



Fox River Life

August 2023 Newsletter Article



Worthy of Family Worship First Steps for Christian Homes

The following article is by Don Whitney a professor of biblical spirituality and associate dean at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY. He is the author of Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life, Praying the Bible, and Family Worship. Don's website is www.BiblicalSpirituality.org. Learn more about surrendering your home to God in Family Driven Faith.

After nearly a half-century in ministry, including preaching in 47 states, it is my observation that few Christian homes practice regular family worship. I would even venture to say that in most of our best churches, most of our best men do not lead their wives — and children if they have them — in family worship.

Having your family in a good, Bible-teaching local church is crucial to a Christian marriage and parenting. But it is unlikely that church attendance alone will impress your children with the greatness and glory of God such that they will want to pursue him once they leave home. In this article, I want to

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convey one main point: God deserves to be worshiped daily in our homes by our families.

Worthy of Daily Worship

The Bible clearly implies that God deserves to be worshiped daily in our homes by our families.

Although there are few explicit commandments in Scripture about family worship (though see Deuteronomy 6:4–9), evidence for its practice abounds. For example, Abraham evidently led his family in the worship of God; otherwise, how would Isaac have known to ask, “Where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” (Genesis 22:7)? Leading his family in worship is something that “Job did continually” (Job 1:5).

Family worship is one of the best and most practical ways husbands administer the cleansing water of the word of God to their wives (Ephesians 5:25–26) and fathers bring their children up “in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4). When Peter commands husbands to show honor to their wives “so that your prayers may not be hindered” (1 Peter 3:7), he is likely referring to mutual prayers, not merely those of the husband.

Our Little Churches

The lives of our Christian heroes also testify that God deserves to be worshiped daily in our homes by our families.

The growing emphasis on family worship today is not a contemporary Christian fad. A study of church history reveals that believers have always understood the Bible to teach the practice. We know, for example, that the first generation of Christ-followers after the apostles read a portion of Scripture, prayed, and sang Psalms together as families. The same was true for Luther, Knox, and the Puritans. Both the Westminster Confession (1647) and the Second London Confession (1689), the most influential of all Baptist confessions of faith, contain the identical phrase: “God is to be worshiped everywhere in spirit and in truth; as in private families daily, and in secret each one by himself” (emphasis added).

Jonathan Edwards, Charles Spurgeon, the missionary John G. Paton, and Martyn Lloyd-Jones, though all had many heavy responsibilities, led their families in the daily worship of God. Virtually all of our Christian heroes could be shown to believe what Edwards declared: “Every Christian family ought to be as it were a little church” (Works of Jonathan Edwards, 25:484). And part of the life of every church and every Christian is worship.

Three Simple Steps

Every Christian family is able to show that God deserves to be worshiped daily in our homes. The essence of family worship is simple. It requires no preparation. It can take as little as ten minutes. It consists of three single syllables: read, pray, sing.

READ

The heart of family worship is hearing God’s word through reading the Bible. Focus on Bible stories if you have young children. Some use a good story Bible at this age. As children get older, move to the Gospels and the rest of the New Testament, with a goal of eventually reading all the Scriptures. Briefly explain terms your family may not understand. A study Bible can help here. You may want to ask questions

During or after the reading to improve everyone's understanding

PRAY

The husband/father can pray, he can ask someone to pray, or everyone can pray. To avoid saying basically the same things every time, I'd recommend the simple practice of praying about at least one thing you heard in the Bible.

For example, after reading John 3, you could ask, "Who is someone we could pray for to be born again like Nicodemus?" From John 4 the next night, "Who is a woman whom we could pray would meet Jesus like the woman at the well met Jesus?" Also, asking each person, "How would you like for us to pray for you?" not only personalizes the experience, but can be the means of discovering previously unspoken feelings and needs.

SING

I get more responses of "Seriously?" on this one than with any other element. But in the short list of activities the Bible tells us to do in worship, singing is prominent. Some of the activities the Bible requires of acceptable worship are congregational by nature, such as preaching and the practice of the ordinances. But three activities on that list can be done whether the worship is congregational, individual, or familial: Bible reading, prayer, and worshipful singing.

This can be as brief as the Doxology, or as long as an entire hymn or chorus. Although this is a great time to utilize family musicians or Internet helps, my observation is that most families sing without musical accompaniment. I'd suggest getting songbooks for each member of the family. Consult the pastor or worship leader at your church for other resources.

If Time Permits

Beyond the essential read, pray, and sing elements of family worship, here are some ideas to enrich the experience while your family is together.

Catechize. This question-and-answer method of teaching biblical truth has been employed by the church since her earliest days. If you're unfamiliar with a good catechism in your own church's tradition, ask your pastor for recommendations. Discover why, along with family worship, catechizing is being rediscovered as a valuable family discipleship tool.

Scripture memory. Family worship is an ideal time to review verses your family may be learning in other settings, such as church or school. Even if you learn just one verse a month, that's twelve verses a year and more than most Christian families are learning together.

Other reading. If time allows, you might start your time together with some general reading, after which you read, pray, and sing. Or afterward, take advantage of the time together to read a Christian book or biography with your family.

Growing Oaks of Righteousness

Every family is a beehive of busyness. Making the time — even ten minutes — for family worship is a challenge for everyone. And most families are tempted to think their schedule or circumstances are

unique, at least when it comes to making family worship a regular priority. The truth is there's almost no barrier to family worship that has not been addressed by Christians for centuries. Where there's a desire for family worship — and some flexibility — there's almost always a way.

Don't expect immediate results. In fact, most nights it may seem that more family chaos occurs than family worship. That's normal, even when you're leading well. We're raising families to be "oaks of righteousness" (Isaiah 61:3), and even in ideal conditions an oak develops very slowly and over a long time.

Starting Today

Perhaps your family, like many others, has not yet begun regular family worship. If you're a wife reading this, consider showing it to your husband. Husbands, consider saying to your wives, "I've come to believe that the Bible teaches that I should be leading us in family worship, and I want to start today. I have a lot to learn about it, but I want to do what's right. Will you join me?"

Regardless of what anyone else does, let every husband and father — indeed, every Christian — reading these lines commit to this: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" in family worship (Joshua 24:15). Isn't this what you really want to do?

My little book Family Worship goes into more detail about what I've written here, including answers to some of the most common questions about family worship, as well as other practical tips. Today is the day to read, to pray, and to sing your family into eternity.

In His Name & For His Glory,
Pastor Tim



Children's Church

Children's church has been growing. Please pray for the salvation and growth of our kids. Our group consist of Gracey, Jordan, Sebastian, Lidia, Elliot, Asher and Eliza. We are learning God's Word through stories and crafts.

If you would like to volunteer or want to observe please let Carol 475-8727 or Angela 659-1932 know.



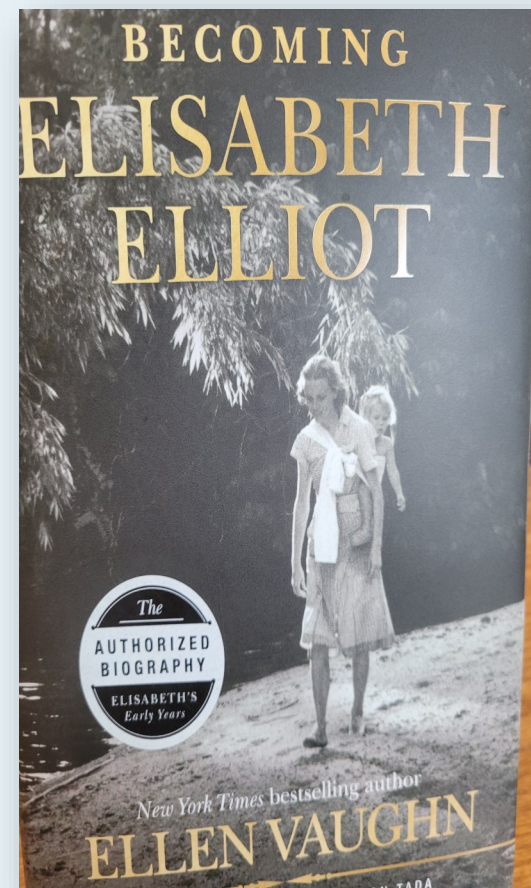
Missionary Library

Elisabeth Elliot was a young missionary in Ecuador when members of a violent Amazonian tribe savagely speared her husband Jim and his four Colleagues.

This book is about an amazing women Elisabeth Elliot. From childhood to her later years, her life was an example of one who truly and lovingly follows God.

The book goes through diaries and journals to show how God influenced her daily walk with Him.

Check this book out at the Missionary Library, next to the welcome desk.



DISCIPLESHIP

August will be the last month that we will be taking a break from our Sunday School and the Ladies and Men's Bible Studies. We will pick back up the week following Labor Day and more information will be forthcoming as we approach September.

For the month of August we will have one Sunday School class on the 13th, where we will be focusing one of the Puritans. This month's Puritan will be Thomas Brooks. I would encourage you to stick around after the church service for this special Sunday School Hour.

Deaconess News

Church Family Picnic was a big success. Plenty of wonderful dishes to try and the dessert table is where I was. Thank you everybody for coming out and helping and fellowshipping with members of the church family.

The kids had a blast with the water towers and squirt guns. I think I saw a few big kids getting in on the action.

Thank you Scott and Carol for opening up your home to us.





Sunday Evening Services Schedule

August 06—No Evening Service

August 13—Prayer @ 5:00pm

August 20—No Evening Service

August 27—Prayer @ 5:00 pm



Financial Update 2023
Budget needed weekly: \$ 2836.35
Received: \$ 2,289.25 per week
Contact Mark Wildenberg with questions.



Women's Prayer
Wednesdays at 9:30am

Women's Bible Study
Thursdays at 1:00pm
No studies through summer

Men's & Women's
Bible Study
Saturdays at 8am

Connect
WITH OUR
CHURCH FAMILY



August 06

Kyle Tubbs

August 13

Pat Groff

August 20

Bob Abitz

August 27

Scott Smith



Please contact Carol Smith at
(920) 788-9795
to volunteer for Nursery

Missions

“Go Ye into all the World, and preach
the Gospel to every creature.”

Mark 16:15

MISSIONS BOARD

Missions Board will meet August 28th at 6:30 to review the Yearly Update forms, which have been returned by each of our missionaries. We hope to have good highlights for you in the upcoming Missions Spotlights.

Young at Heart will be providing our monthly service at Care Partners on Thursday August 10th at 1030 am. If you would be interested in joining us, please see Lynn Abitz at 920-788-9482



Single Women's Ministry

The **Single Women's Ministry** will be meeting on August 13 after church Service, meet at Game Day at 11:30am

Any questions please contact Gail Kroehler at 920-731-7739.

FRBC Vision Statement

We desire that everyone who enters Fox River Baptist Church grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and grow in authentic, loving, familial relationships to make the name of Christ known in our community and world, all for the glory of God and joy of all.



05—Doris Schimke

09—Ray Rudzinski

10—Kyle Tubbs

11—Becky Godfrey

26—Chris Wynkoop

29— Carl, Zwerg

31—Diane Van Loo

05—Scott and Carol Smith

06—Pastor Tim Church

Anniversary

12—Luke and Becca Rickert

17— Ray and Ellen Rudzinski

31—Tim and Becky Godfrey

Fox River Baptist Church

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**Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday
& Thursday - 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm**



Here at FRBC, we have a prayer chain meant for the sharing of prayer request needs and for sharing praise for the awesome & mighty work God does in our lives. Please feel free to share any praise or request at our new Prayer request email address:

Prayer@FoxRiverBaptist.com

Care to be part of the prayer chain?

Email or call Becky Godfrey at

becl.godfrey@gmail.com —

(920) 277-1526