

BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION ON A FOUNDATION OF BIBLICAL TRUTH

*“We will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord.” Psalm 78:4*



Greetings Parents from the Youth Christian Ed Team!

Spring 2013

R. L. Dabney, Stonewall Jackson's chaplain, believed that the education of our children lay *primarily* at the feet of parents. He said, "The education of children for God is the most important business done on earth. It is the one business for which the earth exists. To it all politics, all literature, all money-making, ought to be subordinated; and every parent especially ought to feel every hour of the day, that, next to making his own calling and election sure, this is the end for which he is kept alive by God. This is his task on earth."

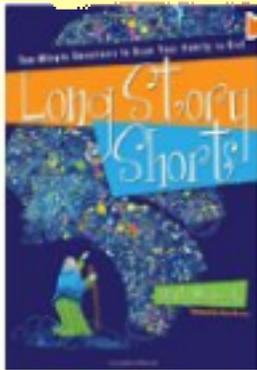
As an encouragement to parents, the following is how Elder Tom Deckard has sought to faithfully teach his family.

Deckard family devotions. Here are a few thoughts about what we have learned and how our family has benefited from having devotions. Over the years our family has tried to observe a couple of specific regular family times – evening meal time and family prayer. Let's be clear at the start, we did better at times of having family prayer than at others. But we have persevered through the dry spells. Here are some things that I have learned. Prepare ahead for the time such as choosing a scripture, story, or current event. Pray that God will honor your time praying as a family. Have prayer time when family members are alert instead last thing before bed. A corollary to this is to encourage all to sit vs. lay down during prayer time, if you know what I mean. Zzzzz :{ } . Encourage all members to participate in some way, read scripture, share a prayer request, etc. Avoid the temptation to use guilt motivation for members to participate. Don't be discouraged if things don't always go well, because they rarely go as planned. Anything so powerful as this will meet with powerful adversity. We have been truly blessed in and through our times of family prayer. God has shown us our desperate need for him, and faithfully met that need. He has taught us how to encourage and help each other, and woven us together more closely than we would have otherwise known.



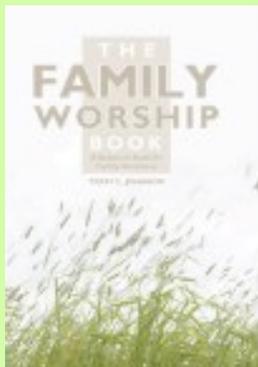
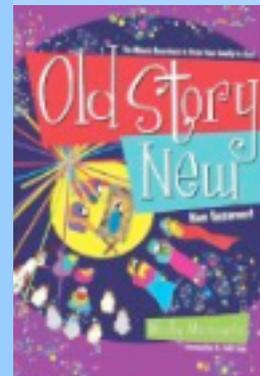
Another father shares "Family worship is yet another means of grace, literally empowering us to live our lives in a manner worthy of our high calling. As such can it be said that family worship is bland or boring? If that is my perspective, then it is simply indicative of my need. And that realization should not discourage me; rather, it should impel me to pursue this opportunity as one who is desperate to drink more deeply of God's precious grace - desperate for me and desperate for my family."

RESOURCES FOR FAMILY WORSHIP



“Long Story Short” is a family devotion guide from longtime children’s ministry leader Marty Machowski. This book provides five daily 10-minute devotions per week, focusing on a weekly story and covering the entire Old Testament in a year and a half. Each lesson walks children through the great truths of Scripture offering simple discussion questions and answers for each day’s devotion. It gives parents suggestion on how to make each lesson relevant for all grade levels (pre-k through High School). “Long Story Short” is available in our church library.

“Old Story New” is another family devotion guide from Marty Machowski. This book provides five daily 10-minute devotions per week, focusing on a weekly story and covering the entire New Testament in a year and a half. Each week’s gospel-centered lesson helps children understand and remember Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection as well as the beginning of the church. The devotional program is designed to explain God’s plan of salvation throughout the New Testament. As with “Long Story Short” each lesson offers simple discussion questions and answer for each day’s devotion.



“The Family Worship Book” by Terry Johnson is a family devotion guide geared toward parents of older children. This book moves straight to the practical element, explaining the importance of worship, how it can be done, and offering a number of resources to help parents raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. The book includes several hymns and selections from the psalter. There are also several other resources including creeds and confession, suggested Bible reading timelines, the Westminster Shorter and Larger Catechisms, articles on prayer and many other great resources for leading worship. “The Family Worship Book” is available in the CPC library.

PERSEVERE

Maybe the most important advice for family worship is to persevere in it. There will be moments and even weeks where it seems like a chore and that little fruit is being born: your toddler has trouble sitting still, your teenager complains every night, or the tune keeps getting lost in the middle of singing. Just keep going! You are not alone, and your situation is not unique. Just keep gathering with your family in worship. Perseverance is the best remedy for all these ills. Over the course of time, most of these struggles will be overcome, and fruit that was invisible at the time will begin to show itself in the future.

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