

Soul-winning *Devotions for use in* *Family Worship*

The following lessons were adapted from a series of Family School Lessons written for the Old Paths Bible Baptist Church. They have been developed as they appear here specifically for family devotions. In the typical family, the man of the house should undertake to study the lessons and lead his family in worship. It may be appropriate, however, to assign certain lessons or a part of a lesson to other capable members of the family. The more you can involve your family the better. Get different family members to help by praying, reading scripture, answering questions, and singing together as a part of your time of family worship.

The families in our church are quite diverse in the composition of their size, age, and spiritual maturity. Some families have children at home and some families do not. The children will range from tiny to teenagers. The key to getting the most out of your family worship time in general and these lessons in particular, is to be flexible. Ideally, the man of the house would study over the lesson before presenting it and tailor it especially for his family. The questions can be used to put together a more captive sort of lecture (like a mini-sermon) or they can be presented one by one for use in general family discussion. Find out what works for your family.

The topic covered in these lessons is soul-winning. Within the same eight week period that you are working on these lessons in your home, we will be teaching on this subject on Sunday nights. The subject is of such importance that whatever overlap takes place shouldn't hurt you. If you complete these lessons and attend the services faithfully you should be thoroughly familiar with the mechanics of leading a soul to Christ. Covering these subjects within your own home will also provide a great opportunity to make certain

that your family has a thorough understanding of the gospel *and has responded to its message*. Pray that you will be able to discern the spiritual condition of your children as you go over this material on salvation.

While it would be ideal for our families to conduct family worship on a daily basis, I realize that this is probably unrealistic for the average (or even above-average) family in our church. Like yours, our family is quite busy and much of the engagements that we have center around ministry and church-attendance. For these reasons we have prepared three family devotions per week. I have assumed that most families will conduct these in the evenings (thus the heading "Night 1", etc.), but obviously they could be done any time during the day that your family might set apart for this purpose.

The devotions build from one lesson to another, particularly within a given week, however, family devotions are like Bible reading; you would be much better off to miss a designated day and keep on moving forward at the next designated time than to get frustrated and quit. In addition to learning about soul-winning one of the primary goals will be to develop a consistent practice of family worship. If you miss one night (or two, or three), just pick up where you left off or move on to the next appointed lesson as if you'd missed none.

Please pray that the Lord might use these simple lessons in the context of a family devotion to both challenge and equip your family to lead souls to Christ, as well as knitting your family together with a spiritual bond as your drawn closer to the Lord through His word.

Family Devotion Night 3:

Text: Proverbs 11:30

Discussion/Preparation Questions:

How can one person’s righteous fruit help others have life?
What does personal righteousness have to do with soul-winning?
What did the Jews notice about the men that told them about Jesus in Acts 4:13?
What does it mean to win a soul?
What does God say about the soul-winner? Why is he said to be wise?

Review:

How did the early church obey 1 Peter 3:15 (see Acts 5:42)?
For older kids assign Proverbs 11:30 as a bonus verse and encourage them to quote in church.

Exercise:

Tell about a time that you helped win a soul to Christ or perhaps about when you got saved.

Pray:

Pray that your family would have the sort of righteous life that would draw others to Jesus Christ.

Personal Notes: _____

Week II: The Great Commission

Memory Verse:

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 1 Peter 3:15

Family Devotion Night 1:

Text: Matthew 28:19-20

Discussion/Preparation Questions:

Who gave this mission to the disciples?
What is the first word of this commission? What does that mean for us?

There are three parts to these instructions. Describe the three parts:

1. Teach all nations: Showing people from the Bible how to be saved. How is our church accomplishing this in all nations?
2. Baptizing them: Directing converts to be baptized in water. Can you remember someone you know being baptized?
3. Teaching them: Instructing believers how to obey Jesus. How can/does our family help to do this?

There is not only a command in these verses, but a promise. What is it? How might this promise help you to sanctify the Lord God in your hearts?

Review:

Be sure to review the verse, giving each member of the family an opportunity to quote what they know of 1 Peter 3:15.

Pray:

Pray for the missionaries that you know of that are teaching other nations.

Week III: Philip the Evangelist

Memory Verse:

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 1 Peter 3:15

Family Devotion Night 1

Text: Acts 21:8-9

Discussion/Preparation Questions:

Philip is the only man in the Bible that is referred to as an Evangelist. What was our definition of evangelism from an early devotion? How does Philip's life show us that a man can be a soul-winner even if he has a family?

- Note: This man of God was not only a soul-winner, but he had trained his children to serve the Lord (v. 9).

What were the qualifications for being chosen as "one of the seven" in Acts 6:3-5?

What do being filled with the Holy Ghost and wisdom have to do with evangelism (Acts 1:8, 4:31, Prov 11:30)?

Review:

In addition to reviewing the memory verse, review the concept of evangelism and discuss the ways that your family is involved in evangelism.

Pray:

Pray over your children that they would learn to serve God in their youth.

For Mom and Dad:

Discuss with each other privately how being filled with the Spirit should affect your home (Eph 5:18-6:4) as well as your witness.

Family Devotion Night 2

Text: Acts 8:4-5

Discussion/Preparation Questions:

What did the disciples preach when they were scattered (v. 4)?

Why is it so important that we utilize the word of God when we witness to others (Rom 10:17, Heb 4:12)?

Who was the subject of Philip's preaching (v. 5)?

Why is it so important that we preach Christ to the lost world (John 14:6, Acts 4:12)?

Philip's preaching brought about a great revival in Samaria. How might this place have been prepared for his message by the woman at the well (John 4:28-30, 39)?

Exercise:

Sometimes God uses us to plant gospel seeds even when we don't win a soul (like the woman at the well). Discuss how God used different people in your life to bring you to Christ.

Pray:

Pray for each of the lost souls on your prayer list from last week that God would use other people to prepare their hearts for you to speak to them about the gospel.

Personal Notes: _____

Family Devotion Night 3

Text: Acts 8:29-35, Romans 10:14

Discussion/Preparation Questions:

How did Philip express his readiness to give an answer of the hope that was within him when the Spirit told him to go (v. 30)?
What problem was the Ethiopian Eunuch having?
How do unbelievers hear the gospel according to Romans 10:14? (Answer: through a preacher). Preaching the gospel is when one person tells another person about Jesus Christ.
Who can preach the gospel (Mark 16:15)? (Answer: anyone.)
How was Phillip able to help the Ethiopian Eunuch with his problem? How could you help someone understand salvation?

Review:

Romans 10:15 says that the feet of the gospel preacher are beautiful. Review where the gospel is defined in scripture and what the three parts of that gospel are.

Pray:

Pray that you would hear God’s voice and follow his leadership when it comes to opportunities to tell others about Jesus.

Personal Notes: _____

Week IV: Presenting the Gospel, Part I

Memory Verse:

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 1 Peter 3:15

Family Devotion Night 1

Text: Romans 3:10-12, 23

Discussion/Preparation Questions:

What is sin (1 John 3:4)? Illustrate sin from the ten commandments (Ex 20:3, 7, 12, 16).
Who is guilty of sin (Rom 3:23, Jas 2:10)?
How does our sin separated us from God (Isa 59:2)?
What did Jesus die for on the cross (1 Cor 15:3)?
Who did Jesus die for on the cross (John 3:16, 1 Tim 1:15)?

Step One: “When presenting the gospel we must show a person that he is a sinner and that his sin separates him from God.”

Exercise: Commit Romans 3:23 to memory.

Pray:

Take the opportunity to thank God for sending His Son to die for our sins upon the cross.

Personal Notes: _____

Family Devotion Night 2

Text: Romans 6:23a, Revelation 20:14-15

Discussion/Preparation Questions:

What is the wages, or payment, for man's sin?
Man dies physically because of sin (remember Adam?), but there is a second death as well. What is the second death?
According to the Bible, what do all men deserve because of sin?
[Note: Jesus Christ spoke openly of "hell fire" in the presence of children in Matthew 18 and Mark 9.]

Review Step One: "When presenting the gospel we must show a person that he is a sinner and that his sin separates him from God."

Step Two: "When presenting the gospel we must show the sinner that there is a penalty for his sin and that penalty is death."

Exercise:

Review Romans 3:23 and make an effort to commit Romans 6:23 to memory also.

Pray:

Go over your prayer list of lost souls again. Try to pray for each person individually and remember to thank God for dying for their souls as you ask Him to continue to deal with their hearts.

Personal Notes: _____

Family Devotion Night 3

Text: 1 Peter 2:22-24, 3:18

Discussion/Preparation Questions:

Did Jesus Christ ever sin (John 8:46, 1 Pet 2:22, Heb 4:15)?
Whose sins were those in Christ's body on the cross (1 Pet 2:24)?
If the wages of sin is death and Jesus never sinned, then why did Jesus Christ die?
In 1 Peter 3:18 who is "the just"? Who is "the unjust"?
[Note: As you cover this important material be sensitive to the understanding and conviction in your own children.]

Review Step One and Two:

- "When presenting the gospel we must show a person that he is a sinner and that his sin separates him from God."
- "When presenting the gospel we must show the sinner that there is a penalty for his sin and that penalty is death."

Step Three: "When presenting the gospel we must show the sinner that Jesus Christ paid the penalty for his sin."

Exercise:

Review 1 Peter 3:18, Romans 3:23, and Romans 6:23. Encourage one another to quote one of your memory verses in church.

Pray:

Pray that the Lord would help you to memorize and practice these steps in dealing with sinners about salvation.

Personal Notes: _____

Week V: Presenting the Gospel, Part II

Memory Verse:

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 1 Peter 3:15

Family Devotion Night 1

Text: Ephesians 2:8-9

Discussion/Preparation Questions:

Can you define the terms “grace” and “faith”?
Can a person get to heaven by doing good works?
How does our Bible text contradict most religions?
What does Galatians 2:21 teach us about “working” to be saved?
Read Romans 3:28, 5:1, Galatians 2:16, and 3:24. In each of these verses what is said to “justify” (or to declare righteous) the sinner?

Review Step One, Two, and Three:

- “When presenting the gospel we must show a person that he is a sinner and that his sin separates him from God.”
- “When presenting the gospel we must show the sinner that there is a penalty for his sin and that penalty is death.”
- “When presenting the gospel we must show the sinner that Jesus Christ paid the penalty for his sin.”

Step Four:

- “When presenting the gospel we must show the sinner that salvation is by faith alone, apart from works.”

Exercise:

Discuss what you might say to a person that believes they are good enough to get to heaven by their works.

Family Devotion Night 2

Text: Acts 16:31

Discussion/Preparation Questions:

Since Jesus died for the whole world, does this mean that everyone is automatically saved?

Can a person be saved by their parents’ or their pastor’s faith?

Read James 2:19 and Romans 10:10. What is the difference between “head faith” and “heart faith”?

What does it mean to receive Jesus Christ in John 1:12?

Review Step One, Two, Three, and Four:

- “When presenting the gospel we must show a person that he is a sinner and that his sin separates him from God.”
- “When presenting the gospel we must show the sinner that there is a penalty for his sin and that penalty is death.”
- “When presenting the gospel we must show the sinner that Jesus Christ paid the penalty for his sin.”
- “When presenting the gospel we must show the sinner that salvation is by faith alone, apart from works.”

Step Five:

- When presenting the gospel we must show a person that they must receive Jesus Christ personally by faith.

Exercise:

Assign Acts 16:31 as a bonus verse. With older family members stage a “practice” witnessing encounter. Play the role of a lost person and let a family member “win you to Christ”.

Personal Notes: _____

Family Devotion Night 3

Text: Romans 10:13

Discussion/Preparation:

In Romans 10:14-15 the process of winning someone to Christ is listed in reverse order working backward to calling upon the name of the Lord. Go over this order with your family (keep in mind our earlier definitions of preaching and evangelism):

- The preacher is sent (v. 15).
- The preacher preaches (v. 15).
- The hearer hears (v. 14).
- The hearer believes (v. 14).
- The hearer calls upon the name of the Lord (v. 13-14)

Review the Soul-Winning Steps:

- “When presenting the gospel we must show a person that he is a sinner and that his sin separates him from God.”
- “When presenting the gospel we must show the sinner that there is a penalty for his sin and that penalty is death.”
- “When presenting the gospel we must show the sinner that Jesus Christ paid the penalty for his sin.”
- “When presenting the gospel we must show the sinner that salvation is by faith alone, apart from works.”
- “When presenting the gospel we must show a person that they must receive Jesus Christ personally by faith.”

Exercise:

Let each family member quote the verse(s) they have learned over the course of the devotions. Discuss ways that you feel better equipped to give an answer of the hope that is in you since you began these lessons.

Pray:

Ask the Lord that the feet of your family might be beautiful in his sight for faithfully sharing the gospel with others.

Week VI: Your Personal Testimony

Memory Verse:

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 1 Peter 3:15

Family Devotion Night 1

Note: A personal testimony consists of three parts: before you were saved, how you got saved, and since you’ve been saved. The best example of someone giving their testimony is the apostle Paul in Acts 26 (Also in Acts 22). We will cover one section of a believer’s testimony in each night’s devotion.

Text: Acts 26:4-5, 9-11

Discussion/Preparation Questions:

What was Paul’s life like before he was saved?

Is everyone’s testimony the same?

What does Ephesians 2:12 say about our spiritual condition before we were saved?

Was this true even when we were young?

When you share your testimony, what parts of your life before Christ do you think you should include? Should you leave some parts out?

Do you think our lives should be different after our salvation?

Exercise:

For family members that can read and write, have them record a brief account of their life before Christ and save it for a later lesson.

Personal Notes: _____

Week VII: Presenting the Gospel, Part 3

Memory Verse:

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 1 Peter 3:15

Note: In addition to knowing the essential steps in presenting the gospel effectively there are several ways that we can prepare ourselves to be a witness. We will look at three of these during this week's devotions.

Family Devotion Night 1

Text: John 16:8-9

One of the best preparations we can make for soul-winning is to learn to depend on the Holy Spirit.

Discussion/Preparation Questions:

Who is responsible for convicting sinner's heart of their sin?

Who is the Holy Spirit?

What does it mean to be born again (John 3:3-7)?

Who gives the new birth?

How does depending on the Holy Spirit to convict a sinner's heart take some of the pressure off of the soul-winner?

How can you better depend on the Holy Spirit in witnessing?

Review:

Review 1 Peter 3:15 as a family and go over its meaning part by part.

Pray:

Pray that you would learn to be more sensitive to the leadership and direction of the Holy Spirit as you seek to witness of Jesus Christ.

Family Devotion Night 2

Text: 1 Peter 1:23

Discussion/Preparation Questions:

We saw in John 3 how the Holy Spirit provides the new birth. In this verse what is the seed that brings about this spiritual birth?

In Romans 10:17 where is faith said to come from?

What does Hebrews 4:12 tell us about the word of God?

What does this tell us about soul-winning?

How can memorizing God's word help us be a more effective witness?

Exercise:

Give each member of the family an opportunity to quote a verse from memory that could be used in leading someone to Christ. See how many of these kinds of verses your family knows collectively. Consider quoting a verse in church in unison as a family.

Pray:

Thank God for the power of His word and ask Him to help you know and understand it more.

Personal Notes: _____

Family Devotion Night 3

Text: Romans 10:1, Ephesians 6:18-20

Discussion/Preparation Questions:

One of the great tools that we have at our disposal when it comes to soul-winning is prayer. How did Paul pray for lost souls? Do you know of anyone that you prayed for before they got saved? Do you know if anyone prayed for your salvation? What does Paul request prayer for in the Ephesians 6 passage? Should we pray for other believers to have boldness in speaking to others about the gospel?

Pray:

Take the opportunity tonight to pray for your list of lost souls. In addition to this remember to pray for other families and missionaries that are trying to be a witness. Ask the Lord to give them boldness to speak as they ought.

Personal Notes: _____

Week VIII: Reviewing the Steps

Memory Verse:

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 1 Peter 3:15

Family Devotion Night 1

Step One in Presenting the Gospel:

“When presenting the gospel we must show a person that he is a sinner and that his sin separates him from God.”

Discussion/Preparation Questions:

What is sin? Who is guilty of sinning? What has God provided us that shows us the knowledge of sin (Romans 3:20)? How can you use the law to show someone they are a sinner?

Supporting Scriptures:

Rom 3:10-12, Isa 53:6, 64:6, 59:2, Gal 3:22, Jas 2:10

Step Two in Presenting the Gospel:

“When presenting the gospel we must show the sinner that there is a penalty for his sin and that penalty is death.”

Discussion/Preparation Questions:

What is the wages of sin? What is the second death? What do we ultimately deserve because of our sin? For what did Jesus die?

Supporting Scriptures:

Romans 5:12, 6:23, Ezek 18:4, Rev 20:14-15, 21:8

Week IX: Eternal Security

Memory Verse:

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 1 Peter 3:15

Note: Once you know that you are saved, you should know that you are saved forever. If you can lead a soul to Christ you should be able to explain why they can not lose that salvation.

Family Devotion Night 1

Text: 1 John 5:10-13, Hebrews 13:5

Discussion/Preparation Questions:

How long does the life that Jesus gives us last?
When do we receive everlasting life (John 5:24, 6:47)?
How long will Jesus be with you once you receive him?
If you believe on the name of the Son of God what should you know?

Exercise:

Discuss how to deal with doubts about salvation. Review the scriptures that explain that salvation is apart from works. If works can not earn salvation, how could they possibly lose salvation?

Personal Notes: _____

Family Devotion Night 2

Text: John 10:27-29

Discussion/Preparation Questions:

What kind of life does Jesus give His sheep?
Can they ever perish (or go to hell)?
How did Jesus describe the believer's position in this passage?
Who do you know that is stronger than God?

Exercise:

Take a small object (anything will do) that might represent the believer. Then take the strongest member in the family and let him clasp the object between his two hands. One by one, make an effort to remove the object from his hands. Was it difficult? How much harder might it be to take a believer out of the hands of God and Jesus?

Something Else to Consider:

Not only are you said to be in Jesus' hand, you are also said to be a part of His body (1 Cor 12:27, Eph 5:30). Do you think Jesus Christ would remove a part of His own body?

Personal Notes: _____

