

**Nehemiah 8:1-8 — “The Blessing of Families Worshiping Together!”****Introduction:**

Of course! Don't we believe the Bible is living & active & powerful?

The Bible is *ALIVE*. The Bible is *POWERFUL*. The Bible is *SAVING*. The Bible is *NECESSARY*. The Bible is *EXPOSING!*

**We as parents have 2 duties toward our children** (counsel from Joel Beeke):

1. Put them UNDER THE WORD
2. Teach them to LOVE THE CHURCH

Consider the biblical testimony of *children's involvement in worship*:

- Psalm 148:12 - praise God both *young men* and virgins; old men and *children*
- Exodus 12 - Passover was a family activity & children asked questions to fathers to inquire about what it 'meant'
- Nehemiah 12 - the dedication of the wall & they had all the singers present (v.42) and they all rejoiced because God had given them joy — The text says that the women & children rejoiced also!
- Ezra 10.1 - while Ezra was praying, a large assembly of men, women & children were there.
- 2 Chron 20.13 - Jehoshaphat prayed & all people gathered: men with infants, wives & children.
- Nehemiah reads the Law - Neh 8:1-3 — all the people gather — men, women & all children
- In Deut 31.11-13 - Moses called the people to READ THE LAW to the people: men, women & children so that they will HEAR & LEARN TO FEAR GOD.
- Interesting that in Ephesians, Colossians, there are direct commands given specifically to children to obey their parents (they must have been present to hear the command).

**This is why at CFBC...**

1. we encourage families to worship together. *(ENCOURAGE)*
2. we equip/train men to lead in family worship. *(EQUIP)*
3. we preach the importance of men pastoring at home. *(EXPOSIT)*
4. we uphold the divine power of God's true Word. *(ELEVATE/EXTOL)*
5. we preach the gospel in every sermon. *(EVANGELIZE)*
6. we pray for God to save our children. *(ENTREAT)*

Remember! We don't do what we do because it's *easy*. We do what we do because of *theological convictions!*

**WHY WE GATHER TOGETHER AS FAMILIES TO WORSHIP?** *Why do we encourage families to worship together?*

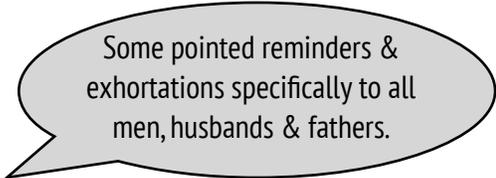
1. To expose our children to God's Glory/Presence
2. To model for our children how to Worship
3. To place our children under God's Word
4. To evangelize our children with God's Gospel
5. To Teach our children how to live Obediently
6. To Form for our children a legacy for Their Children

**Nehemiah 8:1-8 — “The Blessing of Families Worshiping Together!”****From Nehemiah 8, here are some simple observations of the text:**

1. All the people go and gather together at a particular place/meeting spot (in public) (v.1a)
2. Ezra the Scribe (the leader) brings the Book of the Law of Moses (v.1b)
3. Men, Women & all who could listen with understanding (=children) are together (v.2)
4. He reads from the Law from morning till noon (5 hours) (v.3)
5. He reads from it in the presence of all the people & they pay attention (v.3b)
6. Ezra stands at a wooden podium/pulpit/stage with leaders beside him (v.4)
7. Ezra opens the book and when he opens it, ALL the people stand up (v.5)
8. Ezra blesses the Lord/prayer and all the people say “AMEN! AMEN!” (v.6)
9. They ALL bow low to the ground and worship (v.6)

**“Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” –Luke 18:16**

1. Lead in regular family worship
2. Commit to & believe in prayer
3. Believe in the power of the Word
4. Delight in the beauty of the Church
5. Persevere in convictions; don't react in feelings



Some pointed reminders & exhortations specifically to all men, husbands & fathers.

**“The key to your own and your family's spiritual health is remarkably simple. Though there is considerable hype to the contrary, it involves no pilgrimages to sacred places, it requires no week-long or weekend retreats, seminars or special programs. It depends on no special techniques or novel methodologies. You don't have to spend yet another night out. You won't need to add one more meeting to an already frantic schedule. The key is to be found in regular, ordinary, weekly worship services of the church. It is not a glamorous key, but it is the key nonetheless.”**

**(Terry Johnson, The Family Worship Book)**

**The more we worship God in secret, the fitter shall we be for family worship, and the more we worship God in our families, the fitter shall we be for public worship. (John Angier)**

**All parents, fathers, mothers, must take care that they are a good example to their children and families, that they express God's holy truth in their lives. Godly examples are like the soul of the doctrine to children. Are parents desirous for their children to be religious, love God's Word, pray much to the Lord, be humble, sober, friendly, modest, righteous; let the parents be a good example, for therewith God's truth will be pressed into their hearts. (Abraham Van De Velde)**