

The Gathering Growth Guide

The Big Oh! Week 4 // Pastoring parents

Phil Baucom

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Matthew 4:19

Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

COMMUNITY GROUPS ARE BACK!! THERE IS STILL TIME TO SIGN UP ON THE GROUPS PAGE AT THEGATHERINGNOW.COM OR AT THE CONNECTION DESK ON SUNDAYS. THERE IS 1 WEEK LEFT IN OUR 3 WEEK TRIAL PERIOD.

Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

Message Summary

This week, Phil brought our 4 week series – “The Big Oh!” – to an end by challenging parents to see the value (and responsibility) of their roles as pastors in the lives of their children. Most families don't practice family worship for a lot of reasons, maybe a sense of failure or the grief of not having a “traditional” family, but Phil addressed a lot of our objections when he answered the following 3 questions:

1. **What does the Bible say about family worship?** Probably the most compelling passage of Scripture about family worship is found in Deuteronomy 6:4-9. Not only does God clearly address the need for one generation to teach the next generation, but he lays the responsibility for that teaching firmly on the parents. The home is where we “lie down” and “sit” and “get up.” This is where pastoring begins.
2. **Why should I practice family worship?** The reality is that if we don't shape our children's souls, someone – or something – will, and there is a growing risk of the forces that shape them not being holy and Jesus-centered like you are. Why would any loving parent want to gamble with their children's souls like that?
3. **What does it look like and how do I start?** Family worship involves being intentional about incorporating the following disciplines into your family's regular routine: prayer for and with each other, reading and discussing the Bible, and singing and worshiping Jesus together (yes, out loud even if you can't sing well!).

Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- What has been your personal experience (as a child, a parent or both) in the area of family worship?
- Share some of your thoughts and/or reactions to the idea of parents “pastoring” their families? Have you ever seen or heard of this before?
- Looking back over your notes from the past week, was there anything that confused you or really caught your attention?
- What are some of the benefits that could come from a family committing themselves to intentional, regular family worship?
- What are some of the biggest obstacles to you beginning to practice intentional, regular family worship?
- Taking away time at school, time at work and time sleeping, most children spend around 3,000 hours at home around the family each year. In that same year, they may spend 100 in church. Who has the greater opportunity for lasting impact? Discuss your answers.