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A Sample Guide for Family Worship

Central Truth: A Home Built on the Word of God Will Stand Firm

Central Passage: Matthew 7:24-27

Catechism:

- Question: What do the Scriptures principally teach?
- Answer: The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.
- Application: The Bible is more than just a book. It is the Word of God and, therefore, is not just something we read, but it is meant to lead us to belief and obedience. Today's devotion will remind us of this call to obey the Word of God as a family.

Family Praise

As you enjoy the Word of God together this week, focus on one of these worship songs:

- "How Firm a Foundation," by John Rippon
- "Speak, O Lord," by Keith and Kristyn Getty
- "Word of God Speak," by Bart Millard and Pete Kipley

You can either find these songs on the internet and listen together as a family, look up the lyrics so that you can sing together, or play these worship songs in the home throughout the week while you are cooking, playing outside, getting ready for the day, driving in the car, working in the garage, doing homework, or any other weekly activity.

Family Time in the Word of God

As you gather the family for family worship, open the Bible to Matthew 7 and read the central passage together:

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it” (Matthew 7:24-27).

Family Teaching

This passage comes at the end of the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus preached on a variety of topics, including anger, lust, love, giving, praying, and fasting. In the coming days, you might consider walking through this entire sermon with your family during family worship (Matthew 5-7). Jesus concludes his sermon with a call to obedience. The crowds have heard his sermon, but they are wise if they obey all they have heard. This truth is also reflected in James 1:22 when James calls Christians to “be doers of the word, and not hearers only.”

In Matthew 7, Jesus paints a clear picture of the difference between a life founded upon obedience to God’s Word and one that is founded upon disobedience to God’s Word. It is the difference between one who is wise and one who is foolish; between one who stands firm and one who falls and is destroyed.

Two foundational truths at the end of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount may be applied to families today. In Matthew 7:24-27, Jesus draws a contrast between those who obey and those who disobey the Word of God; a contrast between the wise and the foolish. Since Jesus uses the illustration of houses, a natural application can be applied to homes today; namely, that all families will encounter storms in this life and only families founded upon obedience to the Word of God will stand. These are the wise builders who dig deep and construct a strong foundation.¹

Storms of culture, temptation, and sin will beat against our homes. The same storm comes upon both houses here. Storms of life will be different each time. These storms are unpredictable. If our foundation is fickle, then the storms will destroy our lives. Our foundation must be something that is

¹ John R.W. Stott, *The Message of the Sermon on the Mount*, (Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1978), 208.

consistent, firm, steadfast, unchanging, and true. God's Word must be our foundation. To set His Word as the foundation of our lives is to hear his word and obey.

Family Discussion

After teaching the Scriptures to your family, invite them to respond. Ask a few discussion questions about the passage. The nature of these questions will often depend upon the ages of those present during family worship. Here are some sample questions to follow the Matthew 7 passage:

1. What are some things we have read in the Bible that we need to obey?
2. What makes obedience to God difficult sometimes?
3. What should we do when we disobey God?
4. What blessings do you think we would enjoy if we obeyed God?
5. How can our family set the Word of God as the foundation of our home?

Family Prayer

Close this time of family worship with a time of prayer. You can either pray over your family or take a moment to allow each member of the household to share any prayer requests or praises that might be on their hearts. You can also invite others to pray or even go around and have each person say a prayer. Over time, family members will likely become more comfortable praying out loud as family worship becomes a consistent rhythm in the home.