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**Parental Instruction**  
**(The strategic importance of family worship)**

Introduction:

I. A theology of family worship.

A. 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Context: We see a pattern of the Word of God being central in the home for dealing with the perplexities of life.

B. Ephesians 6:4 (“Home Sweet Home—When Christ is First”)

1. Context

2. The words

“Fathers”—biblical manhood (to lead, provide for and protect).

- What about moms? Ephesians 6:4 does not eliminate Proverbs 1:8.
- We need a new generation of parents that have a heart for discipleship! If “the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world” then....

“Bring them up”

Principle: “Active parenthood not passive parenthood”

“Discipline”

“Instruction”

3. This is a way for me to fulfill the “great commission” with my family.

“Make disciples”—“teaching them to observe all...”

C. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (Our homes are to be “God saturated” homes)

Worship should be the atmosphere of our homes (Psalm 34:1; 113:1-4; I Cor. 10:31).

1. What is worship?

2. We were made to be worshippers (Rom. 11:36)

3. This makes the heart the target (Prov. 4:23). Our children need to be “heart aware” not naïve about their motives and the worshipping nature of the heart. They need to understand the sin nature and why they desperately need a Savior!

“heart”= wants, drives, desires, passions, yearnings, thoughts and intentions.

Principle: I desire my children to be so satisfied in the LORD that the world will not have the allure it normally does (I John 2:15-17).

D. The picture of the New Testament Church

By the way—what does your family \_\_\_\_\_? What gets priority in your home?

II. The advantages of family worship (“The Family that prays together, stays together”).

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III. Suggestions for carrying out family devotions.

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.
- E.
- F.
- G.
- H.

I.

J.

#### IV. Counseling applications

A.

B.

C.

D.

#### V. Answering practical questions

A. What if the husband is an unbeliever or will not lead?

B. How do we put this into a busy schedule?

C. What if a husband says, “I don’t know the Bible very well and won’t know what to say?”

#### Conclusion:

Puritan church of Dorchester, Massachusetts, 1677: “We covenant, as a church in Dorchester, Massachusetts, to reform our families, engaging ourselves to a conscientious care to set up and maintain the worship of God in our homes. And to walk in our homes with perfect hearts. We resolve, in a faithful discharge of all domestic duties in seeking to educate, instruct and charge our little ones and our whole households to seek to keep the ways of the Lord.”

#### Recommended resources:

*Shepherding Your Child’s Heart* (Tedd Tripp)

*Age of Opportunity* (Paul David Tripp)

*Your Family God’s Way* (Wayne Mack)

*Successful Christian Parenting* (John MacArthur)