
“Read, Pray, Sing”

NEHEMLAH 8:8

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AT A GLANCE

In this sermon Pastor Brian encourages families—especially fathers—to embrace family worship not as a burdensome obligation, but as a joyful privilege rooted in the finished work of Christ. Drawing from Scripture and real-life practice, we are invited to build a rhythm of *reading, praying, and singing* together at home. With just 10–15 minutes a day, families can create a space where the Word of God shapes hearts, prayers intercede for others, and songs declare spiritual truth.

Family worship is simple, powerful, and transformational. It’s not about *forcing* sanctification—it’s about *facilitating* it by consistently inviting God’s presence into everyday life.

Samuel Davies once said,

“If you love your children...consider family religion not merely as a duty imposed by authority, but as your greatest privilege granted by divine grace.”

It’s a responsibility, yes, but it is a responsibility rooted in the finished work of Christ on the cross. It is an overflow of the work of Christ in you.

THE PRIVILEGE AND SIMPLICITY OF FAMILY WORSHIP

But how? A consistent time together to read, pray, and sing. Let the Lord do His work in your family’s lives through consistent, prayerful, and grateful exposure to His Word.

You cannot force sanctification, but you can facilitate it. Keep it simple and keep it brief, 10-15 minutes most days of the week. Just commit to read, pray, and sing. Let the Lord do His work in your home!

READ: LET THE WORD DO THE WORK

They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. Nehemiah 8:8

Sit down with a good study bible. Open to John, or Ephesians, or 1 Peter, or the book you are reading through in your quiet time.

Read a portion out loud – a paragraph, a chapter. Ask your family some basic questions. Who wrote it? What is the author’s intent? What is the application to our lives? Don’t pretend to be a theology professor. If you’re stumped, go to the study bible notes.

The key is not perfection, but consistency. Jesus believed that the Word of God was essential to life. *“It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”* Matthew 4:4

If you need more resources, we have many in the Fireside Room plus we’ve curated a bunch in our online bookstore on our website. You got this! You just gotta jump in!

PRAY: A FAMILY THAT INTERCEDES TOGETHER

Paul says prayer helps others on the mission field (2 Corinthians 1:11). Jesus taught us to pray bold prayers (Luke 11:5–13). And God invites us to cast our anxieties on Him (1 Peter 5:7). Prayer is a difference maker!

In our home, we pray for one church family and a Wildwood supported missionary family each day. It is sweet to hear my kids praying for you! After praying, we sing.

SING: WORSHIP IS WARFARE

Singing out loud releases “happy hormones” and aides memory. How’d you learn the alphabet? Through song!

Beyond these obvious benefits, worship is warfare. Think of soldiers marching together to songs that evoke patriotism and loyalty. This is why Soldiers on a unit run sing cadences. They not only keep us in step, but they also engrain culture and values.

Obviously, no soldier wants to die, but cadences like this shape the hearts of soldiers so that they willingly answer the call to lay down their lives. If Uncle Sam says get on a plane for an unnamed mission, you do it, even if you don’t know if you’re ever coming home.

Perhaps you’re familiar with another cadence,

“I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back...though none go with me, still I will follow, no turning back, no turning back...the world behind me, the cross before me, no turning back, no turning back.” – I Have Decided

Or

“Your name is the highest; Your name is the greatest; Your name stands above them all. All thrones and dominions, all powers and positions, your name stands above them all.” – Holy Forever

Or

“Who is the great king of glory seated on high in the Heavens? Jesus, you alone!” – Jesus You Alone

These songs not only condition our family’s hearts in the faith to live wholly for Christ and remain loyal like good soldiers, we are also proclaiming to the spiritual realm the greatness of our God! We’re doing spiritual battle in the heavenly places! (Ephesians 6:12) When we sing in our home, we proclaim that Jesus is Lord!

Worship is warfare and it belongs in your home and on your lips every single day!

FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT: JUST START

That’s it, folks – 15 minutes to read, pray, sing most days of the week. Consistency is the key.

Dads, transfer your faith from the overflow of your heart.

Moms, support your husbands.

Single moms, stand in the gap.

Jesus is worthy. Start where you are. Let the Lord work. Amen?