



Grace Legacy Builders

EQUIPPING MEN AS SPIRITUAL LEADERS

Family Worship Users Guide

Simple overview for father-led family worship

READ

PRAY

SING

“It may be hoped your children will be praising God for you, and praising God like you, here on earth, when you are praising Him in Heaven.”

Matthew Henry

2014 Rev. Bruce Kuiper

Please copy any of the following material for the intended purposes.

User's Guide Outline

Introduction

1. The Temperament for Family Worship
2. The Time for Family Worship
3. The Templates for Family Worship
The Pleasure of Family Worship – Psalm 16:11

The Master of Family Worship is Jesus Christ as:

1. Prophet
2. Priest
3. King
The Person of Family Worship – Colossians 1:15-21

The Method of Family Worship is Fathers Following Jesus Christ as:

1. Preacher
2. Pastor
3. Prince
The Priority of Father-led Family Worship – Psalm 78:6, Gen. 17:9 & 18:19

The Model of Family Worship is Simply:

1. Reading
2. Praying
3. Singing
The Principles of Family Worship – Gen. 35:6-15 & Acts 10:2

Family Worship as the Trinitarian Means of Grace:

1. God's Benevolence in Adoption
2. Christ's Benefits of Adoption
3. Holy Spirit's Blessings by Adoption
The Promises of Family Worship – Isaiah 49:22 & Jeremiah 24:7

Conclusion : The Means of Grace & Family Worship

Luke 24:32-35

They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while Christ talked to us on the road, while Jesus opened to us the Scriptures?"³³ And they rose ..., ³⁴ saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how Christ was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Appendix 1: Select Between these Convenient Styles

- The Family Worship Primer
- The Family Worship Guide
- The Family Worship Day Planner

Appendix 2

- "Journibles" The Deutonomy 17:18 Series



Introduction: A Note to Parents – Especially Dads!

The family worship users guide will help make your family worship a simple streamlined process so that you can begin and maintain this habit from generation to generation. You are about to build into the DNA of your clan a legacy of regular father-led family worship.

There are many fine seminars that you can attend or products or books that you can obtain on this subject of family worship. But, there are a few unique realities in the following material from Grace Legacy Builders. They are the simple scripture-saturated style, the gospel-centered substance, and a reforming focus on men to equip you to care for eternal souls in this life.

Remember, family worship is an effective yet simple activity. The family meets for prayer with God and communication with each other. The Scriptures are read and taught by the head of the family. Praise is given to God in song. This is the place where we are best equipped for time and eternity.

The other unique aspect of our style is writing things down. Not in a long, exhaustive journal format, but just enough to give you clarity in your daily preparation and laser accuracy in detailing your daily activities. We embrace the common saying: “Thoughts become untangled before they hit the lips when they travel over your own fingertips.” Our tools and templates motivate daily, as well as provide long-term effectiveness. Our tools are designed to help you know the Bible and make the Bible known to your family lineage.

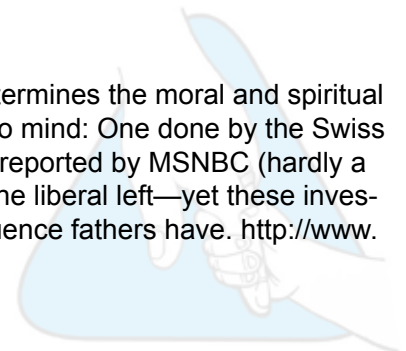
Parents, there are so many good activities in the church, school, and community competing for your time and energy that most couples are exhausted by the time they get home. Family time happens for most people in the vehicle commuting to these events together while each family member texts, talks, and Facebooks other people. It is so easy to forget as parents that each child’s highest priority is their eternal soul. Keep in mind that God holds parents responsible to nurture the earthly and eternal nature of each child. Listen to Dr. Tom Ascol...

“ The primary responsibility for teaching your children about God is yours, dear parent. It is not the Sunday school’s, the Church’s, nor the Pastor’s. God has entrusted this important work to you. If you do not invest your time and effort to teach your children about God, be assured someone else will. The television and the theater will teach them that God, if He exists at all, is an irrelevant, indulgent being that is little more than a nice kindly old man. If you do not teach your children truth and righteousness, be assured that there are a multitude of teachers in this world who would deceive them into thinking that “truth” and morality are relative ideas and can be shaped to fit anyone’s beliefs or standards.

The focus of everything we do at Grace Legacy Builders is to equip men as spiritual leaders. Notice we don’t say to equip men *to be* spiritual leaders but **as** spiritual leaders. Dads, like it or not, your kids get their cues, impressions, and information from you as to who God is. Is God kind and caring, or mean and uncaring? Is God in touch or out of touch, gracious or a grouch? Does He wink at sin or punish sin? Is He demanding of us, or can we just tell Him what we want and then make Him do it? Pastor Mark Gungor summarizes the importance of fathers.

“ The Importance of Fathers

The bottom line of research says that it is the father who overwhelmingly determines the moral and spiritual development of the children. Three separate studies that I have read come to mind: One done by the Swiss government, a second reported by the Baptist Press, and finally, a third one reported by MSNBC (hardly a Christian biased outlet). A variety of sources—the government, church and the liberal left—yet these investigations show the same results. All three sources support the important influence fathers have. <http://www.laughyourway.com/blog/the-importance-of-fathers/>



The Temperament for Family Worship

“ You are, by Providence, set at the head of a family to support it, instruct it, guard it, and in every way care for its temporal and eternal good... Family worship is a coming to God not separately, but hand-in-hand with your children and family; and from this peculiar aspect it has delights and advantages which are all its own.

James Alexander, Thoughts on Family Worship

The temperament for family worship is to be an attitude of gratitude for the gift of God's saving grace. Nothing else will do. The Trinitarian initiated gospel of grace is the model, mode, and means of grace in family worship. Make the attitude of the Gospel come alive during family worship. Echo this from *“Gospel-Powered Parenting: How the Gospel Shapes and Transforms Parenting”* by William P. Farley.

“ It is not the parents—their efforts, prayers, hopes, dreams—that ultimately ought to shape parenting. Instead, it is the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is the power that needs to be at the center of all we are, all we do, as parents. ... We cannot effectively teach or discipline or care for our children if we ignore the gospel.

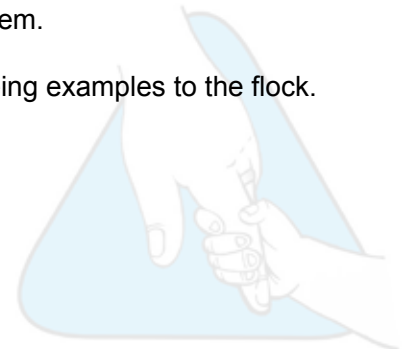
<http://www.challies.com/book-reviews/gospel-powered-parenting>

The gospel is love in action – it is the activity of our Triune God's grace igniting our hearts. Every lesson should be permeated with the affections and attitude of how God sought us, Jesus bought us, and the Holy Spirit brought us. Applying Biblical grace and truth into your children's lives is the vision in family worship, but it is to be done with the vigor and virtue of Christ-like leadership. Dad, you are responsible for setting this tone and tenor as you model devotion and submission to Christ, and direction and affection to your family. Remember to always be speaking the truth in love.

Mothers, you are to help your husbands lead with love so that he is not harsh. Keep a close watch so that no one becomes discouraged, nor angry, nor embittered in the family but built up in loving discipline. Men, make this a check point in your home by taking private and frequent council from your wife and make sure that you are neither passive and wimpy nor making your kids miss the grace of God because of your harsh attitude. Even when you don't think you are, humbly check with your wife for what perceptions she is picking up.

Parents need to work in harmony to make sure the vision of frequent father-led family worship is carried out with vigor and virtue. Family worship is a celebration of the sweet sovereignty of God wrapped up in loving humble strength.

- ✚ **Ephesians 6:4 (ESV)** Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
- ✚ **Colossians 3:21 (ESV)** Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.
- ✚ **Matthew 20:25 (ESV)** But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.
- ✚ **1 Peter 5:3 (ESV)** not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.



The Time for Family Worship

The time for Family Worship will depend on the age of your children and their abilities to learn, discern, digest, and integrate the lessons. Family worship becomes a life force of love from generation to generation when the Holy Spirit guides us to gently massage the messages into the souls of our family. The tone and tenor marinates the soul into an aroma that penetrates and saturates the souls of your family.

Adjustments will have to be made to accommodate how you apply the means of grace. Parents must communicate and take into account your children's ages so as to nurture their nature, as only you know how. Remember when we pray for wisdom – God is generous to give this grace to us!

The Templates for Family Worship

📖 **The Family Worship Primer.** The Family Worship Primer is a great tool for those beginning or those who desire an outline and some starting points.

📖 **The Family Worship Guide.** Some families will gravitate toward the Family Worship Guide. This will equip you with a few more resources, insights, and helps.

**Download your free family worship guides at
www.gracelegacybuilders.org/guides**

📖 **The Family Worship Day Planner.** The Family Worship Day Planner will equip the starter and the seasoned man of grace to mediate upon the Word and prepare prayer thoughts with more life focus and organizational benefits. These can be ordered on line starting in 2015.

All these tools are designed by men to equip men as spiritual leaders. These tools service you so they can clear the clutter and bring the laser precision of God's priorities into their lives as their family's Prophet, Priest and King! Men you are called to be DADS(s) - Devoted, Affirming, Directing and Sacrificial Servants of God's eternal kingdom.



The Master of Family Worship is Jesus Christ as:

1. Prophet

2. Priest

3. King

Jesus Christ is the master, model, and message of family worship. The reason we read is because He is object and summary of the prophets (Matt. 17:5). The reason we pray is because He is our great high priest (Hebrews 4:14). The reason we sing is because He is the King of Kings (Rev. 17:14). *Wayne Grudem put it this way:*

Christ fulfills these three offices in the following ways:

Prophet: Christ reveals God to us and speaks God's words to us

Priest: Christ both offers a sacrifice to God on our behalf and is himself the sacrifice that is offered

King: Christ rules over the church and over the universe as well

<http://life.biblechurch.org/slifejom/nurturing-publications/1909-the-offices-of-christ-prophet-priest-and-king-outline-by-wayne-grudem.html>

The beauty and brilliance as well as the profundity and simplicity of these offices is our pattern of family worship. These foundational principles come alive in the person of Jesus Christ and bring God's power and pleasure to our worship.

This understanding is so central to the Christian message that almost every catechism I've studied from Catholic, Lutheran, Reformed and Evangelical church bodies includes these in their catechisms. Book 2, Chapter 15 of "The Institutes of the Christian Religion" by John Calvin highlighted these offices so clearly and powerfully that they became foundational for those who came after him from 1550 on. Yet, I have found the Puritans to be the ones that applied these truths into the fabric of their family's daily lives through every worship time they experienced. Pastors were to be the prophets (preachers), priests (pastors), and kings (leaders) in their local churches. This is especially true in the way it defined how fathers were to model Christ in their heart and home.

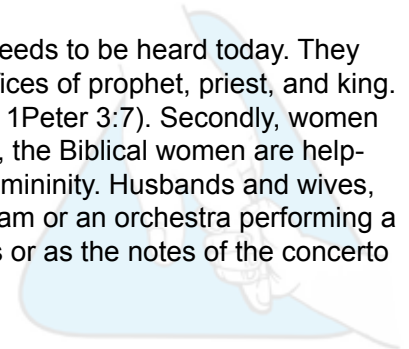
The Method of Family Worship is Fathers Following Jesus Christ as:

1. Preacher / Prophet

2. Pastor / Priest

3. Prince / King

The Puritans had a mandate from God and a manifesto of masculinity that needs to be heard today. They also had a framework for understanding femininity that complimented the offices of prophet, priest, and king. First, women are affirmed as co-heirs of the grace of God (Genesis 1:26-28, 1Peter 3:7). Secondly, women are co-regents in ruling, subduing, and having dominion (Genesis 2). Thirdly, the Biblical women are help-mates to men. (Genesis 2:18) These offices constituted the framework for femininity. Husbands and wives, men and women, are to ideally work in harmony like a modern day sports team or an orchestra performing a symphony. The quarterback may call the plays, but only as the coach directs or as the notes of the concerto allow. The man is to play the man.



“ The “chief householder” acts “in Christ’s stead to his family” and exercises the offices of Prophet - in his instruction, Priest – in prayer and King - in the family government.
Westminster Devine - Daniel Cawdrey, in “A Godly Form of Household Government”

Within the family, husbands are called and equipped as spiritual leaders. Men are focused on being a prophet, priest, and king in their families.

1. Prophets who know and teach the Bible like preachers in a church.
2. Priests who pray for and promote their families best interests like pastors
3. Kings (Prince) who protect, provide for, and govern their families like church leaders.

The wife who is a co-equal and co-regent assists her husband with her wisdom and unique gift mix as they nurture the nature of their lineage after them; building a legacy of grace (i.e. being: Grace Legacy Builders).

Biblical manhood nurtures and matures the masculine offices of:

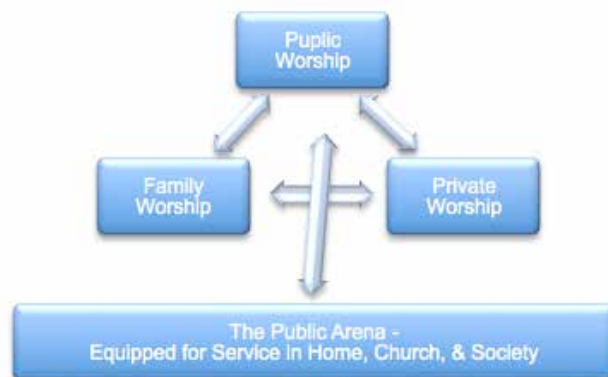
1. Prophet (Deuturonomy 6:6)
2. Priest (Acts 10:1-8)
3. King (Genesis 3:9 & 20)

Biblical womanhood cultivates and enriches the feminine offices of:

1. Co-Heir (Gal 3:28)
2. Co-Regent (Genesis 1:26-31 & 2:14-23)
3. Helpmate (Genesis 2:18 -20)

Together, men and women reflect the glory, beauty, and harmony embedded in our co-eternal and co-equal Triune God. These roles contain divine: dignity, distinctiveness, and delight. So family worship is living out who we are positionally and personally as God’s saved and royal priesthood.

Grace Legacy Builders model and mold their families in public, private, and family worship. While public worship, where the preaching of the word is proclaimed and the primary means of grace are expressed in preaching, baptism, and communion, family worship is the first of the secondary means of grace God calls us to utilize and is the order of first importance.



Just a perceptive word from one the Deans of family worship.

“ The piety of ancestors conveys no hereditary blessing to their children. Nor do we believe it to be the purpose of God to connect perpetuity of faith with any form of external service, however excellent. Yet we are deeply persuaded that among the means which He is deeply persuaded that among the means which He is pleased to use for this end, one of the most prominent is family worship.

James Alexander, Thoughts on Family Worship

The Model of Family Worship is Simply:

1. Reading

Reading the Bible: Jesus is our Prophet

The role of the prophet was primarily to relate to the people the character and attributes of God. The prophet had a relationship with God that was intimate and personal. God spoke His word into the prophet and they, in turn, would communicate to the people the tone and tenor of the information so that integration and transformation took hold of them - their hearts, heads, and hands. It was a heart to heart form of communication. The incarnational process of speaking the word of God to His people was one persistently communicated by word and deed so that the listener was marinated with the word until they emanated the grace and truth of the words in their own thoughts, words, and deeds; as well as their emotions and motives. Again, Jesus is our example as He came and dwelt with us as God's representative and the perfect prophet:

† Matthew 3:16-17 (KJV)

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

† Luke 9:33-35 (Geneva Bible)

³And it came to pass, as they departed from him, Peter said unto Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: let us therefore make three tabernacles, one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah, and wist not what he said. ³⁴While he thus spake, there came a cloud and overshadowed them, and they feared when they were entering into the cloud. ³⁵And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is that my beloved Son, hear him.

The Grace Legacy Templates are designed to facilitate discussion by asking questions like the following:

1. **What does this passage say about God?**
2. **What does this passage say about me?**
3. **What does this passage say about other relationships?**
 - △ **Is there a promise to claim?**
 - △ **An example to follow?**
 - △ **A command to obey?**
 - △ **A warning to heed?**
 - △ **A teaching to study?**
 - △ **A sin to avoid?**

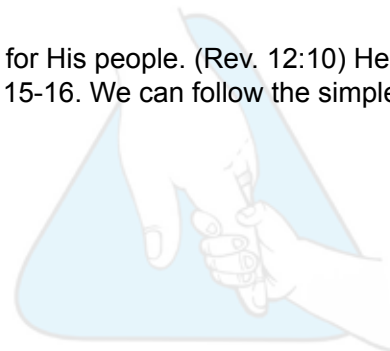
2. Praying

Praying: Jesus is our Priest.

His victory on the cross was the final sacrifice that satisfied the wrath of God for His people. (Rev. 12:10) He now intercedes for us at the right hand of God and gives us strength. Heb. 4:15-16. We can follow the simple A.C.T.S. outline when we pray:

Follow the simple A.C.T.S. outline when you pray:

- A**dore: The Trinity
- C**onfess: Sins of commission and omission
- T**hanksgiving: For all He provides
- S**upplication: For all requests as a Child of the King



To make sure your time doesn't get stuck or stale you may want to follow this helpful framework for your prayer time on:

- △ Sunday - Church Staff and their Families
- △ Monday - Employer and Co-workers
- △ Tuesday – Teachers and Coaches
- △ Wednesday – Church Teachers and Leaders
- △ Thursday - Family and Friends
- △ Friday - Government Officials
- △ Saturday - Sunday's Worship, Discipleship workers and Edifying Fellowship

Close at least twice a week with the Lord's Prayer.

3. Singing

Singing: Jesus is our King

Singing is an important part of worship. We sign because it humbles us and gives us the frame of heart to give Him praise. This is by far the most difficult aspect for most families including mine. But start with baby steps. Use what is edifying, age appropriate, and useful for your family to honor the Lord in singing. Make sure the songs you're singing are theologically and doctrinally correct. Our Family usually just begins by singing the beginning of the chorus of "Open The Eyes of My Heart". Because not everyone is as "musically gifted" as others you may want to utilize tools like the following resources below:

- Psalms online with music: www.cgmusic.org
- Hymnals online with music: www.nethymnal.org
- Hymnal online with music: www.hymnary.org
- The Family Worship Book: A Resource for Family Devotions (Terry Johnson, Christian Focus, 2003)
- <http://www.desiringgod.org/resource-library/conference-messages/leading-family-worship> Dr. Beeke with John Piper
- Google Search "Family Worship Resources"
- YouTube has song and hymns that can be useful.

Family Worship as the Trinitarian Means of Grace:

1. God's Benevolence in Adoption

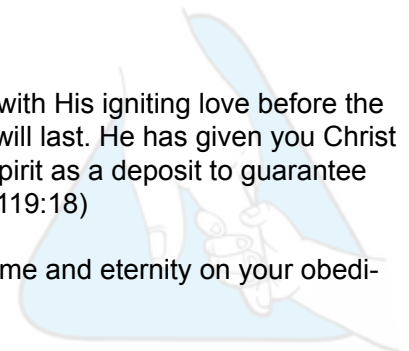
2. Christ's Benefits of Adoption

3. Holy Spirit's Blessings by Adoption

God has adopted us and we are to include our lineage. He began our legacy with His igniting love before the foundation of the earth. (2 Timothy 1:9) He chose you to bear fruit, fruit that will last. He has given you Christ as a brother to imitate and illuminated the eyes of your heart with the Holy Spirit as a deposit to guarantee our family inheritance. in this age and the age to come. (Eph. 1:18 & Psalm 119:18)

Remember fathers, this is your primary responsibility. You will be judged in time and eternity on your obedience, so be prudent, diligent, and gracious. Lead with

Devotion, **A**ffirmation, **D**irection, and **S**acrificial **S**ervice - DADS(s)



Let me just encourage you to be benevolent fathers like our father which art in Heaven. Lay out for your family the benefits that Christ won for us on the cross. Bless your children through the power of the Holy Spirit. The following quote takes most people a few times to read and a while to fully comprehend. Yet, it is profound and worth the time.

No Father – No Family – No Faith

“ A Church that is conspiring against the blessings of *patriarchy not only disfigures the icon of the first person of the Trinity, effects disobedience to the example and teaching of the second person of the Trinity and rejects the Pentecostal action of the Third Person of the Trinity but, more significantly for our society, flies in the face of the sociological evidence! No father – no family – no faith. Winning and keeping men is essential to the community of faith and vital to the work of all mothers and the future salvation of our children.

Robbie Low is Vicar of St Peter's, Bushey Heath, in the Diocese of St Alban's.

*Male leadership styled from the Trinities mutual equality, dignity and delight in the midst of diversity and an order of submission. – BRK 1 Cor. 11:3

Family Worship is Building A Legacy of Grace - Upon Grace

Conclusion

The Means of Grace & Family Worship

The Gospel of Grace is how God saves sinners and adopts them into His family. The means of grace is how God use methods to get the message to us.

“ Means of grace are instruments that God uses to convert and bless people, like the reading and preaching of the word, prayer, singing (psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs; Acts 16:25; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16), enjoying the beauty of God's creation, baptism, and the Lord's supper.

“The “means of grace” that the Bible talks about are His Word (“the word of His grace,” Acts 20:32), His Spirit (“the Spirit of grace,” Hebrews 10:29), prayer made to the “throne of grace” (Hebrews 4:16), and the grace that is given to the saints which enables them to build up another (Ephesians 4:7; 1 Peter 4:10).”

http://www.theopedia.com/Mean_of_grace

So, when we speak of the means of grace in the context of the Church today, we mean those objective instruments, given to the Church, by which the Holy Spirit communicates the benefits of Christ. See more at: <http://americanvision.org/8429/what-do-you-mean-by-means-of-grace/#sthash.6QlpmRvt.dpuf>

Westminster Shorter Catechism Question 88. What are the outward and ordinary means by which Christ gives to us the benefits of redemption?

A. The outward and ordinary means by which Christ gives to us the benefits of redemption are His ordinances, especially the word, sacraments, and prayer, and all these are made effective in the *salvation of the elect*. *Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-42*

<http://matt2819.com/wsc>

Family Worship is the primary means of grace in the home where hearts are best shaped for time and eternity. The sociological evidence overwhelmingly supports the importance of fathers being there for their children's moral, spiritual and social development. Dad's if you are thinking that you may abandon your post or abdicate your role for what you think are good reasons chew on this:

National Center for Fathering in Kansas City, MO, www.fathers.com, is loaded with facts like this.

“ Some fathering advocates would say that almost every social ill faced by America’s children is related to fatherlessness. Six are noted here. As supported by the data that children from fatherless homes:

1. Are more likely to be poor
2. Become involved in drug and alcohol abuse
3. Drop out of school
4. Suffer from health and emotional problems
5. The boys are more likely to become involved in crime
6. The girls are more likely to become pregnant as teens

There is no greater practice that a family could begin and maintain than frequent Father-led Family worship. There is an old saying that:

- 1 of 2 - 8 marriages will end in divorce
- Yet, only 1 of 42 will end in divorce if the couple will regularly attend church together
- But, 1 out 532 will only end in divorce if they regularly read the Bible and pray together

Men you must initiate this. God has said that this is what he expects from the time he called Abraham “For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has promised him.” (Genesis 18:19 (ESV)) When God came to the garden for an account He does not ask “Eve where are you” but specifically and individually Adam (Gen3:9). Men hear the call and the promise.

“ CHRISTIANITY is a patriarchal religion. That means that it is father-centered. But patriarchy is in steep decline. According to a recent report, for every male attending an evangelical church in North America, there are two females. The ratio is one to four in the African-American church. If this trend is left unreversed, the Church as we know it will not survive. When men abandon church and home, it is a sign that the wheels have come off. That is because male servant leaders energize the Christian church and family

William P. Farley, Gospel-Powered Parenting: How the Gospel Shapes and Transforms Parenting.
Phillipsburg: P&R Publishing Company, 2009. 125

Jonathan Edwards The great revivalists preacher always weighed his words well but at no time more so than his farewell sermon. He was driven out of his pulpit ministry after decades of faithfully discharging his duties. Here are his often-quoted words that summarize his emphasis on family worship as a means of grace.

“ Every Christian family ought to be as it were a little church, consecrated to Christ, and wholly influenced and governed by His rules. And family (worship) education and order are some of the chief means of grace. If these fail, all other means are likely to prove ineffectual. If these are duly maintained, **all the means of grace will be likely to prosper and be successful.**

When God transforms a man’s heart to lead Family Worship, marriages are rekindled, children get fired up, churches are reformed, and the culture experiences revival. (BRK)

Appendix 2: “Journibles” The Deut. 17:18 Series

Journibles

The idea for Journibles comes from Deuteronomy 17:18, where God commands the kings of Israel to hand-write their own copy of the Torah, or book of the law. The purpose of this was that they would carry it with them always, read it, learn from it, and lead the people accordingly. It’s interesting to note that 3,400 years later, educators have been discovering that most people learn kinesthetically; by doing or writing things out for themselves.

Grace Legacy Builders highly recommends the Journibles Series by Rob Wynalda and they can be purchased from Reformation Heritage Books, Baker Book House or online. I suggest each age-appropriate member of the family should receive one Journible to write in. These are a great tool for **Family Worship** because:

1. They are short segments of the Bible.
2. They make the Bible easier to meditate on and digest for multiple ages.
3. Family members can take them along during the day and write notes for the evening session. As an example, in our family we write about 7-10 verses in one day and discuss them that night.
4. The first night as the head of our household I give a commentary and have three takeaway insights. The next day we reread the previous 7-10 verses and all come to Family Worship that night with at least 3 insights or notes from a commentary, a devotional, and/or a Study Bible.
5. Therefore, that section is read out loud twice and written down in the Journible once. Insights and notes can be taken both nights and that section of God’s word is more thoroughly digested into the heart, mind and soul of each member of the family.
6. Now you have another record of God’s work in your lives that is dated as a diary. It is a way for us to treasure Christ in our hearts with the aroma of a family’s love and conversation interwoven as well.

