

FAMILY WORSHIP HELPS WEEK 3

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

QUESTION 3: *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.



MONDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 119B

Scripture: Read Deuteronomy 30:9-20

Key Thought: *The Word is very near to you.*

Questions:

- ☪ Do you sometimes find the Bible hard to understand?
- ☪ Are there some things that are clear and easy to understand?
- ☪ Can you think of some examples?
- ☪ What should you do if you don't understand what you read?
- ☪ Why did God give us the Scriptures?
- ☪ How does the catechism question summarize the message of the Bible?

Prayer

Notes: This week we will focus on the second question from the *Westminster Shorter Catechism*. Be sure to recite the question and answer together each day this week. The first point to note in the answer to question three is that the Bible has a "principal" message. Because it is such a vast and rich book, it is sometimes easy to miss the forest for the trees. Talk with your children today about the main message of the Bible. Discuss with them that though some things in the Scriptures seem difficult to understand, the main message is clear. Give them some counsel about how to deal with difficult passages, through prayer, meditating on the words, and asking questions of their parents, their elders and their pastor. Let them give some examples of things in the Bible they clearly understand, and discuss these things together. Introduce the *Catechism's* summary of the main message of the Bible and pray together for God's Spirit to make His Word clear and effective in your lives.



TUESDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 119B

Scripture: Read John 20:30-31

Key Thought: *The Word brings faith and life.*

Questions:

- ☞ Was everything that Jesus did and said written in the Bible?
- ☞ Why does the Bible record the things that it does?
- ☞ What does it mean that Jesus is the “Christ”?
- ☞ What does it mean that Jesus is the “Son of God”?
- ☞ What does it mean to “believe” these things?
- ☞ What is the result of believing?

Prayer

Notes: Focus today on the first part of the Bible’s message: “What man is to believe concerning God.” Of course, the Bible teaches many things about what we are to believe concerning God. We will get to some of these in future lessons. For now, use the short passage in John’s gospel to explain to your family what we are to believe concerning Christ. Talk with them about what is meant by the words “Christ” and “Son of God” in relation to Jesus Christ. Show them that John says the Bible was written that men might believe these things. Explain what it means to “believe” in Christ—that it is not simply agreeing with the facts, but placing one’s complete and total trust in Christ and surrendering to Him. Show them that it is only through believing what the Bible says about Jesus that we may have eternal life, and discuss the alternative. Pray together for faith to trust fully in Christ, the Son of God.



WEDNESDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 119B

Scripture: Read Romans 15:4-7

Key Thought: *Glorify God with one mind and one mouth.*

Questions:

- ☞ Why does Paul say the Bible was written?
- ☞ What is the “patience and comfort of the Scriptures”?
- ☞ How does the Bible give us hope?
- ☞ What does it mean to “glorify God with one mind and one mouth? How does the Bible help us do this?

Prayer

Notes: Today’s emphasis is on the unifying hope that the Bible provides by showing us what we are to believe concerning God. The Word of God is a sure and certain standard. It shows us our sin, reveals Christ to us, and enables us to patiently work out our salvation as we take hold of its comfort and grace. By understanding the message of the Bible concerning God we are able to comfort and encourage one another as we speak the same words of grace according

to the same Spirit. Talk with your family about what it means to glorify God with “one mind and one mouth.” Show them that this kind of unity in thought and speech comes only through being firmly rooted in the knowledge of God’s perfect Word. Discuss some examples of your family sometimes not being of “one mind and one mouth.” Pray together for God’s grace to think and speak biblically at all times and in every situation, confessing your failings and asking for forgiveness and strength.



THURSDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 119B

Scripture: Read Deuteronomy 4:1-8

Key Thought: *Do not add or subtract from the Word.*

Questions:

- ☞ Why can’t we add to the Word of God or subtract from it?
- ☞ What would happen if man added something to the Bible? Can you think of any examples? What about subtracting?
- ☞ How does this principle apply especially to worshiping God?
- ☞ If God’s people keep His commands and receive His blessings, how will people react?
- ☞ Do people see the beauty and wisdom of God’s Word in your life?

Prayer

Notes: The Bible not only teaches what man is to believe concerning God, but also what duty God requires of man. The passage from Deuteronomy speaks of the perfection and sufficiency of the written commands of God. Explain to your children that it is wicked for sinful men to presume to add to God’s perfect wisdom, or to take away from it. Discuss examples of both of these errors. Show them how this principle, sometimes called “the regulative principle,” applies especially to our public worship, so that we are to offer to God only those things in worship that He has commanded without leaving anything out. Show them from this passage that when God’s people obey His perfect laws, the beauty and wisdom of His commandments causes others to marvel at His wonderful truth. Challenge your family to show forth an example to friends, neighbors, co-workers, and relatives by faithfully following God’s perfect law. Pray together for strength in this endeavor.



FRIDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 119B

Scripture: Read James 1:21-25

Key Thought: *Be doers of the Word.*

Questions:

- ☪ What does it mean for the Word to be “implanted”?
- ☪ Have you ever been a “hearer” of the word without being a “doer”?
- ☪ How does someone who hears the Word without putting it into practice deceive himself?
- ☪ How can we make sure we are doers of the Word? (v. 25)
- ☪ What does it mean that the Bible is the “perfect law of liberty”?

Prayer

Notes: The Bible teaches us what duty God requires of man, but it is not enough to simply read it. The Scriptures were meant to be planted in the heart and put into practice. Talk with your children about the difference between being a “hearer” and a “doer” of the Word. Discuss some of the most common temptations in this area. Show them that it is easy to fool ourselves into thinking we’re being “religious” by merely reading the Bible, but that God regards reading without obedience as a serious sin. Explain to them that the key to being a doer of the Word is to prayerfully continue in it and allow it to shape your daily practice. It is not enough to simply look at it and walk away. Pray for God’s perfect law of liberty to set each family member free from the trap of being a hearer but not a doer of the Word.



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.