



Life is busy. Generally speaking, there are dozens of tasks to accomplish on a daily basis. If you're like me, then you know how easily really important things can get pushed aside or exchanged for something else. Many times, family worship seems to be one of those things that is often negotiable, able to be easily sacrificed on the altar of convenience. One of the most helpful things to remember in these moments of temptation is the immense opportunity and privilege that I have as the head of my home to instruct my family with God's word daily. This book was a tremendous aid to that end.

Donald S. Whitney, author of *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*, compiles biblical evidence for the practice of family worship, traces the practice throughout church history, offers practical suggestions for parents (father's in particular) to conduct family worship, and recounts compelling stories from church history and the impact that family worship had on the lives of stalwart men of the faith. This is a book that I pray has a lasting impact on my own heart and home as well as our church.

I commend this book to young or older married couples, singles, and empty-nesters. In less than 70 pages, it compels the reader to undertake this most important discipline for the glory of God and for the sake of the faithfulness of future generations of Christians. I hope that you will find the stories of men and women who were faithful in this task as convicting, encouraging, and challenging as I did. This book will be well worth the 90 minutes of your life that it takes to read.

### Heart-Shepherding Helps

**Hear the Word.** Visit <http://www.gbcaz.org/series/ephesians/> and listen to the eight sermons that Scott preached from Ephesians 5:22-6:9 (Sep. 26 - Nov. 21, 2010). This series of sermons is titled "Households for Christ" and also includes a final sermon, "The Difference Jesus Makes in Submission and Authority". You will be blessed by these excellent instructions on godliness in the home.

**Take Inventory.** Discuss with your spouse or family or roommates (if possible) how well you have been prioritizing worship in your home. Consider, together, what you are doing well and how you might improve on engaging your family in the worshipful practices mentioned in *Family Worship*.

**Consider & Act.** Husbands, meditate on the following passages this month: **Ephesians 5:22-6:9; Titus 2:1-15; 1 Peter 3:1- 7.** Consider what these passages intend for you as the God-ordained head of your home. Ask your wife and children (if appropriate) to comment on your successes and failures recently in the home. Welcome their input on your influence in the home. Wives can also apply this same heart-shepherding help using the same passages listed above.

### Suggested One-Month Reading Plan (if reading it in more than one sitting is preferable)

**Week 1: Monday, the 5<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, the 11<sup>th</sup>**

Introduction - 4 pages  
Chapter 1 - 13 pages

**Week 2: Monday, the 12<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, the 18<sup>th</sup>**

Chapter 2 - 16 pages

**Week 3: Monday, the 19<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, the 25<sup>th</sup>**

Chapter 3 - 18 pages

**Week 4: Monday, the 26<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, July 7<sup>th</sup>**

Chapter 4 - 6 pages  
Chapter 5 - 9 pages