

Biblical Manhood

Fathers Leading Family Worship

Introduction – Psa. 77

Fathers must assume the role of prophet, priest, and king in their homes.

- 1) They must speak the Word of God to their family, teach it, exemplify it, apply its wisdom, and guide according to it (Deut. 6:6-7; Prov; Eph. 6:4)
- 2) They must intercede for their family, their wife, their children (Job 1:1-5)
- 3) They must lovingly rule their homes (last month's lesson) and defend it. They are the protector of their family, against all harm, physical and spiritual. Prov.

One the central ways fathers fulfill their three-fold office is to lead in family worship.

- 1) The duty of family of worship
 - a) God created the family and families therefore are under the obligation to worship God as families.
 - b) As Christian parents, our goal is to glorify Jesus Christ through all we do. Therefore, our families exist to glorify Jesus Christ, and one of the primary ways we do that is through family worship. (Josh. 24:14-15)
 - c) As Christian parents, we are seeking to raise our children in fear and admonition of the Lord, and family worship is one of the primary ways we do that.
- 2) The elements of family worship
 - a) Instruction in God's Word ~ Gen. 18:19; Deut. 6:6-7
 - b) Singing ~ Col. 3:16 (See "20 Hymns")
 - c) Prayer ~ Phil. 4:4-7; 1 Pet. 5:7
 - d) Memorization
Children's Prove It Catechism, Scripture verses (assimilate SS)

Practical Counsels on Leading Family Worship

- 1) Be consistent
- 2) Keep it relatively brief
- 3) Use family worship as a time of training
- 4) Be engaging and encourage participation

- 5) Be earnest and evangelical
 - a) There will be times when it is appropriate to plead with your children to trust in Christ (2 Tim. 3:15)
 - b) There will be times when you need to ask for forgiveness before you start family worship because you lost your temper, etc. See this as a Gospel opportunity as well.
- 6) Do not use family worship as a bully pulpit or soapboxes
- 7) Have a plan
 - a) Choose your material carefully
 - b) Have a simple order that your follow
 - c) Have a prayer list – urgent needs, missionaries, lost loved ones, daily needs

Conclusion

As fathers, you are to disciple your children. You are to lead them spiritually and this means family worship. The impact is

Resources (so many good resources!)

Jason Helopoulos, *Family Worship in the Christian Home: A Neglected Grace*

Donald Whitney, *Family Worship*

Terry L. Johnson, *Understanding Family Worship: It's History, Theology, and Practice*

The Biggest Story Bible Storybook

The Jesus Storybook Bible

The Big Picture Story Bible

Family Worship Bible Guide

Leading Little Ones to God

Pilgrim's Progress (Dangerous Journey)

Beginning: Family Worship in Genesis (series)