

LESSON #8 – A CHRISTIAN'S CALL TO FAMILY PRAYER

A CHRISTIAN'S CALL – Contrary to common definition, a *family* is more than a collection of human beings who share similar genetic material. A Christian family ought to teach who we are, how we are to act, what is significant, and a faithful prayer life. Family Prayer is the subject of our lesson.

THE PRAYER – Dear Lord, this day we give thanks for all that You have done for us. For many of us that means having had a Christian mother and father who taught us, very early in life, to pray. We ask that we, who are entrusted with sharing the wonders of Your love and grace, may share it willingly with those who are to come after us. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

ILLUSTRATION - People love stories about children who teach adults. God says it's supposed to be the other way. Adults are to teach children about Him, and how to pray.

SATAN'S SUMMONS – Naturally, Satan would summon us away from prayer to the Lord. He knows if he can stop a family from praying, he will have a high success rate later in life. That is why the only time many parents encourage their children to pray is for some very special events like:

<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>All too often certain types of prayers are missing.</p>	
<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

THOUGHT: We take seriously the expectations of God who expects a great deal from families. He wants no spiritual orphans.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH 1 – Take a look at these passages to see what went wrong

TEXT	QUESTION	ANSWER
1 Samuel 2: 22-25	Who messed up?	_____
	What would a Christian father have done?	_____
Genesis 37: 3-4	Who messed up?	_____
	What did it lead to?	_____
	What would a Christian father have done?	_____
1 Kings 1: 6	Who messed up?	_____
	What should he have done?	_____

For whatever reason, these men neglected to set a religious example for their sons.

FIRST APPLICATION: Today, we know that not even the most caring Pastors and the most compassionate parochial school teachers can take the place of a praying parent. If children are to learn to call on the Lord, if prayer is to be a regular part of the lives of the young ones, it will because it is a regular part of their parents' lives.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH 2 - CHRIST'S CALL - Let's take a look at these passages and see what the Lord says to His people about prayer and its importance in the family:

TEXT	WHO WAS THE PRAYING PARENT?	HOW DID THE PRAYER END UP?
1 Samuel 1: 22, 27-28	_____	_____
1 Chronicles 22: 6, 11-13	_____	_____
2 Timothy 1:1, 1:5; 3:15	_____	_____

**JEREMIAH 33:3 "CALL TO ME" GROUP BIBLE STUDIES – LEARNER'S STUDY -
LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES**

Look at these passages which follow and respond to the question:

PASSAGE

Exodus 12: 26-27
Deut 11: 18-21
Isaiah 38: 19
Ephesians 6: 4

WHAT SHOULD PARENTS TEACH THEIR CHILDREN?

THOUGHT & ILLUSTRATION - It isn't hard to set a good example for children when it comes to prayer. But we do need to set an example. On a one to ten scale rate how you think most mothers and fathers do in educating their children:

EXAMPLE	RATING:	ALWAYS	VERY OFTEN	OFTEN	SELDOM	NEVER
Teach a child how to hold a baseball bat.		ALWAYS	VERY OFTEN	OFTEN	SELDOM	NEVER
Talk about financial giving to the church.		ALWAYS	VERY OFTEN	OFTEN	SELDOM	NEVER
Spend time teaching how to ride a bicycle.		ALWAYS	VERY OFTEN	OFTEN	SELDOM	NEVER
Having a regular personal prayer time with a child.		ALWAYS	VERY OFTEN	OFTEN	SELDOM	NEVER
Teach looking both ways before crossing a street.		ALWAYS	VERY OFTEN	OFTEN	SELDOM	NEVER
Say other prayers other than, "Come Lord Jesus..."		ALWAYS	VERY OFTEN	OFTEN	SELDOM	NEVER

We dare not, as spiritual leaders within our homes, take care of the trivial and ignore teaching the fundamentals of prayer to the Lord.

THE WAY OF PRAYER – Dear Lord, be with us and our families. Help us teach our children that they can, without hesitation come to You. In Jesus' Name. Amen.