

**Discuss while we wait to begin**

Q. Have you ever heard of 'Family Worship'? What do you think it is? Have you any experience of it?  
Q. Do you think worshipping at home as a family is something we should be doing?

**Introduction**

Not a burden, but a 'Joyful Responsibility'

1) **HISTORY**

Family worship was the 'norm' in the 16th and 17th century

2) **WHY WORSHIP IN OUR FAMILIES?**

**The Westminster Confession of faith encourages FW in Chapter 21.6**

*God is to be worshipped everywhere, **in spirit and truth**; as, in **private families**, daily, and in secret, each one by himself; so, more solemnly in the public assemblies...*

Three spheres of worship in the Christian life:

- Secret worship - Joshua 1:8, Psa 1:2, Matt 6
- Corporate worship - Ephesian 2:21
- Family worship - Deut 6:6-7, Psa 78:1-7, Psa 127:3,

**Covenant parents have a responsibility to their covenant children**

Joshua 24:1-15

Genesis 18:19

Psalm 78:1-7

Jonathan Edwards - "*Every Christian family ought to be as it were a little church.*"

**Other good reasons to have family worship**

1. Centres our homes
2. Encourages our children (and us) to walk with Christ
3. Encourages peace in the home
4. Binds family in the truth
5. Provides Bible knowledge
6. Prepares children for the Sunday gathering
7. Helps children see the role of spiritual leadership
8. Opportunity for discipleship

### **3) WHAT DOES FAMILY WORSHIP INVOLVE?**

*Spurgeon once said, "I agree with Matthew Henry when he says, 'They that pray in the family do well, they that pray and read the scriptures do better, but they that pray and read and sing do best of all. There is a completeness in that kind of family worship which is meant to be desired.'"*

A - Scripture reading

B - Prayer

C- Singing

### **4) HOW AND WHEN TO HAVE FAMILY WORSHIP?**

1. With reverence and joy
2. Regularly and consistently
3. Finding the best time
4. In an ideal world
5. Length
6. Planning
7. Perseverance & prayer

### **But what if..?**

- You are a single parent?
- You are married to an unbeliever?
- Your spouse does not want to have family worship?
- Your children are very different ages?

*Jason Helopoulos asks this question: "When our children grow up, what will be their lasting memory of the family home? Do we want them primarily thankful for parents who watched television with them and attended all their games? Or do we desire that our children leave the home with an understanding that worship is the centre of who we are and what we do and that Christ is what was most cherished?"*

### **RESOURCES**

- Table Talk (Good Book Company)
- Long Story Short - Machowski
- Bible dippers
- Line by Line - F. Mortimer
- Joel Beeke doctrine for children (older and younger)
- Easter & Christmas Good Book Company studies
- By Thou My Vision - Jonathan Gibson

### **Reference books relating to Family Worship**

<https://thewestminsterstandard.org/directory-for-family-worship/>

<https://ligonduncan.com/the-family-alter-69/>

- A Neglected Grace - Jason Helopoulos
- Family Worship - Joel Beeke
- The Family Worship Book - Terry Johnson