

## **“A Devotion On Family Worship”**

### ***Sing!...With Your Family***

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. (Deut. 6:5-7)*

Singing with your family is very important. Today, we live in a performance culture, where experts play and we listen, but we, and our children, are missing out on something significant if this is all music is to us, and particularly to our kids. As a Minister of Music, I would say that singing is one of the best ways to teach our children/grandchildren. It is very important to start at a young age.

Singing is something that I remember from a very early age. I guess you would say it's in my DNA. My earliest memories are from Sunday school. We need to make singing Bible truths second nature to our children, a “second language” in our homes. We should sing about those truths when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down, and when you get up just as the scripture tells us. Sing with your kids as you put them to bed at night, or you sit down for dinner, or as you drive in the car with a CD playing. Sooner or later, they'll start singing unprompted. This happens many times in our family and we just join in with them. We have developed what I like to refer to as an anthem in our home. Many times our kids at different times will just start singing our anthem and we all join in. There's nothing like family worship.

~Songs help train children in the “language” of the Christian faith. What we want to teach our kids travels deeper inside them when we sing it rather than only speak it to them.

~Singing together in the home is an excellent way to prompt questions and give answers and aim for depth of spiritual understanding in our children in a memorable way. You will notice that children at the early ages ask lots and lots of questions. Be prepared to answer.

~Be a parent who sings with joy, and pray that your kids, of whatever age, would follow you, not just in the singing, but in the faith that brings such joy.

~It can train us to be comfortable and confident in speaking of our faith and not unfamiliar and shy. If you are disheartened by the trends of music in the wider church at the moment, remember; some of the people who will write the songs, choose the songs, and lead the singing in churches tomorrow are in our care and training today. If we can inspire joyful, thoughtful, heartfelt Christian singing in our homes today, we can transform the Church in a single generation.

~Ask your children what songs they enjoy singing in church and sing them at home. The best songs for our youth are often the best songs for our old age. It is important to take time to talk about why we sing, what happens when we sing, and how we use the gift of singing to serve one another.

~Always remember when you sing at church, your children (and everyone else's around you) can see you and are watching.

~Some of the issues in church music today are not that a certain style isn't quite right but rather that we are too narrow and maybe even to boring in our expression.

Remember family worship is something that starts in the home. Parents you are the main example to what your kids worship will look like. Worship comes straight from the heart.

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Excerpts from Keith and Kristyn Getty's book SING.

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