
PARENT TALK

Week 1: Blair Robinson

Did you know that Family Worship and Family 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).

In God's care for his people, he has intentionally and strategically designed the home as a place of worship. Specifically, a place for his people to worship himself; the one and only true God of the universe. His design comes with great provision. Most generously, God provides himself as the primary caretaker and overseer of his households; providing his word with revelation, and covenants and promises attached. God provides a way of fellowship through his Son, Jesus, who is the creator-atoning sacrifice-resurrection-redeemer-and King for his people. He provides his Spirit, who convicts, guides, and produces fruit in his people for his glory. He is our great provision. He is our great gift. He, himself, is the good news and the greatest act of love the world has ever known.

In considering further his provision for his households, God has also designed the home to be led by parents who love him with full hearts and who fear him. He has instructed parents through his word to faithfully fulfill responsibilities to lead, serve, and shepherd the children in their homes. Christian parents are called to yield to Christ as the head of their families and lead their children towards him no matter the cost. These parents are to trust his word, teach his word, rejoice in his word, and pray according to his word. Yes, this is God's good design for the home. And we can see this plainly in Scripture.

A faithful brother once asked me, "What has God required of you as a pastor?" I responded with examples such as, "Shepherd his people, faithfully teach the Scriptures, provide Gospel-centered counseling, lead by example, etc.." His response I will not forget, "God expects the same for faithful parents in the home." At First Irving, we are praying and asking the Lord to bring about faithful ministry and discipleship in our families through this creative expression of Vacation Bible School. We want to encourage and exhort 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. It will be difficult, distractions and scheduling issues will arise, but we want to encourage you to keep going, remain committed to the 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.