

## Household Study and Worship

### Scott Brown

Our primary teaching format is to engage the whole congregation in study of the passage coming up in our preaching schedule on Sundays. We hope that everyone reads the passage each day in their homes and memorizes a portion of it as a household.

An effective way to teach it to your family is to read it a few times and ask them what each section means. Then, you take some time to deepen the practical applications and sum them up at the end of the week. Some simple questions you can ask to get to the meaning: "what do you learn about God", "what do you learn about man", "what do you learn about yourself", "what do you learn about evangelism"...

But, the question I like the best is: "what wondrous things did you observe from God's law'. This, I have found, creates a thirst and a love and a growing appreciation for the beauty, power and truth of scripture.

We have many golden opportunities at Trinity. One of them is the (rare) privilege of sitting with our children in church, hearing the teaching of God's Word together. In doing so, we can easily enable heads of households to take a deeper step to be the provider of theological education.

Heads of households are really the ones responsible by God's direct command, to provide this foundation for your children. This said, I would like to also say that it is easy to squander this opportunity. Here are some suggestions for making the most of the time in our studies.

1. Read the passage of scripture we will study at least 3 times during the week before the teaching.
2. Memorize (as a family) key verses in the text. I would suggest one verse or section of each chapter.
3. Identify, the top 5 theological ideas in the book we are studying and make sure your whole family understands the word meanings and their implications for everyday life.
4. Sing the songs together in family worship, that we will be singing the upcoming Sunday. This will provide an opportunity to teach your children how to worship God, and how to understand the ideas in the songs. We are strategically encouraging you not to abandon the old hymns, primarily because they state important theological principles in a crisp and beautiful way that -we believe - will go on to strengthen them throughout their lives. Many of the newer choruses have a much greater focus on "me"... my feelings toward God, my needs, my situation. Many of these choruses are valuable, and we intend to use them, but the great hymns more clearly focus on God Himself. We have not abandoned the newer choruses but we want to use the ones which find their focus on God. This is a very large subject that we do not have time on this page to develop, but the essence of the idea is that focus on God is the most important objective of worship.