

Raising Children to Adore God



THE NEED OF THE HOUR

- *DEUT.6:7 says “Impress them on your children.”*
- *EPHESIANS 6:4 says” bring (children) in the training and instruction of the Lord.”*
- *Raising children to develop a sincere and personal faith in Jesus Christ is the need of the Hour.*
- *We must be able to pass our faith to our children.*



What is Worship?

“Worship is far more than going to church singing, praying, reading the Bible, memorizing a few verses, putting a few coins in the plate, or performing any outward rituals. It is about forming and nurturing an internal relationship with God.”



Definition of Worship

*Worship is the individual
adoration of God*

It's an internal service!

The Importance of Worship in the Family

“The only way to provide the right home for your children is to put the Lord above them, and fully instruct them in the ways of the Lord. You are responsible before God for the home you provide for them.”

--Billy Graham



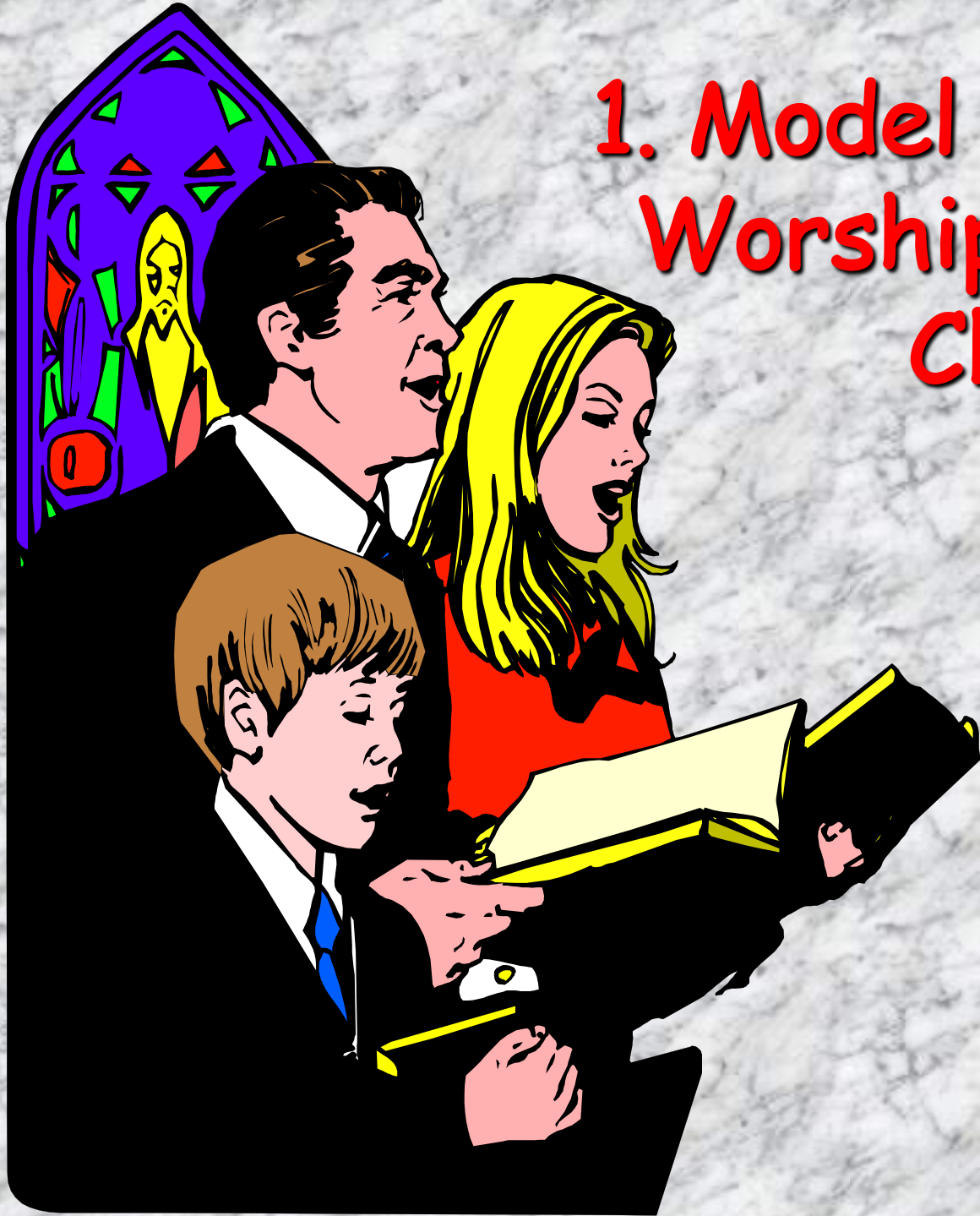
What Should We Do As We Worship God Each Day?

Two areas are important for every believer:

- Worship in Your Daily Quiet Time
- Worship as a Lifestyle



1. Model a Lifestyle of Worship Before Our Children



The Modeling Principle

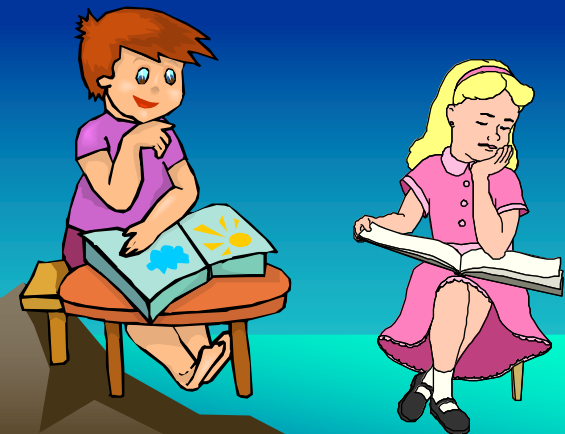


We cannot expect our children to be any more dedicated to Christ than we are ourselves

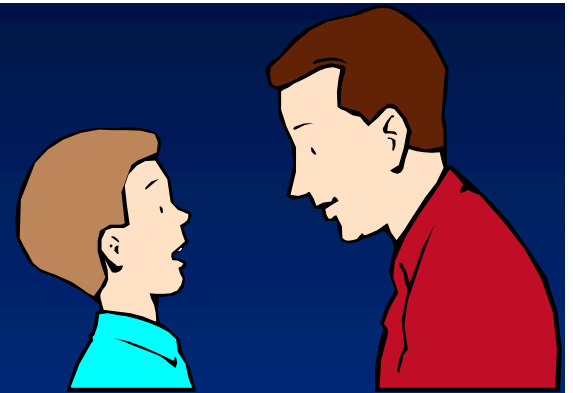


Understanding Different Types of Authority

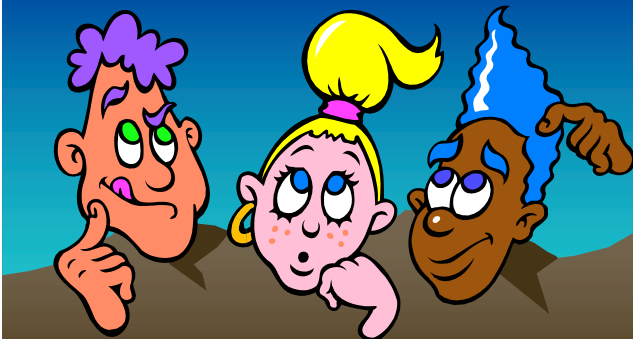
- *Authority of Position* - whether an adult is a good parent or a poor one, the child obeys him.
- *Authority of Experience* - the adult has more knowledge, hence carries more weight.
- *Authority of Recognition* - the adult has authority, knowledge & successes.



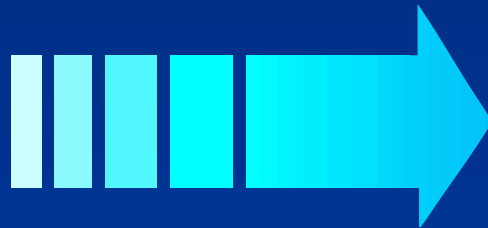
Winning Your Kids' Respect



- Winning your children's—especially teenage children's—long-term respect is far more important than winning a short-term argument.
- Winning their respect will enable them to respect your belief system as well



What, Then, Are We to Model to Our Children



1. "Virtuous" actions and attitudes such as being kind, humble, patient and compassionate.
2. Christian actions such as reading & studying the Bible, praying to God, worshiping Jesus.

What Do We Model?

- We talk about worship.
- We speak praise.
- We enjoy learning—*“Anyone who stops learning is old, whether it happens at twenty or eight.”—writer Harvey Ullman.*
- We model the characteristics of God.
 - * justice
 - * unconditional love
 - * forgiveness



2. Knowing Your Children



*"Be sure you know
the condition of
your flocks, give
careful attention to
your herds."*

Proverbs 27:23



What Do We Need to Know?

- Know that every child is unique.
- Know our children's temperaments.
- Know how to show equal respect for every child.
- Know how our children feel.
- Know how our children think about God.



3. Practice Principles That Encourage Worship



Express Gratitude to your Children

- Let our children know that we were delighted at their arrival.
- Children need to hear such statements as, "We were so excited when you were born" and "The best gift God has ever given me was you children."
- Love them unconditionally.



Be Humble and Ask for Forgiveness

- Parents who sincerely apologize and ask forgiveness after they lose their temper, demonstrate to the children that there is a higher authority, a Master in heaven.
- Our public submission to that Master and His law is another proof that we consider Him worthy of our worship.



Be sure that Dad (not just Mom) Leads Spiritually

Long-Term Effects on Children

- For the sons, it proclaims that Christianity is really for the females, so you do not have to take it seriously.
- For the daughters, it damages the important portrait of the father heart of God, which may later produce insecurities about God's love for them.



Have Regular Family Devotionals

- **Time** – each family decides on the best time, but the keyword is *consistency*.

“The secret of success is consistency of purpose.” -- Benjamin Disraeli

- **Place** – choose a place where there is minimum distractions.
- **Duration** – generally 10-15 minutes.



General Principles for Family Devotionals

- **Positive Attitude** – “Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.” (Ralph Waldo Emerson)
- **Openness** – answer children’s questions.
- **Variety** – use drama, quizzes, etc.
- **“Serious Fun.”**



Learn to Handle Disagreements

- *Self-control*—parents need to put the brakes on the feelings of anger and curb their tongues from lashing out.
- *Privacy*—resolve arguments in your room, keeping their voices down.
- *Resolution*—problems and disagreements should be resolved as soon as possible (Ephesians 4:26).



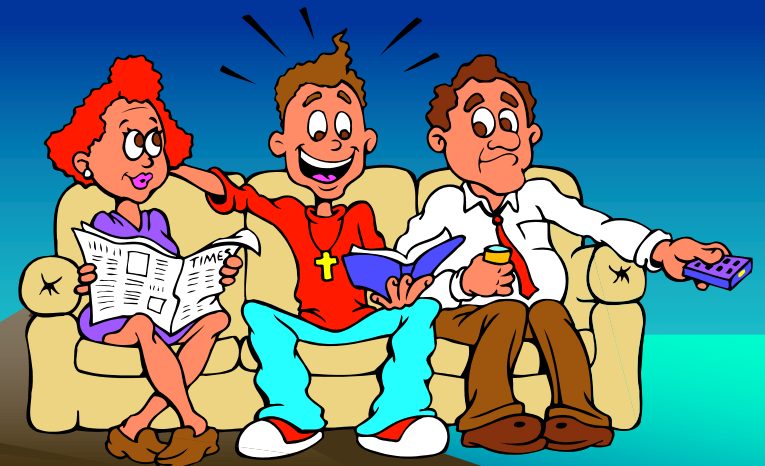
Uphold Other Authorities Before Your Children

- Consider other authorities in your child's life: teachers, coaches, youth leader, police officers, politicians, etc.
- Help children see these true authorities are their friends, not enemies, and that they have been placed here by God Himself.
- Do not criticize your child's teacher at meal times.



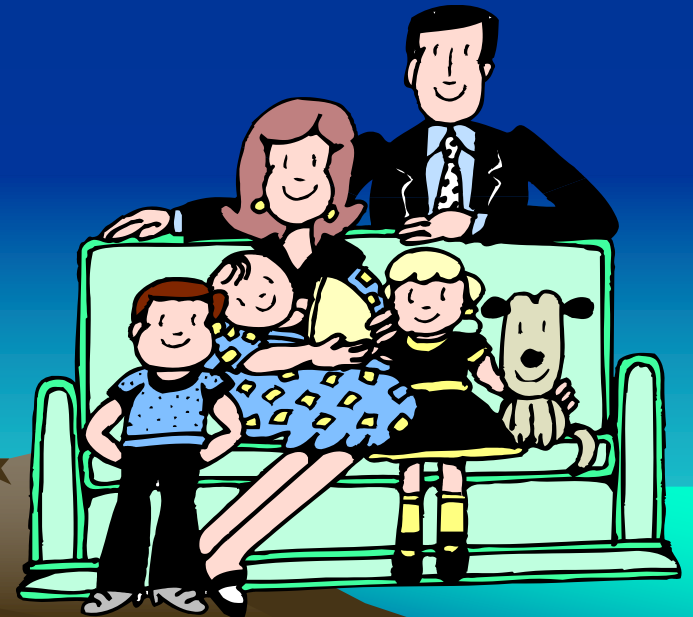
Watch the Way You Talk About Your Childhood

- Do not rub our negative memories in the children's faces.
- Use discretion when we want to share some horrible "testimony" with them.
- Good memories should be told and retold.



Maintain Personal Standards

- Give your children an illustration of “clean hands and a pure heart” (Psalm 24:4).
- Check on what you read or watch on television.
- Your language should be consistent with your Christian beliefs.
- Get rid of hypocrisy.
- *“Where one man reads the Bible, a hundred read you and me.”*
-- Dwight Moody.



Try to Make Your Children Proud of You

- Take a friendly, sincere interest in their friends.
- Act wisely in front of their friends.
- Smile and greet their friends warmly.
- Ask about their families.
- Avoid saying anything that might embarrass your child.



Love Your Spouse Above Your Children

- This principle is most important in terms of inspiring a child to adore God.
- Take disagreements to the privacy of your room.
- Show open affection.
- Love your spouse as Christ loves the Church.



The Correct Order

God
Your Spouse
Your Child
Everything Else

