

# 10 RODS OF TRUTH



10 RODS OF TRUTH IN  
A RAGING WORLD



**RECLAIMING SANITY**

September 22

**RECLAIMING BIBLICAL LITERACY**

September 29

**RECLAIMING THE GOSPEL**

October 6

**RECLAIMING SPIRITUALITY**

October 13

**RECLAIMING THE NEXT GENERATION**

October 20

**RECLAIMING MARRIAGE & FAMILY**

October 27

**RECLAIMING POLITICS**

November 3

**RECLAIMING THE RAINBOW**

November 10

**RECLAIMING MASCULINITY & FEMININITY**

November 17

**RECLAIMING LIFE**

November 24

## CHAPTER 5: RECLAIMING THE NEXT GENERATION

### Commentary

God is the greatest storyteller. He created a man named Rick Husband, who held to his namesake. Rick was a faithful Christian husband to one wife (Evelyn) and father to two children, a daughter (Laura Marie) and a son (Matthew). God instilled in this man a conviction for family worship through daily devotions in obedience to Jesus, his Savior. Rick supported his family through his profession as a decorated Air Force pilot, logging over 3800 flight hours in over 40 types of aircraft and later adding astronaut to his resume. Here, Rick demonstrates his commitment to his duty of bringing his children “up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4). Though Rick had the excuse that he would not be on planet Earth, on one of his missions he recorded a devotional for each of his children for each of the 17 days that he would be away so that their pattern of family devotions would remain unbroken upon his return.

On Landing Day, his children fired up their last of 17 devotionals on the VCR and enjoyed their father walking them through the Scriptures as he had done daily. They eagerly awaited his promised return on February 1, 2003 as he piloted the shuttle Columbia back to Earth. A trip the shuttle would never complete due to a failure in the heat shield. From that moment on those recorded devotionals became a priceless possession to his family,

Many of you have the same Ephesians 6:4 duty before you. You can answer along with Joshua, “as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:15) I should add that this is a command not a helpful suggestion for a Christian lifestyle or something nice to stitch on a throw pillow. Hanging this verse on your wall with a nice font from Hobby Lobby does not make us Christian. You cannot write God’s word upon the doorposts of your house and on your gates and expect that to be an incantation to make your kids Christian; you must also teach the Scriptures “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.” (Deuteronomy 6:4-9) Scripture must be in everything you do and always on your mind.

The modern American tradition is to worship God for one seventh of our week, and then stand there in bewilderment that our children only follow God for one seventh of their life. For those cut to the quick and convicted by Rick's pattern of life, you may be asking, "But how do I do this?" This is a fair question because daily family worship is a duty long neglected in American Christianity as evidenced by the abundance of thorns in the place where fruit ought to be and the choking out of any promising sprouts (Matthew 13:7, 22). There are a number of resources around family worship, but the pattern is simple, here is a guide:

1. Pray with and for your family
2. Open the Word and read
3. Explain/Discuss the Scriptures
4. Sing together to the Lord

(Ideally this is led by the patriarch of the house)

This is simple but not always easy. Regarding this Christian duty, let me preemptively knock down common objections, we call these excuses of the variety with a forged Father's signature.

You may be single, dating, engaged, and do not have the opportunity, let alone the authority, to lead your wife and family or be led by your husband. You are not called to isolation; we are commanded to meet (Hebrews 10:23-25) and not just on Sundays. The pattern of Passover was for smaller households to join together in communing over their Passover lamb (Exodus 12:4). When possible, extend hospitality to your brothers and sisters in Christ to practice family worship to partake of the Passover Lamb that was slain before the foundation of the world (1 Peter 1:13-21). This is the perfect opportunity for you to hone your craft of daily worship before the wonderful chaos of children descends upon your household. Or as it often happens at *Tov*, you have transitioned to a zone defense with more children than adults in the house and a structured quarter hour of family worship seems like a Samsonian task, which it is. You have to die to yourself (1 Corinthians 13:31), and that looks like killing the expectation of a refreshing worship experience for you. Consider the frame of your people. Trust God's promise that his Word does not return void (Isaiah 55:10-11) and that your work in the Lord is not in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58). Throw yourself into the work and trust that when you are shouting Scripture while the toddler is babbling, someone is standing on their head, and food is on the walls, it will still be a sweet incense to the Lord. Do not give up.

After all, a disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher (Luke 6:40). Fathers are required to give their children a God centered education bringing them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). Men are primarily responsible for cutting out ungodly influences in training the next generation for bad company corrupts good morals (1 Corinthians 15:33).

We need to recognize that we are given time; we don't make time as the common vernacular goes. We ought to reject a weak weekly worship of our God, in favor of a faithful daily worship with weekly holy days (the Lord's Day/Sabbath). God wants a church made up of households that cultivate a rich culture by way of worship. This is the centerpiece, and we "make time" for everything else. We are declaring to the world that we serve the one true and living God and no other, first and foremost each day because that's all we are given is today (James 4:13-17, Ephesians 5:15-21). Households that worship daily will naturally produce a church that is truly tov (good, beautiful and functioning as intended). A family culture of rootedness gives us an inheritance to pass on to the next generation, an identity among a people, and a God that is superior to the counterfeit idols that will be presented to the next generation.

Reclamation Charge: A faithful current generation will honor past generations by trusting on God's promises regarding future generations.

#### Bonus Recommended Resources:

Why Children Matter – Doug Wilson

Family Worship – Joel Beeke

Family Shepherds – Voddie Baucham

Leading Little Ones to God – Marian Schoolland

#### Bonus Verses to Meditate on for Encouragement:

"God does not over promise in the Old Testament and under deliver in the New Testament"  
(Standing on the Promises, Doug Wilson)

## References:

Psalm 103:17-18 & Luke 1:48-50

Psalm 102:28

Psalm 100:5

Exodus 20:4-6 & Deuteronomy 5:9-10, 7:9

Malachi 4:6

Genesis 17:9

Ezekiel 37:24-26

Isaiah 65:23

Isaiah 59:21

1 Cor 15:54-58, Matt 10:42, Mark 9:41

Acts 2:39

## Selected Scriptures

John 10:10, 1 Samuel 30:1-8, Joshua 24:15

## 3 Key Points:

- † Satan doesn't want to take your stuff, he wants to destroy you and your legacy.
- † Men - when you are absent women and children are left vulnerable to attack.
- † When you find your strength, you will find your strategy. (Source before strategy)

## Quote:

"If you want a naval war, you have to build ships, and if you want a culture war, you have to build a culture. And whether it is Rome or any other city, it is not done in a day." ... "Just as you can't fight a naval war without ships, or tank warfare without tanks, you can't fight a culture war without a culture." – Doug Wilson

## Notes

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## Small Group Questions

1. Did you experience family worship or family devotionals growing up?
2. Who was the spiritual leader in your house? If you didn't have one, what was life like growing up without consistent spiritual direction in your home?
3. How can you train your current or future children in the Lord better than your parents did?

RECLAIM