

## WHY FAMILY WORSHIP?

Deuteronomy 6 is a powerful passage of scripture. At a pivotal point in the history of God people, Israel, God places a huge responsibility on parents to pass down the truth of God's word - his promises, his commandments, his story - to their children:

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord 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. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, 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. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the *doorposts* of your house and on your gates."

- Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (ESV)

This scripture is the very heart of the Doorpost Songs Family Worship Series. It's an invitation to participate in God's design for generational discipleship, and the key to it all is hidden right in plain sight. If you want to help your children follow Jesus, make God's word a part of your everyday life, as common as sitting down or walking along, as common as lying down or getting up, as common as going in and out your door.

We know most parents want to be spiritual leaders for their children. But many don't know exactly where to start. *I'm not a pastor. I'm not a worship leader. How can I lead my children in worship?*

Don't worry! You don't need some set of specialized skills to create a time of worship for your family! You just need a willing heart. At the core of worship is a very simple process: God reveals himself through his Word and through his presence, and we respond by worshipping. Worship doesn't require a seminary degree or musical talent. It only requires a heart that is ready to respond to God.

We want Doorpost Songs to be a tool for you to help create these simple moments of worship in the everyday life of your family. Start by putting the CD in your car and singing along to these amazing truths from God's word as you go along your way. Then carve out fifteen minutes once a week and use these family devotionals to create intentional moments of worship for you and your children.

## USING the FAMILY DEVOTIONALS

Each family devotional is a template for a fifteen-minute time of worship based around one song from a Doorpost Songs album. Each devotional includes a passage of scripture to read, a memory verse to learn (with memory verse cards for you to print), lyrics to the song (we've also included a separate lyric sheet for you to print), a short devotional in a writing style designed for your children, discussion questions, and even suggested prayer topics.

You can use all of our suggestions or come up with your own. This isn't a magic formula; it's simply a place to begin, a way for you to step into your role as the primary spiritual leader for your children. It seems like a daunting task – but it's not! Your role is simply to lead them into God's presence and then let HIM do the work!

We want to encourage you to put this weekly time of worship on your calendar. Find a time that works for your family. It might be gathered around the breakfast table one morning. It might be the last few moments before bed. Whatever you decide, set your appointment and keep it – even if you're tired, even it's been the most difficult of days. We promise you won't regret it!

Make your worship time interactive. If you have preschoolers, grab the plastic harmonica they got at church or the toy xylophone that's been sitting in the corner since Aunt Ruth gave it to you last Christmas. Let them play (or pound!) along. If your older children are learning to play an instrument, encourage them to learn the songs. If your child is learning to read, let him or her read a section of the scripture or devotional. Encourage every family member to participate in a time of prayer.

Parenting is the hardest job on the planet! Sometimes it fills our hearts with incredible joy. And sometimes we feel helpless and alone. But don't forget that you are a dearly loved child of your heavenly Father! It is his calling that is on your life, and it is his power and strength that will accomplish it. Your children aren't the only ones who need to spend time in his presence. You do, too! Our prayer is that these simple moments of worship are life-giving experiences for both you and your children.

Now, call a family meeting, get out the calendars and let's schedule a time for family worship!