

Leading Kids in Worship Masterclass

Session 8: Worship at Home

Key Theme

Worship doesn't begin at church; it begins at home. There is no greater parenting strategy than making God's Word the center of family life.

The Power of a Parent

Every parent can play an important role in shaping a child's heart of worship.

The first and most powerful thing a parent can do is **model worship**.

When a child is visibly engaged in worship—singing, raising hands, closing eyes—it's almost always because they've seen it modeled by at least one parent.

A House of Worship

A worship service is just one hour out of 168 each week. Parents have far more opportunities to awaken worshiping hearts at home.

In the Old Testament, congregational worship was rare. Day-to-day worship happened in the home. When Joshua declared, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord," (Josh. 24:15), he was accepting a role not unlike a modern pastor—shepherding his family.

Donald Whitney writes, *"The Bible clearly implies that God deserves to be worshiped daily in our homes by our families."*

Gathering

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 gives us four moments for family worship: "Talk about [these commandments] when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

1. **When you sit at home:** Mealtimes are one of the best opportunities for family worship.
2. **When you walk along the road:** Use travel time for worship or conversation about God.
3. **When you lie down:** Bedtime can be a sweet moment to read Scripture or pray together.
4. **When you get up:** Morning worship can set the tone for the day.

Sacred Conversation

The sacred conversation of worship always begins with revelation—God’s Word.

For most families, simply opening the Bible is a victory. Read a passage from your quiet time, a book your church is studying, or a verse to memorize together.

After reading, let the conversation continue. Talk about what you’ve read. Explain words or share why a verse is meaningful.

One of the best things you can do is invite your kids to engage Scripture for themselves.

The home is the perfect training ground for the worship actions we’ve discussed—**pray, sing, and serve.**

- **Pray:** Let your kids voice their own requests and hear yours. Share the burdens on your heart as appropriate—it teaches them how to bring their cares to Jesus.
- **Sing:** You don’t need to be a musical family to worship through song. Put on a favorite worship song and sing along.
- **Serve:** Serving together shows that worship isn’t just inward—it moves us outward into God’s mission.

Sending

Just as we end our corporate gatherings with a blessing, we can end family worship the same way.

Deuteronomy 31:8 is a great example: “The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”

A time of family worship doesn’t need to be long—ten to fifteen minutes is enough. What matters most is the **habit we’re forming** and the **culture we’re creating**.

When our children learn to read the Bible, pray, sing, and serve, they are engaging in activities that lead to a lifetime of following Christ.

The Problems and the Promise

Barna reports that *“a majority of parents don’t spend any time during a typical week discussing religious matters or studying religious materials with their children.”*

The problem isn’t resources—**family worship only requires a Bible and a willing heart.**

We make time for what we value. If our kids make a sports team or a school play, we adjust our entire schedules. Can we make the same commitment to opening God's Word at home?

To form new habits, we need instruction, accountability, and encouragement. Church leaders, parents need us to be a faithful partner in these ways.

The most important thing you'll bring to family worship is perseverance. Family worship will face obstacles—schedules, fatigue, conflict, discouragement—but don't give up.

God promises that his Word will accomplish its purpose: "It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." (Isa. 55:10-11)

God takes responsibility for his Word.

There is no greater parenting strategy than making God's Word the center of your family life.

Discussion Questions

1. How might your family's worship—at home and at church—shape your children's view of who God is?
2. Which of the four opportunities in Deuteronomy 6 best fits your family's rhythm right now?
3. What would it look like for God's Word to become the center of your family life?
4. How can you help your family pray, sing, and serve together?
5. What obstacles stand in the way of consistent family worship, and how can you overcome them?