

Listening to God at Home

S. R. Deut. 4:7 – 10

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Intro. Three fundamental ingredients to vibrant spiritual life, both individually and congregationally are:

- Disciplined Bible Reading;
- Fervent Prayers, and a
- Soul Searching Outlook.
- These are portrayed by congregations with:
 - **Measurable Bible Reading Goals** for each member of the congregation
 - **Biblically Modeled Prayers for Each Member** by Godly Men
 - Mobilization of every member involved in **Visitation Groups** that serve the needs of Truth Seekers

- A. God, our Creator, seeks to communicate to us about Himself, our relationship with Him, our family, social, business and recreational pursuits.
 1. The Bible is the most valuable book one could ever read. Only book many had in past.
 2. It is the friend of all who seek to know God.
 3. It helps us see things from God's perspective.
- B. This discussion will evaluate the blessing of Bible reading and meditation, both for the individual and the family.
 1. Deut. 4:7 – 10;
 2. Psalm 78:4 - 7
- C. "There is more guilt amassed upon the consciences of Christian parents regarding their failure on this issue than hardly anything else. Whenever the subject surfaces men cringe at it, women harp on it and children shudder at it." Bruce Wilkinson, editor of the Daily Walk
 1. Major obstacles to family or personal reading time:
 2. Distinction between Parental Bible Lectures and Family Bible Reading
 3. Lack of male leadership (Eph. 6:4)

I. WHAT FAMILY BIBLE READINGS ARE NOT.

- A. Bible class Monday through Friday.
- B. Parent Becomes a Preacher.
- C. A chance for parents to verbally discipline their children.
- D. The above are reproofs, rather than Bible readings and devotion to God.

II. FAMILY TIME DEVOTED TO GOD AND HIS WORD

- A. Old Testament precedent (**Deut. 6:4-9; 11:18 - 21**)
- B. **Five Ingredients of Successful Family Devotions:**

1. Regularly Scheduled Activity
2. Requires participation of the Majority of Family Members.
3. Meaningful Interaction -
4. Centered around the Bible - we are listening to God speak to us -
5. Two part goal:
 - a. Building godly character (who you are)
 - b. Building godly habits (what you do)

III. SEVEN REASONS WHY PARENTS DON'T HAVE FAMILY DEVOTIONS.

- A. A perceived lack of time and energy.
- B. My children don't want them.
- C. My spouse doesn't want them.
- D. My children's ages are just too varied.
- E. We tried it before and failed a dozen times.
- F. I don't know the Bible well enough.
- G. I don't know what to do, say or teach.

Conclusion:

- A. Several churches implement measurable methods to encourage daily Bible reading.
 1. At the end of the Bible study period each teacher asks for an indication of all who were daily Bible readers or listeners.
 2. The goal is 100% participation in each class.
 3. Generally the youngest classes have the highest percentage.
 4. Each of us can read a verse a day. Will you?
 5. Motivation is mutual encouragement, not an effort to punch your card or impress others.
- B. Average Church Attender:
 1. Do you believe the Bible? Yes
 2. Do you believe it contains God's truth? Yes
 3. Do you read it everyday? Well, I don't have enough time.
 4. Your practice expresses a lack of conviction that the Bible is really that relevant and meaningful to you. (2 Peter 1:3)