

**Call to Worship.**

**Psalm 8 (Read All).**

**Opening Prayer.**

Hymn 1: Holy, Holy, Holy.

Hymn 2: This is the Day.

Hymn 3: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name.

Announcements

**Matt. 5:3-12 (Dramatic Reading)**

Elder: When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. He opened His mouth and began to teach them, saying, 'Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Congregation: Bless are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Elder: Bless are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

Congregation: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Elder: Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Congregation: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Elder: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Congregation: Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Elder: Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.

Congregation: Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Prayer. (to enter the Kingdom through the Beatitudes of Christ)

Hymn 4: Sing Hallelujah to the Lord.

Hymn 5: I Exalt Thee.

Hymn 6: Thy Word.

**Offering Prayer.**

Instrumental Music.

Pastoral Prayer.

Sermon Text.

**Deut. 6:1-25 | Family Worship and Small Group Assembly**

'Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the LORD your God has commanded me to teach, that you might do them in the land where you are going over to

possess it, so that you are your son and your grandson might fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. O Israel, you should listen and be careful to

### Family Worship Outline.

Prayer, Teaching, Praise.

**Q:** How much time? How much content?

**Common Objections to Family Worship and Small Group gathering.** (I don't want to spend much time given an apologetic to Family Worship because it is not left for defense in the Scripture. It is a commandment that is to be obeyed.)

1. ***I don't have enough time.*** (You always dedicate time to what you love)
2. ***The kids won't listen and sit still.*** (That's the point of doing it, to train them to listen. No one by nature listens.)
3. ***I don't know what I'm doing.*** (That's simple fix.)
4. ***I don't have a family.*** (Do Family Worship with your church family in what we call Small Groups)
5. ***We do not live by the law but by faith.*** To me this is one of the most egregious errors in the Christian church today; **Antinomianism, No Law. An Antinomian is essentially a spiritual criminal, 'trampling the grace of God underfoot' Heb. 10**  
-Yes it is true that we that we 'live by faith', BUT that is faith in Christ who lived the law and calls us to obey Him, who is both the Law-giver and the complete fulfillment of obedience to the Law. So it's not possible to live a life of faith in Christ without obedience to the law. And obedience to the law is not possible without knowledge of the law. And knowledge is not possible without teaching.

It's just amazing to me that people will recognize traffic laws, civil laws, criminal laws, constitutional laws, but when it comes to spiritual matters claim there is no law. To me that is the height of arrogance.

The Law gives far more body to the Gospel message and it gives substance to the grace of God.

### Key Scriptures.

**Deut. 6, Jo. 24, Ps. 118, 3 John 1**

I want to work today to get you to learn to establish a pattern of Family Worship.

### Good things and Bad things of Family.

It is a very bad thing to raise a boy that can throw a ball high but cannot throw a prayer to heaven. It is a very bad thing to raise a girl that can bake a pie but does not know how to let the Word of God bake in her conscience.

It is a bad thing to have a husband who is mighty in business and puny in godliness.  
It is a bad thing to have the most beautiful wife who knows nothing of humble submission.

**As my Pastor, Dr. Charles Fuller** used to always say when I was a kid 'You're never more a man than when you chose to follow Christ, and your never more a beautiful young lady than when you chose to obey Christ'

It takes **more strength** to obey God than it does to bench press 400lbs. It takes **more agility** to avoid the traps of Satan, that it does to trade millions in the markets.

It will take **more fortitude** to follow faithfully, than it will to run 1000 marathons.

And it will result in more glory to God. Doing Family Worship will give God glory and the result will be that you will live in the glory of God as a Family.

**Pursue glory**, just make sure it's God's glory.

The authority of raising Godly children is not given to the church of God, it is given to the parents of God.

'the fruit of the womb is a reward and children are like arrows in the hands of a mighty warrior'  
Psalm 127

It is the parent's duty and authority to raise children to worship God.

If we could get the entire country to understand the priority of Family Worship, the entire country would change in less than a month. It is my personal opinion, that Family Worship should be more of a mandate from the government than any other mandate.

The government claims to be concerned with Global Warming, well they should concern themselves with the '*fervent heat when God will turn the earths elements to nothing, and the flower will fade but His Word will remain*' 1 Peter.

**Family Government. (It might be helpful for you to see the family as a government)**

Family Government is the Supreme Government. Nothing, not even the Church overcomes Family Government.

The Father is the Commander and Chief. The Wife works as the Secretary of State. The Children are a Cabinet of Advisers.

The Family is a Government created and authorized by God. Make no mistake, that nothing should ever interfere with Family.

- a. The Constitution.

- b. The Defense Department.
- c. The Internal Affairs.
- d. The Economic Policies.
- e. The Foreign Policies.

Yet, the Family functions like a Government. And like many governments

### **The Constitution of the Family.**

The Family needs a Constitution. It is the Christian family's duty to have the Holy Bible as its Constitution.

The Bible is the Constitution of the Church. And as it is, every church is a family and every family is a church.

'defend the Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic'

We should be Constitutional Christian families. Not in the sense of a politics. but instead, in regards to the polity of the Family. Let the Scriptures direct the governance!

When, for whatever reason, you realize the Family has problems in governance, seek repentance which is granted in the kindness of God, repent, and turn the family back to God.

God is patient and gracious but He is not changing.

### **The Defense Department of the Family.**

Do not be fooled the Family is under attack. Satan wants to destroy your family.

### **Satan's Work Against the Family.**

The Father is subverted by Satan. The Mother is discouraged by the Devil. The Boys are bothered by the Beast of Burden. The Daughters are Dumbed by the Deceiver.

Family Worship makes a Father a King. A Mother a Queen. A Son a prince. A Daughter a Princess.

You need a Defense Department in your Family. You need a Motte around the family.

It is the **fear of the Lord** that works to defend your family. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and it is wisdom to lead your family in family worship.

***'The fear of God in the heart will be the most powerful principle of obedience. It is highly desirable that not we only fear God, but our children, and our children's children, may fear the Lord.'* Matthew Henry, Commentary on Deuteronomy 6**

***Teaching the Family to Fear God is an act of Worship of God and it makes the family godly!***

**A lack of Family Worship makes a Father a Joker and the Family broker.**

### **The Economic Policy of the Family.**

**There are so many families that are wealthy in finances but their Theology is on welfare.**

***It's better to be on State assistance than it is to have your theology taught to you by the state.***

The Economic Policy of the Christian Family is **Frugality and Generosity.**

Often, especially in Jesus' teaching, money is easily used as an illustration because it is an idol in many hearts.

When it comes to economic policy there are really only two types of people, those who never spend; the frugal – and those who will readily spend; the generous.

But by principle the family needs to establish economic policies that are based off the Constitution of Scripture, which will show us how to be frugal for the purpose of generous.

### **Internal Affairs of the Family.**

So many people who hold the title Christian get themselves involved in other people's business. Especially in small towns.

Peter wrote **'make sure that you do not suffer because of being a troublesome meddler' 1 Pet. 4**

A troublesome meddler is a person that intrudes on business that is not their own.

**Family business is the family's business.** What I've found is that people who get themselves involved in another family's business are not being diligent to take care of their own business.

Busybodies are developed by not being busy at home.

You cannot critic another person's household when you are busy attending to your own.

There is ample work to maintain a family's focus on its own business and advancement to godliness.

The Family must have an internal affairs process where the matters of the family are cared for from generation to generation.

The Bible gives us a wise outline for this, tell us that **'a wise man leaves an inheritance for his children's, children.'** Prov.

If a Family establishes a **regular pattern** of Family Worship, it creates a **regular pattern of open, honest communication** where all matters of life are discussed.

As it has been said, Quality time is found in Quantity Time.

**The regular pattern of Family Worship** sets the Bible as its Constitution and uses that to build each person in God's will for their life and to create unity in the family.

### **The Foreign Policy of the Family.**

The family which minds its own business is rarely involved in others business. But, you will still need a foreign policy.

How do you deal with those outside of the boundaries of your family? Moses actually tells us.

We will be **presented with temptations** in the family that would cause us to go astray. Just look at the books of Joshua and Judges that follow Deuteronomy.

**Israel's Foreign Policy** failed because it moved away from the Constitution of the Bible and teaching that to the Family. As it says in Judges **'each person did what was right in their own sight'**

It was a **principle that obedience leads to godliness** and godliness leads to great gain, BUT, great gain often leads to apostasy.

A well-oiled and maintained Family Governance will quickly lead to successes in family, but that pattern of Godly Worship must be maintained to protect the family.

It is perfectly fine to let other people know that you do not participate in certain things because you are a Christian family.

It is perfectly fine to let other people know, when they pry into your life, that we do not do certain things because those things violate the Constitution of our family which is God's Word.

To lay the principle down, we have to see that the **Family is a Government**. God established it as such.

Government has leadership, executive functions, legislative functions, judiciary functions. Government must intervene for security and defense. Government must protect and persevere life.

All of this is seen at the family level.

If we would intentionally, look at, and analyze the workings of our family as such, we would do very well to make sure progress.

#### **4-Part Family Worship in the Bible.** (*The Command, The Commitment, The Confession, The Completion*)

##### **I. The Command.**

**Deut. 6:4-9 'Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons 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 up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates'**

##### **The Shema.**

It was common for the Israelite children to be trained in the Shema by their parents.

**Parents training their children in the ways of the Lord was a commonly expected practice.**

Moses says to; Love the LORD, **BY, to teach, to bind, to write.**

3-actions that demonstrate your family's love of God. Teaching, Binding, and Writing.

In other words, knowledge that leads to wisdom or faith that leads to obedience.

**Q: What is He talking about to obey?** What commands? Look at **Deut. 5:7-21.** The Ten Commandments.

The **Ten Commandments are completely foreign** to our society today. The Ten Commandments should be memorized, talked about, prayed through in your character, asking God for forgiveness for not obeying and asking God for strength to obey His commandments.

It is likely that the Hebrew family would have read the Shema and the Ten Commandment daily. Also that they would pray together and sing together.

#### **The Principle of How to do Family Worship. (not exactly the methodical plan, but the principle)**

**'with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might'**

I remember in High School, one year we won the State Championship, the next year we didn't. The level of talent was about the same. I asked the coach, why do you think we didn't win the state championship this year? He immediately responded, 'The team didn't buy into the system of coaching!'

It's not enough to just teach your family the principles of God, **you must be wholly devoted to them.**

You can know all the plays, you can even be talented, but if the team does not unify and execute the plays with all their heart, with all their soul, with all their might' – then they will be beaten by the team that does give all their heart, all their soul and all their might.

**Let me give you an example of learning that didn't lead to reform.**

There was a man in Russia who was diligently taught the Scriptures by his family. He was taken to church regularly. He was talk to kneel and pray at church.

To memorize a passage the children were given a piece of candy. This boy got the most candy. He memorized the Scripture, but the motive was wrong.

The great Puritan theologian, John Owen once wrote, 'I realized in my early adulthood that I had committed to learning and preaching for notoriety, so I repented and let God discipline that out of me, so that I would bring Him glory'

But this boy was taught early the truth of God and given the training. BUT, as time went on it was clear this boy was not under the grace of the Scriptures.

**From being a peasant boy** learning the Scriptures in rural Russia, he became the man that advocated for the murderous 'show trials' of Stalin and gave an unmitigated support to the persecution of Christians in Soviet Russia.

This boy became the man known to the world, **Nikita Khrushchev.**

It is not enough to know the play, you must know the play, unify around the play call and fully devote yourself to the play calling of God.

The seed must be planted and it must germinate in a soil, given water, and light, and time to blossom.

That is how we do worship. We do worship with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our might.

Anything less is lukewarm. Give me the coffee hot or give it cold, but not luke warm.

**'teach them diligently'**

I'm under no delusion that everyone here is going to become a systematic theologian. But I am very confident that everyone here can have an accurate view of God and wholly devote their life to obeying Him.

I know that much, because that is the very reason God has created us.

Teaching them never ends. You never stop teaching. It is life-long.



The danger of leaving God and not worshiping Him when times are good.

### **Prosperity often leads to Apostacy.**

**Q:** How can you avoid falling away from God in times of prosperity?

Deut. 6:13-19 'You shall fear only the LORD your God; and you shall worship Him and swear by His name. You shall not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who surround you for the LORD your God in the midst of you is a jealous God; otherwise the anger of the LORD your God will be kindled against you, and He will wipe you off the face of the earth. You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested Him at Massah. You should diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and His testimonies and His statutes which He has commanded you. You shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may be well with you and that you may go in and possess the good land which the LORD swore to give your fathers, by driving out all your enemies from before you, as the LORD has spoken.'

- Fear God.
- Worship God.
- Swear allegiance to God's name.
- Do not follow other gods. Examples are all the people that surround you.
- Recognize that God is in your midst and He is jealous for you.
- God's anger can be aroused against you. The result can be being wiped off the face of the earth.
- Do not put God to the test.
- Keep His commands with diligence.
- Do what is right and good.
- The result will be that God will drive out your enemies.

This keeps you and your family from falling into apostasy. BUT, as you teach them, they will have questions you might struggle to answer. SO, what are you supposed to do?

Look at the next paragraph.

Deut. 6:20-25 'When your son asks you in time to come, saying, 'What do the testimonies and the statutes and the judgments mean which the LORD our God commanded you?' then you shall say to your son, 'We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt, and the LORD brought us from Egypt with a mighty hand.'

Deliverance! Remind your family of God's power to deliver. Remind your family of God's faithfulness to Israel, that His promise to Israel is His promise to you.

v. 24-25 'So the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God for our good always and for our survival, as it is today. It will be righteousness for us if we are careful to observe all this commandment before the LORD our God just as He commanded us.'

Why obey? For our good and our survival.

How are we counted as righteous as families? By teaching our families these things about God!

How does God do this? Look over 1 chapter to Deut. 7:22 'The LORD your God will clear away these nations before you little by little

### **Little by Little.**

The principle of growing in righteousness is not done one fell swoop. It takes years to grow an Oak of Righteousness.

This is done little by little.

### **What is Family Worship and Small Group Assembly Doing?**

1. It is submitting your time to Christ.
2. It is acknowledging the need to regularly worship God. (The purpose of our life)
3. It is training among other Christians how to be more like Christ (Discipleship)

I do want to encourage you to **not make family worship a long daily process**. Make it a short daily process that you do over a long time.

Wealth gotten quickly is easily lost, but wealth gained over time.

'Wealth gotten by fraud dwindles, but one who gathers through labor increases' Prov. 13:11

The dividends of Family Worship are paid out over a long period of time. And takes years to build the principle not days.

### **We are growing Oaks of Righteousness in Family Worship and Small Group Assembly.**

The growth of the average oak tree is six inches above ground in the first year, but over 70% of the biomass of an oak tree is accomplished underground, unseen, because it first establishes a strong enough root system to ground the growth that it will inevitably achieve. **Q: Why would God grow an oak tree one way but grow us in godliness in another?**

#### **II. The Commitment.**

Josh. 24:14-15 'fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.'

Serve and Worship are synonymous terms. The commitment of Joshua's leadership is that he would commit his family to worshipping God.

**Family Worship.** That was his commitment and the example that he set as a leader.

Every community needs leadership, Every church needs leadership, and Every family needs leadership. That leadership must be committed to worshipping God.

It seems obvious that the simplest aspect of that worship was learning and obeying the Ten Commandments and fearing God through trusting Him in every part of life.

When Joshua said he would forsake all of the other gods and would serve the LORD; What did he mean by that?

Certainly, he meant the same thing Moses meant. He meant the same thing Abraham and Isaac meant.

That to worship God is to be set apart for His Holy Service.

**Worship is that you are Wholly His and you become Holy by being Wholly His.**

The commitment to worshipping God is a simple commitment. It is not complicated.

It's human nature to break commitments.

### **III. The Confession.**

Ps. 118:15 'The sound of joyful shouting and salvation is in the tents of the righteous'

#### **Singing together.**

Singing songs of praise should be done in both Family Worship and Weekly Small Groups.

When Richard Baxter started as a pastor in Kidderminster, England it was said that hardly anyone even attended church services.

At the end of Richard Baxter's ministry in Kidderminster, it is recorded that there was at least one family on every street participating in daily Family Worship.

Singing about the character, nature and work of God should be the primary focus of our singing. This restores the soul.

### **IV. The Completion.**

3 John 1 'I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth'

Consummation, completion, the achievement, of Family Worship is that it creates families that walk in the truth.

We do not walk in the truth by accident. It is by training.

We are always training ourselves in something.

## Practical Directions for Family Worship and Small Group Assembly.

### How Do we do this?

- 1. Set a regular time that you can commit to.** Family meals is probably the best regular time to set to do this together.  
**In the Dutch reformation** it was common that every family would pray, sing, and read a passage of Scripture together before eating their dinner as a family.  
**Keep the daily time short** and the regular time consistent. Growth and transformation will happen through consistent devotion (God's pattern of growth is rarely immediate and almost always imperceptible in the short term). **Recommend**, Family Worship no more than 10-15 mins, which equates to another church service over the course of 1 week.  
**Do not be a task master** in Family Worship but be a Tank Refiller and a Divine Informer. This is a time to fill the family's spiritual gas tank back up.
- 2. Prayer.** Uphold the standard that all are to pray. Even the youngest.
  - Keep pray Simple, Short, and Sincere.
  - Maintain a pattern of Thanksgiving to God, Confession of Sin, Trust in God, and Petition of every need to God in prayer. It is important for Fathers to confess their shortcomings and sin to set a needed pattern of humility and trust in the grace of God for forgiveness.  
**A father who seeks confession for sin before his family is a powerful tool for God's work in his family.**
  - Be patient with young children (1 Tim.)** and be careful to critic their prayers. Instead, encourage them in their praying. Let them know that you are proud of them.

-**Always pray the passage** in the sense that you ask the Holy Spirit to work the passage into your character. Ask the Holy Spirit to shape each person by the truth and principle of the passage taught.
- 3. Teaching.** Establish a plan and stick to it with consistency. It is hard to stick to complicated plans. So keep the teaching short and simple.
  - Uphold the standard that **everyone present must have a comment or a question** about the passage. This makes sure there is focus and engagement.  
Much growth happens during this time.  
**Ex.** of the mina and short passages.
  - Establish a plan to work through the entire Bible together as a family.  
I know that sounds daunting but let's break it down. There are 1,189 chapters in the Bible. There are 365 days in a year.  $1,189/365=3.2$  years  
**Ex.** if you went through 1 chapter a day you would get through the entire Bible in **4 years**. If you started this when your child was a baby you would go through the entire Bible together about 5 times before they are an adult.

**In small groups** you could do this same thing or you could just go back through the weekly sermon. In that time, reiterate the many doctrinal points of the passages and the principles that apply to our life.

But I **recommend avoiding doing book studies**. That's not the intent.

4. **Praise.** Find songs that all people can sing to and are familiar with.
  - Ensure the songs focus on who God is, what God has done, and God's promises. Ref. Deut. 6
  - Sing at least 1 song together and it might seem difficult at first for this to take traction but over time your family will most likely want to sing numerous songs together.
  - This is very powerful for building fellowship in small groups as well.

### **Conclusion.**

I want to encourage 100% of us to be doing family worship or small group assembly regularly.

It's my encouragement but it's God's commandment.

God actually commands a blessing on obeying His commandments. Also, it is important to settle in our mind that all of God's commandments are expressions of God's love because God's commandments come from God's character.

It is an act of God's love to give us the commandment to worship Him and we experience God's love when we obey that commandment.

### **Pastoral Prayer.**

Hymn 5: Sing Hallelujah to the Lord.

Hymn 6: Thy Word.

Hymn 7: Praise to the Lord.

### **Benediction:**

Heb. 13:20-21