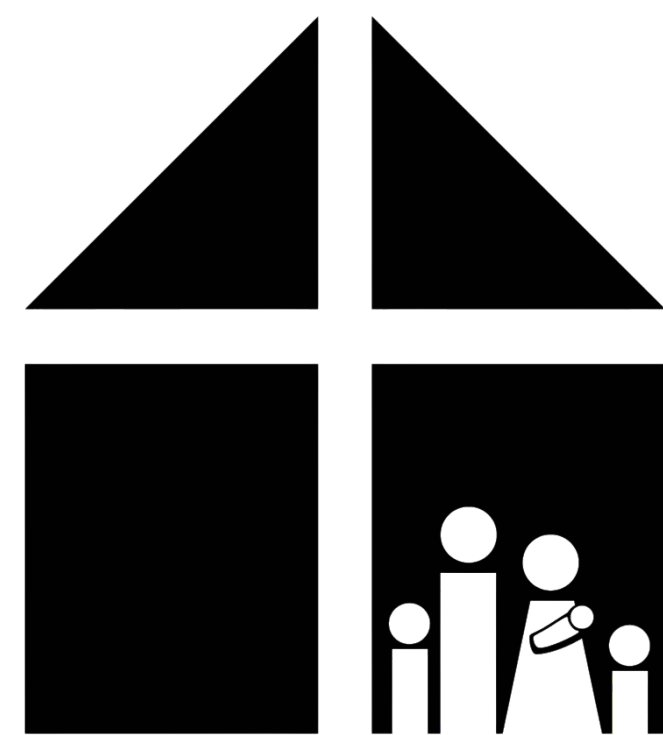


**FAMILY WORSHIP**



**RENEW**

**RECAST**

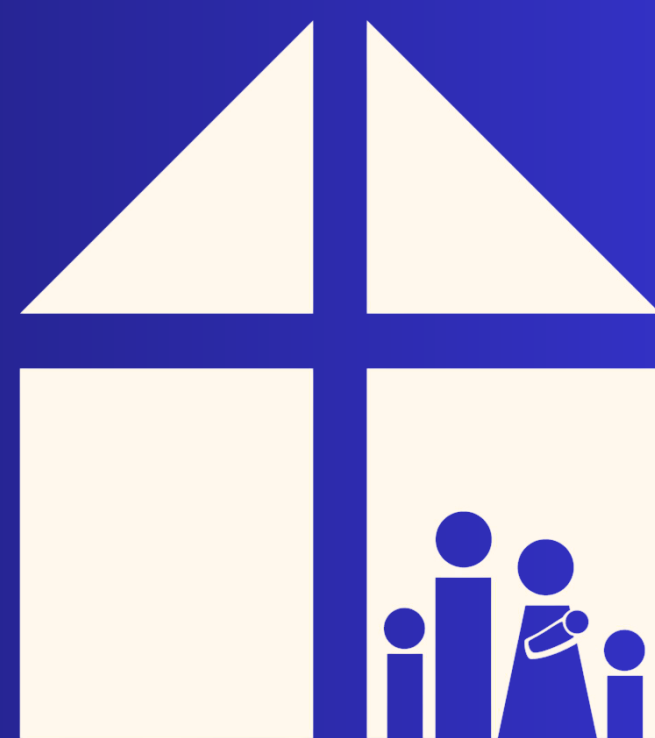
**RESTART**

**REDISCOVER**

**JONATHAN WILLIAMS**

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# CHAPTER 1

## **FAMILY WORSHIP DEFINED**

Family worship takes place when a Christian household gathers to enjoy and teach the Word of God, pray with and for one another, and praise the Lord together. Family Worship includes family devotions, faith talks, sharing testimonies, worship through music, confessing sins, modeling grace, and other practical approaches to discipleship in the home.

Family Worship is a response to biblical passages such as Deuteronomy 6:4-9 that calls parents to teach the Word of God to their children in their home. In these homes, parents seek to cultivate regular rhythms of prayer, praise, and devotion longing to see their children set their hope in God (Psalm 78:7) and walk in the truth (3 John 4).

Family worship is a spiritual discipline modeled throughout Scripture and yet, in our busy, distracted culture today, it is far too often a lost discipline. This book is a short encouragement for families to RENEW their passion, RECAST a vision, RESTART rhythms, and REDISCOVER the joy of Family Worship.

## CHAPTER 2

# FAMILY WORSHIP BLESSINGS

Blessings await any family seeking to bring the Gospel into the home through family worship.

Family worship is rewarding. It brings blessings that will find your family sharing your hearts with one another. It will afford you opportunities to hear your children talk about Jesus while growing in their love for the Lord. It will allow you space to speak words of confession, forgiveness, and grace to one another. Family worship opens up the door to prayers for daily bread, prayers of thanksgiving, and prayers for restoration.

Family worship is one of the most powerful ways we can seek to usher the gospel of Christ into our homes, and one of the greatest opportunities to enjoy the transforming power of Christ in our homes.

These short chapters are offered as an encouragement to those ready to begin practicing family worship and those ready to grow in their family worship. It is an encouragement to lead your family in prayer and praise and to teach the Word of God in the home, discovering these blessings together.

## CHAPTER 3

# RENEW THE PASSION

For some families, the call to disciple their household is a new vision while other families have enjoyed these blessings before, but, perhaps, are in a season that finds them needing to simply renew their passion for family worship.

In 3 John 4, we read: "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." When this is our greatest joy, this will be our greatest prayer, and family worship will become one of our greatest passions.

Joshua was a husband and father with a passion to see his family serving the Lord (Joshua 24:15). Psalm 78 shows us a people who felt the urgency of proclaiming God's Word to the next generation so that they would hope in God.

Let us pray that the Lord would allow these examples to stir our hearts and renew our passion to see our children walking in truth, to see our families serving the Lord, and to find us proclaiming God's Word to our households so that the next generation would hope in God.

## CHAPTER 4

# RECAST THE VISION

Any family that has implemented elements of family worship have most likely also encountered seasons of drifting away from this vision. When that happens, we not only pray for the Lord to renew our passion to be a Deuteronomy 6 family, but we also gather the family together and recast the vision of family worship.

Imagine getting together with everyone in your home for the purpose of recasting this vision. You could open up the Word of God and read Genesis 18:19, Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Joshua 24:15, Psalm 78:4-7, Psalm 145:4-7, Ephesians 6:1-4, or 2 Timothy 1:5 & 3:15. Allow the Scriptures to cast the vision so that your family understands that you are simply seeking to be faithful to all the Lord has called you to do in your home.

Share your plan for your family devotions (when, where, what). Share your prayer for this time together. And ask each member of your family to join this vision and commit to be a Gospel Family. You may even write out a new Family Mission Statement together as a reminder of this joyful, biblical vision.

## CHAPTER 5

# RESTART THE RHYTHMS

Incorporating discipleship into your family's routine is less about adding new events to your schedule and more about adding intentionality to the time you already have together. Our prayer is that family worship will be woven into the natural rhythms of your week as you intentionally lead your family to Jesus Christ.

One way to begin is to set a time for family devotion. Whether it's at the dinner table, during breakfast, at bedtime, or another time in the week, family devotions allow you to open the Bible, read & teach a passage of Scripture, discuss the passage together, share prayer requests & praises, and then pray with and for one another.

As you begin leading your household you may encounter growing pains. You may feel unprepared, children may seem disinterested, & it may not go how you imagined. Persevere. It will become more natural as you go. Children grow accustomed to sharing prayers, parents grow in their leadership, and family devotions become an important and sweet rhythm filled with blessings.

## CHAPTER 6

# REDISCOVER THE JOY

Consistency is important as we demonstrate the essential nature of family worship. When you do drift away from your vision for joint devotions and prayer, gather the family, recast the vision, restart the rhythms, and rediscover the joy of Family Worship.

The joy of these rhythms can be seen in Colossians 3:12-17. This passage is filled with beautiful "one another" verses. Paul calls believers to bear with one another, forgive each other, teach and admonish one another, sing Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, and to give thanks to God the Father. Can you imagine bringing these "one anothers" into your home? Can you imagine the joy for families who teach one another, give thanks together, forgive each other, bear burdens together through prayer, and sing praises together in their home?

These are the elements of family worship and love, thanksgiving, and worship are just some of the joyful blessings that await any family faithfully cultivating these rhythms in their home. The greatest joy, however, comes when we see family members following after Jesus.



# CHAPTER 7

## FAMILY WORSHIP RESOURCES

Gospel Family Ministries aims to create workshops, conferences, retreats, and resources for the local church family and for your family. Church leaders can host a Gospel Family Event at their church and family leaders can find free resources on our website: **[www.gospelfamily.org](http://www.gospelfamily.org)**.

These resources include family devotions, family prayer calendars, prayer guides, mission statement cards, starting points for leading your family. family worship booklets, Advent devotions, small group study guides and videos, and more.

We also recommend the following books:

- *Gospel Family* by Jonathan Williams
- *A Practical Theology of Family Worship* by Jonathan Williams
- *Family Worship* by Donald Whitney
- *Family Worship* by Joel Beeke
- *Equipping Fathers to Lead Family Worship* by Ken Coley & Blair Robinson
- *Exploring the Bible Together* by David Murray & Scotty Reifsnyder
- *Jesus the Reigning King: A Guide for Family Worship* by Richard Ross & Rob Rienow

# FAMILY WORSHIP



**RENEW**  
**RECAST**  
**RESTART**  
**REDISCOVER**

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**Gospel Family Ministries** exists to strengthen family ministry in the local church and to cultivate family worship in the home. Our ministry seeks to equip families with a biblical vision of family ministry, a biblical passion for family ministry, and biblical resources for family ministry. It is a family-equipping ministry with a heart for both the church family and your family. We partner with local churches to create workshops, conferences, retreats, and resources that focus on family discipleship, spiritual leadership in the home, cultivating a biblical worldview, intergenerational discipleship, marriage, parenting, family missions, and much more. We believe the Lord can use Family Ministry and Family Worship to transform the church and the home for His glory.

[www.gospelfamily.org](http://www.gospelfamily.org)