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; ⁸ and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God.”

❖ **EPHESIANS 6:1-4** - ¹“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³ “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” ⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

❖ **COLOSSIANS 3:18-21** - ¹⁸ “Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. ²⁰ Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. ²¹ Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.”

”

WHAT FAMILY WORSHIP IS NOT

Family Worship is a wonderful time to gather together and to consider the things of God. Just like anything in life we have to be mindful and diligent to keep our motivations pure and focused on Jesus. Here are a helpful list that we would encourage your family to sift through on occasion to examine the health of your time together.

A REPLACEMENT FOR CORPORATE WORSHIP

WORSHIP OF THE FAMILY

A BURDEN OR A WEIGHT (on the family)

A TIME TO REBUKE MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY - rather it should be a time to edify

CHRISTIAN FAMILY ACTIVITIES - Please! Go play Putt-putt! But don't consider it the same as Family Worship time

MORALITY TRAINING - Yes, Christians are moral people, but Family Worship is primarily about the worship of Jesus Christ and obedience to the Scriptures for our good. We should avoid the temptation to teach our children to be good for the sake of reward. We teach them to because of the mercy and grace He has given us in Christ Jesus.

A GUARANTEE - The work of salvation is a work of the Spirit. Family Worship is not a 100% guarantee that your children will

come to saving faith in Jesus Christ. But it is the best way to expose them to the knowledge of Him!

THINGS TO CONSIDER

KNOW THE ROLE OF FATHERS - God's Word reveals that men are the head of their households and specifically, the scripture holds men to the responsibility of leading their children in the study of God's Word (Deut 6:4-6; Prov 1-9; Eph 6:4) and the washing of their wives with God's Word (Eph 5:25-26). Where a Father and/or Husband is not in the home, or spiritually inactive in the home, then the scriptures give freedom and example for women to lead in their homes (2 Tim 1:5). In this case also, take advantage of other male leaders in the church who can come alongside children in their spiritual formation.

KNOW THE ROLE OF MOTHERS - Mothers play an essential role in discipling and teaching their children. Like fathers, mothers are to grow in their love for God with all their heart, soul, and might (Deut 6:5). Mothers are called to be spiritual examples in the home exemplifying godliness, serving as a model to her children who observe the faithfulness of her life (Prov 31: 28). They are to promote their husband's leadership in the home and keep him accountable to leading the family as she is his suitable helper (Eph 5:22; Gen 2:18).

KEEP A CONSISTENT SCHEDULE - Establishing a culture that meets at a consistent time and consistent place allows for routine to occur and a precedence to be set. Be sure, as best you can, to not allow other things to divert your family from this set time and place. This is an intentional commitment that ought to be a priority.

BE SIMPLE - This family time together does not need to take long, it just needs to be healthy and faithful, and in turn will be productive. If you meet for five minutes one evening, that can be a blessing. Same if you meet for a half hour.

HAVE A POSTURE OF JOY - Enjoy this sweet family time together, and enjoy the years you have with your children before they leave your home. Teach them to enjoy this time, get them engaged in the questions, and reading, and prayers. After all, you are teaching them about the King and Lord of the cosmos.

GET OFF THE GRID - When you are with the Lord, and with your family, be with the Lord and with your family. The news alerts can wait, and so can the text messages and phone calls. Literally, nothing is more important. This will also teach your children that though the things of the world are common (e.g. technology, distractions etc.), God is uncommon and worthy of our undivided attention.

THE FRAMEWORK

Read & Remember

Read the Word of God as a family. Have goals to go through books of the Bible together.⁷ For younger children, read narrative passages or shorter sections of scripture, and then increase the reading goals when the children are older.⁸ Impart the word to your children. Teach them the narrative of scripture. Teach them how all Scripture points to Christ. Other helpful ideas to consider:

- ❖ Go through the passages that are being preached on Sundays
- ❖ Teach through one Christian doctrine at a time
- ❖ Use a solid Catechism and go through the questions and answers as a guide
- ❖ Memorize key scriptures predetermined by the parents

Pray

Pray as a family and pray for everyone in your family every time. Pray through categories (e.g. praises, confession of sin, church ministry and leadership, church missionaries, the sick, the lost, things you are thankful for, etc.). Teach your children a humble posture in prayer before the Lord. Teach them what it is to depend upon the Spirit. A helpful guide to prayer is the ACTS acrostic:

- ❖ **A**doration for God
- ❖ **C**onfession of sin
- ❖ **T**hanksgiving for God and His good gifts
- ❖ **S**upplication, or requests and appeals

⁷ Donald Whitney, Family Worship, 44.

⁸ Donald Whitney, Family Worship, 45.

Sing

As uncomfortable as it may first seem, teach your children to praise the Lord and make a joyful noise through singing. Worship songs, hymns, and song books can provide meaningful direction for the family as you sing together. Sing doctrinally sound songs that are Christ-centered.⁹

Suggestions would be to pick either one song that is the battle hymn of your family, or choose one song ever so often as to know it and memorize its truth before moving on to another song.

⁹ Joel R. Beeke, *Family Worship*, 31.

READING QUESTIONS

As you and your family read through Scripture together, it is important that we ask questions to engage with the Word on a deeper level. Below are some questions to assist you in asking the right things to your family based on their age:¹⁰

PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN:

- I. What person or people did we read about?
- II. What did the person or people do?
- III. Was God/Christ in our passage?
- IV. What did God/Christ do?

ELEMENTARY CHILDREN:

- I. What was our passage about this evening?
- II. Did God/Christ speak or do anything in our passage?
- III. Why did God/Christ say or do that?
- IV. Why do you think God put this passage in the Bible?

OLDER CHILDREN & ADULTS:

- I. What does this passage tell us we should believe about God?
- II. What does this passage tell us about ourselves?
- III. What does this passage tell us about what God desires from us?
- IV. How does this passage point us to the person of Christ?

¹⁰ Jason Helopoulos, *A Neglected Grace*, 115-116.

SONG SUGGESTIONS

The activity of singing is a wonderfully effective way to connect emotionally with ideas, and even commit them to memory. Because of this, it is extremely important that we sing truth. Is the song teaching you and your family anything about God? Is what it is teaching doctrinally sound? To get you started, we have put together a list of song suggestions from our pastors:

- ❖ **HIS MERCY IS MORE** - verses speak clearly of the gospel and God's merciful character.
- ❖ **LIVING HOPE** - speaks about our state sinners, and also leads through the gospel story well.
- ❖ **HE WILL HOLD ME FAST** - communicates the assurance of salvation clearly, while also being relatable. The idea of "being held" can resonate well with kids.
- ❖ **LORD I NEED YOU** - talks of our full dependance on Jesus, with a singable melody.
- ❖ **HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US** - conveys the love of God in a compelling way, and has a great singable melody for kids.
- ❖ **GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS** - theme of God's faithfulness that teaches the unchanging nature of God, and His unwavering love and compassion for us.
- ❖ **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** - gives a great overview of many of the attributes of God. Also is very singable.
- ❖ **LET THE NATIONS BE GLAD** - strong message of God's love for the nations and His heart for missions.
- ❖ **THE DOXOLOGY** - a simple song for kids, that teaches huge theological implications. God is the giver of all good things, all creation should praise Him, and He is three in one.

PRAYER TOPICS

Prayer is the bedrock of everything we do. It is important to be praying parents, not only for our kids, but also for ourselves. So as parents, here is a list of topics to help guide your prayers:

- ❖ For my own submission to God before I pray for their walk; it starts with me, not with them.
- ❖ For our submission to God in the roles he has called us in collectively as husband and wife.
- ❖ For our marriage to be an example of Christ and the church.
- ❖ For our parenting, that we may speak truth, live what we speak, promoting all the fruits of the Spirit in our relationship (for our children's sake).
- ❖ For godly discipline that will not infuriate our children but lovingly teach them and correct them. Pray that we would discipline in grace.
- ❖ That God will bless our children beyond our capacities and limitations as parents, and forgive us in our sins and our failures as parents.
- ❖ That our children will come to a saving grace of God early in their lives.
- ❖ That our children's hearts will always be inclined to God and tender toward him.
- ❖ That our children will fear God and turn away from evil.
- ❖ That God will raise up godly influences for our children (friends, mentors, church leaders, a spouse made for him—if he wills)
- ❖ That our children will become godly influences, disciple-makers, and faithful citizens of the kingdom of God.

- ❖ That our children will be humble and contrite in spirit and tremble at His word.
- ❖ That true biblical Wisdom will be our children's close associate.
- ❖ That God will make our children servants to others.
- ❖ That our children will be thankful to God and to others.
- ❖ That our children deeply love God's word.
- ❖ That our children worship God in spirit and truth.
- ❖ That our children will have a Second Coming mentality and Kingdom mindset (we will be like God at His appearing through Christ's righteousness).
- ❖ That our children will come under strong conviction when they sin.
- ❖ That our children will confess their sins to God and to others.
- ❖ That our children will not be conformed to this world, but instead they will be transformed by the renewing of their minds.
- ❖ That our children reflect on the mercies of God.
- ❖ That our children grow in the grace and knowledge of their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- ❖ That our children will see the fruits of a lifetime of walking with Jesus before His throne.

APPLYING THE AIMS

Here at First Irving, our process of discipleship is meant to cultivate five Christlike Characteristics in every member, which we call **THE 5 AIMS OF A DISCIPLE**.



KNOW GOD'S WORD

- ❖ We want to be a people who are committed to knowing who God is through the study of His Word. This happens through 3 avenues, in personal devotion, small group discipleship, and through the teaching of His Word.



LIVE IN ACCOUNTABLE COMMUNITY

- ❖ We want to be a people that loves one another the way that Christ has loved us. This involves spurring one another to good works and keeping each other accountable in our pursuit to live holy lives.



WALK IN THE SPIRIT

- ❖ We want to be a people who walk according to the Holy Spirit and not according to the flesh. Our lives are set on serving the needs of others and not our own interests.



INCREASE IN GENEROSITY

- ❖ We want to be a people who are always increasing in our faithfulness to give back to the God who has been so merciful in giving us so much and to serve His people (the Church).



MULTIPLY THE MISSION

- ❖ We want to be a people who pass along the gospel entrusted to us. We do this in two ways, by discipling followers of Christ toward greater maturity and by sharing Christ with the lost world.

IN ORDER TO CULTIVATE THESE AIMS in your times of Family Worship, we have created some questions for Kids, Students and Parents.

Questions for Kids & Students

AIM 1: TO KNOW GOD'S WORD

- ❖ Have I prayed that God would allow me to see his truth in Scripture?
- ❖ Have I considered that everything in the Bible points to Jesus (Luke 24:44-49; Col 1:18)?
- ❖ What are some promises that God has made to me in his word?
- ❖ Am I reading God's word daily or listening to my parents read God's word (Joshua 1:8; Heb 4:12)?
- ❖ Am I memorizing God's word and storing it in my heart (Ps 119:11)?

AIM 2: TO LIVE TO GOSPEL COMMUNITY

- ❖ Have I thanked the Lord for allowing me to grow up in a Christian home?
- ❖ Have I lived in genuine gospel love, service, and obedience toward my family this week (Matt 22:37-40; Eph 6:1)?

AIM 3: TO WALK IN THE SPIRIT

- ❖ Have I asked God for the Holy Spirit to be present in my life today (Luke 11:13)?
- ❖ Have I considered today that I am a sinner in need of God's grace (Rom 3:23-24)?

- ❖ Am I praying with a heart of thankfulness to the Lord for his goodness (Ps 118:1)?
- ❖ What spiritual fruit does my family see in my life (Gal 5:16-24)?

AIM 4: TO INCREASE IN GENEROSITY

- ❖ Have I given a tithe back to the Lord (II Cor 9:6-7)?
- ❖ Have I prayed and asked the Lord to increase my desire to be generous (Matt 7:7)?
- ❖ Have I considered today that where my treasure is, there my heart is also (Matt 6:21)?
- ❖ Am I being wise with how I am spending my time (Prov 6:6-11; Eph 5:5-11)?

AIM 5: TO MULTIPLY THE MISSION (DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES)

- ❖ Have I shared the good news of the gospel with my neighbors, family members, classmates, or friends (Acts 1:8)?
- ❖ Do I trust that by hiding God's Word in my heart, I can share God's word at any time with those who do not know him (II Tim 4:2)?

Questions for Parents

AIM 1: TO KNOW GOD'S WORD

- ❖ Have we prayed that God would allow us to see His truth in Scripture today?
- ❖ Have we considered today that everything in the Scriptures points to Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of the law and the prophets, and he is preeminent in all things (Luke 24:44-49; Col 1:18)?

- ❖ Have we held God's word as authoritative in all aspects of life (John 8:31-32)? If not, where have we trusted in ourselves or in other things over His promises?
- ❖ Are we reading God's word daily (Joshua 1:8; Heb 4:12)?
- ❖ Are we memorizing God's word and storing it in our hearts so that we can be reminded of its truth and faithful to lead our family (Ps 119:11)?
- ❖ Do we believe today that God's word has been given to us for our good to teach us, to reprove us, to correct us, and to train us in righteousness (II Tim 3:16-17), or do we read it out of guilt and obligation?
- ❖ Is our family reading God's word together (Deut 6:4-6)?
- ❖ Are we teaching our children that Jesus Christ is the only way to the Father, the only truth that satisfies, and the only reason we live (John 14:6)?

AIM 2: TO LIVE TO GOSPEL COMMUNITY

- ❖ Are we establishing a culture of worship of God and service in our home (Deut 6:4-6; Joshua 24:15)?
- ❖ Are we teaching our children of all that God has done in his Scriptures and in our own lives (Ps 78:1-8)?
- ❖ Are we cultivating a love for God and for people in our home (Matt 22:37-40)?
- ❖ Are we striving to have a home that honors God and one another, demonstrates sacrifice, practices service, and is obedient to God's word (Eph 5:25-28; 6:1-4)
- ❖ Are we striving to glorify God in all things every day (I Cor 10:31)?

AIM 3: TO WALK IN THE SPIRIT

- ❖ Have we prayed and asked God for the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives today (Luke 11:13)?
- ❖ Have we considered today that there is nothing good in us and our minds are naturally hostile to God's law (Rom 7:18; Rom 8:7)?

- ❖ Are we praying and confessing personal weaknesses and sin daily to God and trusting the He has the power to forgive, renew, and reconcile our relationship with Him (I John 1:9)?
- ❖ Are we teaching our children how to repent by demonstrating repentance toward one another and toward them when we sin (Acts 3:18-19; Rom 2:4)?
- ❖ Are we teaching our children to set their minds on the things of the Spirit, and to seek the things that are above where Christ is seated (Rom 8:5; Col 3:1)?
- ❖ What specific spiritual fruit do we see in our lives? What fruits do our children see (Gal 5:16-24)?

AIM 4: TO INCREASE IN GENEROSITY

- ❖ Have we been generous with the Lord's money, are we cheerful with giving back to Him (II Cor 9:6-7)?
- ❖ Are we praying and asking the Lord to increase our desire to be generous (Matt 7:7)?
- ❖ Are we spending more time storing up treasures here on earth or storing up treasures in heaven (Matt 6:19-20)?
- ❖ Do we believe the Lord Jesus when he says that we cannot serve both Him and money (Luke 16:13)?
- ❖ Am we being wise stewards of the way we spend the time the Lord has granted me (Prov 6:6-11; Eph 5:5-11)?
- ❖ Are we teaching our children to joyfully give back to the Lord what belongs to him (II Cor 9:6-7)?

AIM 5: TO MULTIPLY THE MISSION (DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES)

- ❖ Are we praying for our eyes to see the world the way that Christ does (I Sam 16:7)?
- ❖ Are we considering that we have a responsibility to entrust the gospel to our children (Deut 6:4-6; II Tim 2:2)?
- ❖ Are we seeking non-Christians to share the gospel with?
- ❖ Are we teaching our children about the Great Commission and to live missionally (Matt 28:18-20)?

FAMILY WORSHIP SAMPLES

To help you get started, we have put together two samples for what family worship could look like: one for a single day, and one for a week long schedule.

Sample 1 - Single Day¹¹

READ & REMEMBER

- ❖ Read John 10 together
- ❖ Memorize John 10:9 - “I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.”

SING

- ❖ Allow the kids to pick their favorite hymn or worship song. Then sing it together.

PRAY

- ❖ Spend time praying, where each member of the family prays for the person on their left.

¹¹ Jason Helopoulos, A Neglected Grace, 111.

Sample 2 - One Week¹²

READ - read a chapter per day

- ❖ **Monday** - Psalm 1
- ❖ **Tuesday** - Psalm 2
- ❖ **Wednesday** - Psalm 3
- ❖ **Thursday** - Psalm 4
- ❖ **Friday** - Psalm 5
- ❖ **Saturday** - Psalm 6
- ❖ **Sunday** - Catch-Up Day

REMEMBER - work on 1 scripture verse and 1 catechism question

- ❖ **Scripture** - "...for the Lord knows the way of the Righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish." (Ps 1:6)
- ❖ **Catechism** - Q: How can you glorify God? A: By loving Him and doing what he commands (Ec 12:13; Mk 12:29-31; Jn 15:8-10; 1 Cor 10:31).

SING - sing the same song each day

- ❖ Amazing Grace

PRAY - pray for each topic on the list every day

- ❖ **Pray for the World** - Pray for the unemployed in your city.
- ❖ **Pray for the Church** - Pray for the Pastors/Elders/Leaders of our church.
- ❖ **Pray for our Neighbors & Friends** - Pray for neighbor or a friend who is ill or recovering.
- ❖ **Pray for our Family** - Pray for each member of your immediate family.

¹² Jason Helopoulos, A Neglected Grace, 112-113.

REDEEMING THE REST

There is a lot of life to be lived outside of your daily times of Family Worship, and we must be careful not to forget it. Our hope is that these times would not be a bucket where you pour all of your spirituality, but rather a well that will fuel a gospel outlook on the rest of your time.

REDEEMING THE DAILY THINGS

- ❖ Redeem by explaining the culture around them (explain tv shows, and add the gospel to it)
- ❖ Discuss openly what God is showing you
- ❖ Display and discuss the gospel in your marriage
- ❖ Discipline like you believe in the gospel (make sure grace and mercy are balanced with judgment)
- ❖ Encourage your children when they look like Jesus (not lifting them up, but lifting up the One they resemble)
- ❖ Remind your children that they are loved (no matter what, they are loved by God and you)
- ❖ Involve your children in the mission (neighbors for breakfast, serve community, mission trips etc.)
- ❖ Make your house the hangout house (it teaches them to have an open home and open lives)
- ❖ Get your children involved in giving and sacrificing (ask your kids what charity they'd like to help/give to for their birthday)

ESTABLISHING FAMILY MILESTONES

- ❖ **Birthdays**
 - ❖ Encourage the child with how you have seen Christ at work in their lives, and encourage family and friends to do the same
 - ❖ Determine new spiritual goals for the upcoming year

❖ Anniversaries

- ❖ Celebrate spiritual birthdays and baptism anniversaries
- ❖ Celebrate your wedding anniversary with your children (in part) so that covenant faithfulness can be highlighted and share the reasons why God can be praised for what he has done in the marriage

❖ Holidays

- ❖ Christmas: participate in the church's Advent devotional
- ❖ Easter: participate in the church's Holy Week devotional

❖ Rites of Passage

- ❖ Baby Dedication
- ❖ Salvation
- ❖ Baptism
- ❖ First time a child shares their faith
- ❖ First time a child goes on a mission trip
- ❖ Graduation from high school
- ❖ Marriage
- ❖ Beginning their own families

❖ Intentional Family Time

- ❖ Annual family vacation
- ❖ Family mission trips
- ❖ Family service project
- ❖ Family camping trip or summer camp (for intentional family time)

ASSESSING FAITHFULNESS

Determining your own faithfulness, and the faithfulness of your family as a whole can be difficult. To help, we have assembled a list of marks that we believe are evidences of a Gospel-centered Family, and can act as a diagnostic for you to gauge how your family is doing.

- I. There is **A PLACE IN THE HOME** where the family meets for worship
- II. **RELATIONSHIPS** are more important than social media and television
- III. **PRAYER** is regular
- IV. **SCRIPTURE** references are regular
- V. **FORGIVENESS** is more prominent than bitterness
- VI. **CONFESSION** is common
- VII. **ENCOURAGEMENT** is often
- VIII. **GUESTS COME OVER** frequently and are served
- IX. **CHURCH MISSIONARIES** are prayed for
- X. **CHURCH GATHERING** is encouraged and expected
- XI. The family delights in **THE THINGS OF GOD**
- XII. God is glorified in **CONVERSATION**

SCRIPTURE STUDY FOR PARENTS

Why do we want to know the meaning of the text?

I. TO HANDLE THE WORD CORRECTLY

- ❖ To study to show thyself approved (II Tim 2:15)

II. TO BE EQUIPPED

- ❖ To be competent for every good work (II Tim 3:16-17)

III. TO GROW IN MATURITY

- ❖ To grow up in every way into Him (Ephesians 4:15)

CONTEXT

“What did the original author intend?” determines the true meaning of a passage. Without properly understanding the context, we will not understand the meaning passage.

- ❖ Who is the author? Who is he writing to? What is the situation and situations throughout the book or passage? How did the original audience understand the meaning?
- ❖ Why is context important? What happens when context of the text is not considered?

OBSERVATION

“What does the text say?” can be broken up into 6 basic exploratory questions:

- ❖ Who is the author? Who is this letter written to? Who are the main characters involved in the text?
- ❖ What events are happening in the passage? What is the genre of the writing? What are the key words?
- ❖ When do the events take place?
- ❖ Where do these events take place?
- ❖ Why do these events take place?
- ❖ How do these events occur? How are these events connected to surrounding passages?

EXPLANATION

“What does the text mean?” now becomes an exposition of the original intent of the Word, not a personal interpretation. We now can get out of it what the Spirit intended.

- ❖ How do the sentences/phrases/terms relate to one another and what do they mean? Every word in scripture has meaning!
- ❖ How does this passage fit into the larger theme of the book and of scripture?
- ❖ What does this passage reveal about God and his nature and character? (for all three persons of the Trinity)
- ❖ What does this passage say of humanity, sin, need for God?
- ❖ What promises/covenants/warnings are made in this text?
- ❖ How does my “big idea” check up against the gospel?

APPLICATION

“What does the text ask me to do?” determines how we live in light of what we have learned.

- ❖ What is the meaning prompting me to do in faithfulness, obedience, boldness, repentance etc.?
- ❖ Are we applying this “big idea” to our lives, or are we applying our lives to this “big idea”? (the latter is obedience!)
- ❖ Does the text provide application naturally?

- ❖ Is there a command, imperative, exhortation to how we ought to live our lives in obedience to God?
- ❖ What would the application of this verse look like in my life and what does it mean that I must do as I walk with God?

RESOURCE RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN:

- I. [Found: Psalm 23](#) by Sally Lloyd Jones
- II. [God's Alphabet For Life: Devotions For Young Children](#) by Joel R. Beeke and Heidi Boorsma
- III. [The Biggest Story](#) by Kevin DeYoung
- IV. [The Jesus Storybook Bible](#) by Sally Lloyd Jones

FOR OLDER CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS:

- I. [Don't Waste Your Life](#) by John Piper
- II. [Just Do Something](#) by Kevin De Young
- III. [Radical](#) by David Platt
- IV. [The Pilgrim's Progress](#) by John Bunyan

FOR PARENTS:

- I. [Family Shepherds: Calling and Equipping Men to Lead Their Homes](#) by Voddie Baucham,
- II. [Family Worship Bible Guide](#) by Joel Beeke
- III. [Family Worship](#) by Joel Beeke
- IV. [How Should Men Lead Their Families](#) by Joel Beeke
- V. [The Cost of Discipleship](#) by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- VI. [Discipling](#) by Mark Dever
- VII. [Growing Up](#) by Robby Gallaty
- VIII. [A Neglected Grace](#) by Jason Helopoulos
- IX. [The Family Worship Book](#) by Terry Johnson
- X. [Family Ministry Guide](#) by Timothy Paul Jones

- XI. Spurgeon's Catechism: With Scriptural Proofs by Charles Spurgeon
- XII. The New City Catechism: 52 Questions & Answers for Our Hearts & Minds.
- XIII. Shepherding a Child's Heart by Tedd Tripp
- XIV. Family Worship by Donald Whitney

SAMPLE CATECHISM QUESTIONS

Q What is the chief end of man?

A Man's chief end is to glorify God (1 Cor. 10:31), and to enjoy him for ever (Ps. 73:25-26).

Q What rule has God given to direct us how we may glorify him?

A The Word of God which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments (Eph. 2:20) is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify God and enjoy him (1 Jn. 1:3).

Q What do the Scriptures principally teach?

A The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man (2 Tim. 1:13; Eccl. 12:13).

Q What is God?

A God is Spirit (Jn. 4:24), infinite (Job 11:7), eternal (Ps. 90:2; 1 Tim. 1:17), and unchangeable (Jas. 1:17) in his being (Exod. 3:14), wisdom, power (Ps. 147:5), holiness (Rev. 4:8), justice, goodness and truth (Exod. 34:6-7).

Q Are there more Gods than one?

A There is but one only (Deut. 6:4), the living and true God (Jer. 10:10).

Q How many persons are there in the Godhead?

A There are three persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one God, the same in essence, equal in power and glory (1 Jn. 5:7; Matt. 28:19).

Q What are the decrees of God?

A The decrees of God are his eternal purpose according to the counsel of his own will, whereby for his own glory he has foreordained whatever comes to pass (Eph. 1:11-12).

Q How does God execute his decrees?

A God executes his decrees in the works of creation (Rev. 4:11), and providence (Dan. 4:35).

Q What is the work of creation?

A The work of creation is God's making all things (Gen. 1:1) of nothing, by the Word of his power (Heb. 11:3), in six normal consecutive days (Exod. 20:11), and all very good (Gen. 1:31).

Q How did God create man?

A God created man, male and female, after his own image (Gen. 1:27), in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness (Col 3:10; Eph. 4:24) with dominion over the creatures (Gen. 1:28).

Q What are God's works of providence?

A God's works of providence are his most holy (Ps. 145:17), wise, (Isa. 28:29) and powerful (Heb. 1:3), preserving and governing all his creatures, and all their actions (Ps. 103:19; Matt. 10:29).

Q What special act of providence did God exercise toward man in the state wherein he was created?

A God's works of providence are his most holy (Ps. 145:17), wise, (Isa. 28:29) and powerful (Heb. 1:3), preserving and governing all his creatures, and all their actions (Ps. 103:19; Matt. 10:29).

Q Did our first parents continue in the state wherein they were created?

A Our first parents being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the state wherein they were created, by sinning against God, (Eccl. 7:29) by eating the forbidden fruit (Gen. 3:6-8).

Q What is sin?

A Sin is any want of conformity to, or transgression of the law of God (1 Jn. 3:4).

Q Did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression?

A The covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself but for his posterity, all mankind descending from him by ordinary generation, sinned in him, and fell with him in his first transgression (1 Cor. 15:22; Rom. 5:12).