

## **FOCUS ON FAMILY WORSHIP – JOSHUA 24:14-15**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. One of the things that continues to humble and impress me is the way God blesses the Christian in all of life's seasons, and often in ways we didn't expect or look for.
2. As we continue to try and forge a path together as a church family during this trying time, I want to remind us again of the blessing of family worship.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **I. FAMILY WORSHIP IS NEEDED**

- A. Time is a precious commodity that we need to make good use of (**Eph. 5:15-16**).
- B. As we begin our study this morning, stop for just a moment and try to remember what life was like before COVID-19.
- C. How did you spend your time each day?
- D. How did you manage your time together with family?
- E. Most of us had days full of getting up, getting ready for school, work, and then hectic afternoons catching up on things around the house, or extra-curricular activities, and for the young folks, homework.
- F. With summer on the horizon, vacations were planned, summer camps, shopping trips or fishing trips – some downtime for rest and relaxation with family and friends.
- G. But how much of that time did we spend in spiritual pursuits?
- H. If we were active in all of the assemblies of the church, most of the families here were getting somewhere between 4 or 5 hours of spiritual instruction a week.
- I. Which is rather good when you consider a 2014 American Time Use Survey, that found that the average American spends a little over 30 minutes in religious activities on Sunday and less than 10 each day the rest of the week.<sup>1</sup>
- J. But what about since COVID-19?
- K. How have you spent your time each day?
- L. How much of that time is spent on spiritual pursuits that involve your family?
- M. A survey done by the Barna Research Group in 2003 found that while 85% of parents with children under age 13 believe they are primarily responsible for the spiritual instruction of their children very few spend time each week teaching them.<sup>2</sup>
- N. The fact is most people rely on a church to teach their children and while the church certainly has a role to play, it doesn't have the primary role (**Eph. 6:4**).
- O. One of the things this present distress should remind us of is that now, more than ever, we need to be engaging in worship and study with our families (**Josh. 24:15**).

#### **II. FAMILY WORSHIP IS BIBLICAL**

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<sup>1</sup> Ingram, C. (2014, June 27). *Here's how you spend your days, America - in 10 charts*. Retrieved August 17, 2020, from <http://wapo.st/1LP7cmL>

<sup>2</sup>Barna Group. *Parents Accept Responsibility for Their Child's Spiritual Development But Struggle With Effectiveness*. (2003, May 6). Retrieved August 17, 2020, from <https://bit.ly/2DRJ3pG>

## **FOCUS ON FAMILY WORSHIP – JOSHUA 24:14-15**

- A. Family worship has been foundational throughout the Bible and in every dispensation.
- B. Recall the patriarch, Abraham, and his days in the land which God promised would one day belong to his descendants.
  - i. As he traveled in the land, he built altars (**Gen. 12:7-8, 13:4, 18**).
  - ii. Everywhere he went, he and his household worshipped God.
- C. On one occasion, God asked him to sacrifice his son Isaac (**Gen. 22:1-2**).
  - i. As Abraham and Isaac went up to worship, Isaac noticed that something necessary for worship was missing (**Gen. 22:6-7**).
  - ii. How did he know that not only were fire and wood needed, but also a sacrifice?
  - iii. How did Isaac know that a burnt offering was part of the worship of God?
- D. It is evident that Abraham had been not only engaging in worship in Isaac's presence, but also that he had been instructed in how to worship and serve God.
- E. This was one of the reasons God commended Abraham (**Gen. 18:19**).
- F. What Abraham did for his family was also expected to be a part of the lives of the Israelites (**Deut. 4:9-10; 6:7; 11:19; 32:46-47**).
- G. Even in the New Testament era, those who had the faith of Abraham continued to engage in worship with the family (**Acts 10:1-2, 30-33; 2 Tim. 1:5; 3:14-15**).

### **III. FAMILY WORSHIP IS SIMPLE & EASY**

- A. But how do you make this a reality in your home?
- B. This may seem like an overwhelming task, but it is not.
- C. The most difficult part of getting started with worshipping with our family is making a commitment to do it.
- D. So first, make it a priority in your home that you will set aside some time to worship each day (**Matt. 6:33; Josh. 24:15**).
  - i. Does that mean you will never have a day where you just can't squeeze it in?
  - ii. No, but what it does mean is that you won't give up, you'll just begin again.
- E. As far as what to do with your time together, family worship doesn't have to be complex and formal.
- F. The easiest thing to do to begin is to read scripture, sing hymns, and pray together.
- G. As you continue, you can add other activities or resources like *Mrs. Lee's Stories*<sup>3</sup> for younger children or Gary Henry's *Daily Family Bible Studies*.<sup>4</sup>
- H. But no matter what you do, the most important thing is to begin.

## **CONCLUSION**

- 1. These are challenging times, but there are blessings to be had if we look to God.
- 2. If we truly love God and our family, we will worship with them each day.
- 3. May we begin to do so today while we still have time (**Eph. 5:15-16**).

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<sup>3</sup> Mrs. Lee's Stories About God's First People and Jesus are available at CEI, One Stone, and Florida College bookstores.

<sup>4</sup> These can be found at Gary Henry's website, wordpoints.com (<https://wordpoints.com/daily-family-bible-studies-page/>).