

Family Worship & Evangelism

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The biblical practice of family worship can and should be practiced by every Christian household. One purpose of family worship is that it provides many evangelistic opportunities to present the word of God to the unregenerate children present so that the Spirit of God can work through the Word of God to impart spiritual life to a heart resulting in the glory of God.

Family Worship is a form of evangelism as the gospel is repeatedly presented to the children. In this brief article, I want to highlight a number of ways that Family Worship presents evangelistic opportunities.

1. The Gospel is Continuously Rehearsed.

In family worship, as a family sings the gospel, reads the gospel, and prays together, the biblical gospel will bleed through these different mediums daily. The most important message in the world to be continuously rehearsed is that of the biblical gospel. And this serves as a vehicle for evangelism when young children have not yet clung to the gospel of Christ and have not yet surrendered their minds, hearts, and lives to Jesus Christ as Lord. Every time family worship takes place, evangelism occurs as the biblical gospel is continuously rehearsed in the presence of everyone there.

2. Human Depravity is Constantly Seen.

As a family partakes in family worship, and the Word of God is daily opened and explained, the sinfulness of man will be overwhelmingly evident. Man's sinfulness will show itself in numerous forms – the stories of Scripture will show human depravity, the faults of the father as he explains Scripture and confesses his own failings will reveal human depravity, and the hearts of the children themselves will be seen for what they really are – completely and totally unable to do anything good before the radiant purity of God's eyes. The sinfulness of sin, the corruption of sin, the despicableness of sin, the penalty of sin, and the perversion of sin will all be seen over time as the Word of God is sung, read, and prayed in family worship.

3. Divine Dependence is Daily Evidenced.

A family that takes part in family worship regularly shows itself to be dependent upon God Himself to guard the family, guide the family, protect the family, save the family, sanctify the family, and lead each person in the family to glory. As families worship together through the powerful instrument of the Word of God, it will evidence to the children the utter dependence upon God for everything in life. There is a lesson that cannot be neglected in the education of children, namely, the dependence that every person must have on God. The most outrageous (and one of the most hidden) sins of mankind is autonomy, self-sufficiency, and dependence on self. For families to teach and display for the children that – in everything – God must be sought after, his grace must be clung to, and God's face must be yearned for, this is a powerful tool in evangelizing the young children who still remain unregenerate.

4. Christian Joy is Frequently Seized.

Family worship is joyous. Family worship can be joyful because God is infinitely joyful. He is worthy of joyful praise and He delights when His children have joy – spiritual joy *in Him*. Families that come together frequently for worship will sing songs concerning God's unchanging character that will prompt joy. As the Word of God is read and explained it will create, foster, and sustain joy. And families that pray together and see God answer those prayers (specifically!) will be ushered into a state of heavenly joy and delight. The youngest of children will see mom and dad seize joy that can be found in Christ and in Him alone. He is the greatest object of joy and He is, in Himself, the example of One who is everlastingly and rightly joyful. Parents that seize joy in God evangelize their children as they show the unregenerate kids that true satisfaction and eternal delight is not found in the lusts of the flesh, in the lusts of the eyes, and the prideful pursuits of life; rather, this unending joy exists only when God is the sole object. Family worship will demonstrate this for the children to see and, God-willing, provoke the children to want and pursue this same joy – in God Himself and in His saving gospel.

5. Daily Grace is Vigorously Held.

As a biblical family daily gathers together for singing, Scripture reading, and praying, the family will pray for God's strength and ask for divine help for various matters in that season of life. This in and of itself serves as an evangelistic tool as daily grace is continuously sought and daily grace is vigorously sought after and held. As the children grow older they will see the parents vigorously hold on to God's grace to enable them to live holy lives. The children will watch dad and mom hold on to God's grace to rescue them from daily temptations. The kids will see the example of their parents hold on to God's grace to restore them after they have sinned, repented, and sought reconciliation and change. This can be a very powerful evangelistic tool to a non-Christian child who sees the enabling grace that God alone gives to every person who seeks Him and desires to follow Him.

6. Non-Christians Present are Confronted with Truth.

When family worship is conducted on a daily basis, it is inevitable that friends will come over for dinner or that family members will come over for dinner. And these people who may be unsaved will be able to observe family worship conducted by a Christian household and they will be confronted with the eternal truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. There may even be other families from the church that will visit and have dinner together who may be unsaved. And yet, to confront every person with the saving gospel of the glorious Christ who bore divine judgment for penitent sinners is a powerful means of evangelism. The Spirit works through the Word to save the lost. Non-Christians present during family worship will be exposed to the most powerful force in the world – the gospel of Jesus Christ and, perhaps, experience the regenerating and irresistible work of the Spirit. The gospel of grace that is sung through theologically rich songs and hymns, the Word of God as it is faithfully read and taught through books of the Bible, and as the gospel is applied and prayed for as a family is a most important way of ministering the saving gospel with unbelievers.

"Their children, who have not known, will hear and learn to fear the LORD your God" (Deut 31.13)