

FAMILY WORSHIP HELPS WEEK 2

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

QUESTION 2: *What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy Him?*

ANSWER: The Word of God, which is contained in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy Him.

MONDAY

Praise: Sing Psalm 119M

Scripture: Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Key Thought: *All Scripture is God-breathed.*

Questions:

- ☞ How do we know that the Bible is God's word?
- ☞ Does the Bible contain information that only God could know?
- ☞ Are there prophecies in the Bible that came to pass?
- ☞ Could the message of the Bible have been made up by men?
- ☞ Does the Bible have the power to change peoples' lives?

Prayer

Notes: This week we will focus on the second question from the *Westminster Shorter Catechism* which deals with the authority and inspiration of the Bible. The Bible is the only rule to direct us how to glorify and enjoy God. It is a unique book, because it is God's own word to His people, revealing Himself and the way of salvation through Jesus Christ. Using the discussion questions as a guide, speak with your family about the excellency of the Bible and the many proofs that it is God's Word and not the invention of men. Focus on the unique message of salvation presented in Scripture—that redemption from sin can only come through God's provision and not through man's effort. No other religion or so-called "holy book" presents such a completely God-centered perspective on life and salvation. In addition, the information and the prophecies contained in the Bible, together with its power to transform the hearts of sinners, testify to its divine source. Thank God together in prayer for providing such a clear and powerful revelation of Himself to us and ask Him to increase your understanding of its message through the power of His Spirit.



TUESDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 119M

Scripture: Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Key Thought: *All Scripture is profitable.*

Questions:

- ☞ What is the purpose of the Bible?
- ☞ How does the Bible “make us wise unto salvation”?
- ☞ What four things does Paul say the Bible is useful for?
- ☞ How is the Bible useful for teaching?
- ☞ How is the Bible useful for reproof and correction?
- ☞ How is the Bible useful for training in righteousness?

Prayer

Notes: Focus your family’s attention today on the purpose for which the Bible was given. Take time to discuss the meaning of Paul’s words to Timothy regarding the Scriptures, which are able to make you wise unto salvation. Explain to your children the usefulness of the Bible for instructing, correcting error, rebuking sinful thoughts and actions, and training the people of God in the way of righteousness. Give some examples of each of the uses mentioned in the passage to help your family better understand the purpose of God’s word. Pray together, asking God to make His word effective in all of these ways in each of your hearts. Pray that God will give each family member a growing desire to search the Scriptures in order to know how the way of salvation and righteousness through Christ.



WEDNESDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 119M

Scripture: Read 2 Peter 1:19-21

Key Thought: *Scripture interprets Scripture.*

Questions:

- ☞ Can the Bible mean different things to different people?
- ☞ From where does the Bible get its meaning?
- ☞ If something in the Bible seems unclear, how do we find out what it means?
- ☞ What does it mean that the Bible is our “rule” and “authority”?
- ☞ How should the authority of the Bible affect your life?

Prayer

Notes: The second question of the *Westminster Shorter Catechism* says that the Bible

is the only “rule” to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy God. Discuss the authority of the Bible with your family today. Explain to them that the Bible is not a vague spiritual guide that may be interpreted in different ways by different people. If this were so, then the Bible would be meaningless and would have no power to direct us in our thoughts and actions. We would be the judges of Scripture, rather than having God’s word direct us. Explain that the Bible does not contain the ideas of men, but reveals to us the mind and will of the Living God. Discuss the implications of the authority of Scripture and challenge your family to be obedient doers of the Word. Pray together for each family member to appreciate more fully the authority of the Bible as the only rule for faith and life and confess together any specific ways that you have neglected to obey the authority of God’s word. Thank God for loving us enough to give us clear direction so that we might know how to please and glorify Him.



THURSDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 119M

Scripture: Read Matthew 5:17-19

Key Thought: *All Scripture is God-breathed.*

Questions:

- ☞ How much of the Bible is the word of God?
- ☞ Is the Old Testament less important than the New Testament?
- ☞ Did Jesus come to put an end to the use of the Old Testament?
- ☞ Why do some people think the Old Testament is outdated?
- ☞ How do the Old and New Testaments work together?

Prayer

Notes: The emphasis of today’s lesson is on the sufficiency of the whole Bible as God’s rule for faith and life. It is common among many today to regard themselves as “New Testament Christians.” The implication of this is that the Old Testament is no longer binding upon God’s people since we live in the New Testament age. Explain to your family that the Bible nowhere teaches that the Old Testament has lost its authority over our lives since the time of Jesus. In fact, the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:17-19 clearly show that it is a grave error to ignore the teachings of the law. Show your children that while the ceremonies of Israel revealed in the Old Testament have been fulfilled in Christ and are no longer to be continued, the laws of God revealed throughout the whole Bible continue in their authority. Explain to your family that revelation of Christ in the New Testament gives greater light to the Old Testament, enabling us to better understand the meaning of the laws of God and their application to our lives. Pray for the Spirit’s guidance to comprehend the fullness of God’s will as it is revealed in the pages of the whole Bible.



Praise: Sing Psalm 119M

Scripture: Read John 5:39-47

Key Thought: *The Scriptures testify of Christ.*

Questions:

- ☞ Who is the central figure in the Bible?
- ☞ Is the Bible supposed to teach us how to be better people?
- ☞ Can we become better people by simply obeying the law?
- ☞ What's wrong with seeing the Bible simply as a book of moral lessons?
- ☞ How does the Bible testify of Christ?

Prayer

Notes: The Bible is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy God. It does this by pointing us to Christ, who is the central figure of the Bible and of God's plan of redemption. There are many who regard the Bible merely as a moral guide, and who imagine that by learning its moral lessons and putting them into practice they will become better people and be acceptable to God. The whole purpose of the Bible however, is to point us to Christ. It is designed first to show us that we are unable to attain to the moral standard that it holds before us so that we will see our need for the work of Jesus, who suffered our punishment in order to give us His righteousness. It is only through Jesus that we are able to glorify God through obedience to His word. Explain to your children that the Bible is not simply a moral guide, but that it is the revelation of Jesus Christ. Pray for understanding of the centrality of the person and work of Christ in order to properly apply the teachings of Scripture to your lives.



Note: Only five lessons per week are included. You are encouraged to lead your family in worship seven days a week. On weekends, you may want to review or build upon the lessons from the previous week, discuss the sermon from Sunday morning, or work on questions from the Catechism or memory verses. These lesson suggestions are intended to provide a simple framework for parents to build upon. You are not limited to this content. The habit of morning and evening family worship is the biblical ideal. We hope you can use these lessons as a starting point for the development of a blessed practice of family worship in your home.