

## Family Worship

Handout Supplement to Voddie Baucham, *Family Shepherds*, chapter 6

### **Review: Verses Commending Fathers who Instructed/Disciplined Their Children**

Genesis 22:7-8, 14 (Abraham)

Genesis 27:26-28 (Isaac)

Genesis 49 (Jacob)

1 Chronicles 22:6-13, 28:9-10, 20, Proverbs 4:3-9 (David to Solomon)

Proverbs 1:10, 2:1, 3:1, 4:1-2, 10, 20, etc. (Solomon to his son)

Psalm 34:11 (the Psalmist to his children)

Psalm 44:1 (sons of Korah)

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12

### **Review: Verses Commanding Fathers to Instruct/Disciple His Children**

Genesis 18:19

Exodus 10:1-2

Exodus 12:24-27 (note v. 3-4, 21)

Deuteronomy 32:7, 45-46

Joshua 4:21-24

Psalm 78:2-8

Isaiah 54:13

Joel 1:2-3

Ephesians 6:4

(note also the sanctifying influence on his wife in 5:25-26, 1 Cor 7:14, etc.)

### **Discussion Questions:**

**1. Practical ways to shepherd or disciple your wife spiritually separately from children (alluded to later in p. 86 "must actively seek the sanctification of his bride" but he doesn't give any practical suggestions, and much of chapters focuses on children. I think this is a weakness of the book and myself to grow in and I hope you older men can share with us younger men things you've learned in this area.**

**2. Reasons and resources for families worshipping together in God's house (how children [and parents] can learn to better benefit from hearing the Word preached)**

**3. The difference between family worship and "worship of the family" (is there a danger in too much "focus on the family"?)**

**4. Observations from chapter 6? Comments from Baucham or Whitefield or others?**

**5. Biblical reasons and resources for practical application and implementation of family worship / devotions at home, building on p. 79-80 (p. 3 of handout. Others?)**

## **More on Question 2: Suggestions for Helping Your Child Worship** (from Bethehem Baptist Church)

*Sometimes the difference for children between enduring Sunday morning services and enjoying Sunday morning services is simply a matter of preparation and training. It is our heartfelt prayer that your child will come as a participant in the service to worship our great God. To that end, we have prepared a few suggestions that might help you lead your child to worship this morning.*

### **1. Be Prepared for Worship**

Sunday morning starts Saturday night-- lay out clothes (find all shoes!), get offerings ready, rehearse memory verses, gather together everything you need to bring with you, etc. before Sunday morning. Keep Sunday simple-- Make a simple breakfast and leave the house with time to spare. Remind your child of your expectations of his behavior during the church service.

### **2. Be a Role Model for Your Child**

Start your morning with a positive attitude, a cheerful tone, a spirit of anticipation and enthusiasm, and a heart for worship.

### **3. Walk Your Child Through the Service Before it Starts**

Look over the bulletin; point out what will be happening and how your child can participate. This may mean teaching him a refrain of a responsive reading or teaching him a phrase from a song or chorus and asking him to listen for it. You may want to pray with your child before the service starts.

### **4. Encourage Your Child to Participate**

By teaching your child hymns and choruses at home he will be able to participate in the service. If he cannot learn the whole hymn, teach him the refrain and signal to him when it is time to sing the part he knows. Encourage your child to sit and to stand at the appropriate times, to clap when appropriate, etc. Show him the words in the hymn book, moving your finger along as the hymn is sung. (Even if your child is a nonreader, this will help to focus his attention and encourage him to pay attention to the words.) Have your child bring an offering and place it in the plate.

### **5. Help Your Child Become an Active Sermon Listener**

Help your child to focus on the sermon by quietly whispering instructions to him-- i.e. "Listen to this story", "Can you draw a picture of...". This is not a time of long instruction, but just very short statements to focus their attention. It is also not a time for your child to whisper back to you. Encourage a younger child to listen to the sermon and to draw a picture of something from the sermon. (This should not be seen as a time for doodling, but for active listening.) If your child is very young and has a hard time sitting for a long time, after he has listened to the sermon for awhile, you may want to let your child look at small (nondistracting) Bible storybooks. As your child gets older and learns to write, model for him how to take simple notes-- Let him copy your notes at first; then encourage him to take his own. Keep a spiral notebook that is specifically for Sunday morning.

### **6. Stretch Your Child's Ability to Sit Attentively**

If you have an active child, you may need to take your child out of the service part way through. Keep stretching him until he can sit through the whole service. You may need to be firm. Reaffirm positive behavior.

### **7. Talk About the Service on the Way Home**

Speak positively with your child about the service, and ask him if he has any questions. Encourage him to share his drawings or notes.

See also below from Kevin DeYoung's blog:

<http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevindeyoung/2012/03/07/children-in-worship-mom-tested-tips/>

### **Question 3. More on family idolatry (or what some call familyolatry):**

One pastor at the Shepherd's Conference a couple years ago said it can be when a family's goal is not just to keep their children away from the world, but to keep their children away *from the church*. It can be not fellowshiping with believers (which God commands) who do not fit your mold or your family's ideals which you thereby elevate above the responsibilities you have to one another in the diverse body of Christ.

Another pastor suggests others: **"Weekend activities crowd out our worship and service.**

Extended family or friends visit us or make plans on weekends and these plans can consistently interfere with our attending worship. We want to spend time and nurture our extended family relationships, right? Of course! But, do we consistently accept engagements that help us forsake gathering with the body? (**Heb 10:25**) Similarly, multiple interests, hobbies or sports activities can stack up to the loss of consistent family devotional time or the ability to gather together with the local body. Concern for the temporal can overtake concern for the eternal. Interests and spirituality can fight and sadly, interests can win. On the other side of family social time, how do we think about hospitality? We can so easily get into the rut of "Us two, that'll do!" (yes, a man and his wife are a family), "Us three, wee!", "Us four, no more!" and "Say, let's have some more us-time!" We are called to hospitality, but "doing family" gives us an easy excuse to close our homes and to not minister to others. (**1 Pet 4:9**) This is *familyolatry*.

**Our devotional times are seldom set.**

Do we set time aside to teach our families from the Word? Are we able to consistently bring the truth to our families in a way that encourages, convicts and builds them up in the things of the Word? If not, why not? We are the best youth pastors our children have. Are we taking time to teach them? Are we personally in the Word? If we are not growing spiritually, we'll never be able to lead our families spiritually.

**Our resolve to train our children wanes.**

Helping our children with heart issues so that they make godly choices in free time, clothing or friends gives pause to think of how we ourselves ever made any wise choices. How we respond when conflict occurs shows whether we are giving priority to truth before family or giving priority to family before truth. We must seek approval of God by loving, leading and serving our families in truth. Disregarding their souls so that we do not bring truth to bear upon their issues is giving priority to peace before truth. This too, is *familyolatry*. What kind of course are you steering? Think about Sunday worship, family devotionals and ministries with other men. What conflicts do you find when you begin to discipline yourself in leading your family in what is commanded? What you run into could be your family idols. Consider a course of correction; the better voyage. We as men will be held accountable for how we have fed our families the word and how we have led our families in the truth. Men, do not permit a wasteful end. Do not let what you have permitted, to work against what you have been commanded. Gather with the local body. Teach your family the Word. Sharpen yourself with other men. ([www.calvarybiblechurch.org](http://www.calvarybiblechurch.org))

Jeff Pollard says in a message "The Trap of Family Idolatry" at a Uniting Church and Family Conference: "Jesus Christ makes clear our earthly family must not inhibit our obedience to God or our service to God's spiritual family, the church ... Our earthly families must not take precedent over our heavenly Father's ... Familyolatry is the sin of permitting our earthly family to keep us from doing what God has commanded us to do. It manifests itself by putting our families above the Word of God or above the people of God ...

1. Your family visits, and instead of worshipping God (which God has commanded you to do) you stay home with them (which He has not commanded you to do)
2. Our children have a gift for music, sports, and academic pursuits ... we come back so late from the event (which God has not commanded us to do) that we're too tired and we don't go and worship (which God has commanded us to do)
3. We're so concerned that our children have the best education, have great experiences ... (which God has not commanded us to do) that we don't have family worship, or we rarely have family worship in our homes ... what are you saying to your children is the most important thing in life? The worship of God? Or is that just something you can shuffle behind your family's schedule?
4. The Lord's Day ... we put aside the Lord's Supper (which God has commanded) for a family event (which is lawful, but it is not commanded)
5. We're afraid that if we spank or discipline [our children] in some way, they will hate us ... we want that relationship with them so much that we will not do what the Word of God ...

To put our families above any commands of God in general or to put our families above of the church of Jesus Christ is to commit familolatry."

## Question 5: Resources for Family Worship

### Reading Scripture

*ESV Illustrated Family Bible* (complete ESV text with most narratives of OT & NT)

*Training Bible* (color-coded system, see sample I have)

*The Jesus Storybook Bible* (for younger children)

*The Gospel Story Bible: Discovering Jesus in the Old and New Testaments*

Others I haven't used but have read good reviews:

*Long Story Short: Ten-Minute Devotions to Draw Your Family to God*

*Old Story New* [New Testament edition]

### Singing

Christian music CDs, hymns, praise, etc.

Hymnals or online [www.cyberhymnal.org](http://www.cyberhymnal.org) or [www.nethymnal.org](http://www.nethymnal.org)

Scripture set to music:

Fighter Verses app (iPhone or Android – weekly memory verses in song)

Children Desiring God also has some CDs with Scripture set to music

Hide 'em in your heart (Steve Green)

Others your family has used?

### Prayer

[www.pray1tim2.org](http://www.pray1tim2.org) (daily or weekly prayer emails to help fulfill 1 Timothy 2:1-4)

*Operation World*, missionary prayer cards, get on GCBC prayer email list

### Catechism Resources (from last week)

Teach Them The Truth, by Dan and Karen Vitco ([www.teachthemthefaith.com](http://www.teachthemthefaith.com))

Audio CD of entire “Catechism for Young Children” set to music (Westminster original edition, much word-for-word with Baptist “Catechism for Boys and Girls,” but question 130 and “covenant of works” emphasis reflect Presbyterian Reformed tradition)

Truth and Grace Memory Books, Founders Press (<http://www.founderspress.com/shop/store.php>)

Book 1 (2-year-old to 4<sup>th</sup> grade)–*A Catechism for Boys and Girls*, memory verses, hymns

Book 2 (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade) – uses a modern Baptist version of *Westminster Shorter Catechism*

Book 3 (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) – uses *Heidelberg Catechism: A Baptist Version*

The New City Catechism - [www.newcitycatechism.com](http://www.newcitycatechism.com) (web or phone app) based on and adapted from Calvin's Catechism, the Westminster Shorter and Larger Catechisms, and especially the Heidelberg Catechism. A joint adult and children's catechism with 52 questions, one per week (others are over 100 questions), with written commentaries by theologians of past (Luther, Wesley, Bunyan, Spurgeon, etc.), and video commentaries by pastors of the present (Alistair Begg, Kevin DeYoung, Josh Harris, Tim Keller, etc.).

*Big Truths for Little Kids*, by Susan Hunt (devotions on ‘Catechism for Young Children’)

*Training Hearts, Teaching Minds: Family Devotions Based on the Shorter Catechism*, by Starr Meade (designed for school age children, goes deeper than *Little Kids* book above)