

Family Worship in the Home

This document is meant to be a helpful resource for parents to teach them what Family Worship is and what the Bible teaches concerning its practice.

What is Family Worship?

Family Worship is the daily practice of the worship of God in the home that is led by husbands to their wives and parents/guardians with their children. There are three basic elements of Family Worship: read, pray, and sing.

Does the Bible explicitly command to practice Family Worship?

No, while there is not an explicit command to practice family worship, there are patterns and examples all throughout the Scriptures. Abraham is commanded to teach his children to keep the way of the Lord (Gen. 18:17-19). Moses commands parents to teach children to love the Lord with all their heart and all that was commanded in the Lord (Deut. 6:4-9). Joshua was resolved that his family would serve and worship the Lord (Josh. 24:15). But even in the New Testament we are given commands that husbands should sanctify their wives with the Word (Eph. 5:25-26). As well as fathers raising their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Eph. 6:4).

What are the aims and benefits of Family Worship?

The aim of Family Worship is to teach our children who God is and to instruct them in His ways. There are some specific ways that Family Worship helps the family and the home. First, it allows for parents to stand conscience free before God knowing that they carried out their required duty by faith. Second, while it doesn't guarantee conversion in the child's heart, it does provide them with ample opportunities to hear and respond to the Gospel. Thirdly, it can help one's parenting in different circumstances and trials a family might encounter with the constant wisdom of God's Word.

What should be done during Family Worship?

As mentioned above, there are three basic elements that should be considered in family worship, reading, praying, and singing. While this may seem intimidating, the practice of family worship isn't too complex. A sample guide has been provided at the end of this document, along with these helpful resources to help you in each element.

Practical Help for Family Worship

- Family Worship by Joel R. Beeke

Practical Help for Reading and Teaching

- Family Worship Bible Guide by Joel Beeke
- Beginning Family Worship Series by Joel Beeke



Practical Help for Praying

- Praying through the Bible by Donald Whitney

Practical Help for Singing

- First Irving Song Book for Family Worship

When should Family Worship take place and how long should it be?

Family Worship should take place within the rhythm of your home when your family already gathers together, maybe around breakfast or dinner. Historically, it was taught that Family Worship occur twice, once in the morning to prepare the family for the day and once in the evening.

The length will vary depending on the age of the children and the practice. It might be shorter with families with toddlers than with teenagers. The morning might be a quicker time of reading a psalm or proverb and prayer (5-10min), with the evening being a more intentional time (15-20 min).

How do I start Family Worship and what are helpful tips to begin?

First, come up with a game plan and consider answering these questions: what, when, where? What book of the Bible will you begin to read and teach? When will you gather your family for worship? Where will you meet? After answering these questions, just start and remember that it will take time for you and your family to adjust.

Two helpful tips in regard to Family Worship, be brief and be consistent. 10-15 minutes a day is a great start and be consistent, don't let the excuses of each day dictate your family worship.

What if I feel ashamed, embarrassed, or inept to start Family Worship?

Trust by faith in God's Word. Trust the Word in what it says about your duty to practice Family Worship in your home. Trust the Word of God to equip you to teach your family about the things of God.

What if I need help to start Family Worship?

The Elders of First Irving along with the Family Ministries will look to provide opportunities in training, teaching, and encouraging of Family Worship. But you're also free to ask any of the Elders for help.

For additional questions, comments, or desired conversations about the above information, please contact an Elder of First Baptist Church of Irving.



A Structured Sample of Family Worship¹

READ and TEACH: Psalm 1

The Way of the Righteous and the Wicked

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; ² but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. ³ He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. ⁴ The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. ⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; ⁶ for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Teach and Discuss:

- When does the Law teach us about God? How does the text show this?
- Why is the Psalmist delighting in the Lord?
- What the differences between one who delights in God and one who does not delight in God?
- What is one way you can apply this text to your daily life?

PRAY Psalm 1:

- Lord helps us to delight in you and your Word. Father, we want to be like trees planted near streams of water. You are unique, the only One who fulfills the Law, and we praise You! (*Adoration and Praise*)
- Lord, forgive us for when we do not delight in your law or Your Word. We recognize our need for Jesus but help us to grow in our affection for Him. (*Confession*)
- Thank you for allowing fruit to yield in our lives because of Your Word. We have seen the way of the righteous because You have graciously shown us the path. (*Thanksgiving*)
- Lord, we know the wicked are around us. Those who have not rusted in Your Word. Father, we lift up our neighbors and family members and ask that You would save them. Please give us opportunities to share your glorious gospel. (*Supplication*)

Memorize:

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. (Psalm 1:1-2)

Sing:

"Speak O Lord" by Keith & Kristyn Getty and Laura Story

¹ This sample is derived from the book, *Equipping Fathers to Lead Family Worship* by Ken Coley and Blair Robinson.

