

Paul H. Dixon  
Family Worship in a Faltering World  
June 23, 1980

Unedited Transcript

Paul H. Dixon:

Take your Bibles if you will and turn with me to the Book of Deuteronomy chapter six. I like to start with the sixth verse and speak this morning on family worship in a faltering world. Family worship a faltering world.

Paul H. Dixon:

Deuteronomy 6:6-9. And these words, which I command thee this day shall be in thine heart. And thou shall teach them diligently unto thy children and shall talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down and when thou rises up. And thou shall bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes and thou shall write them upon the posts of thy house and on thy gates.

Paul H. Dixon:

A radio preacher polled his listening audience with this question, "What subject would you most desire that I preach on, that I deal with on my radio broadcast?" And the overwhelming response was we want to hear preaching on the home. I don't have to tell you that today, out of all the subjects that preachers are preaching on the one that most, most people want to hear above all others is preaching on the family and preaching on the home.

Paul H. Dixon:

That's why Bill Gothard can have his basic youth conflicts. And I went to Chicago last year and they had 12,000 people there for five days. People paying money, living in motels, sitting there and listening to a man with an overhead projector for 30 some hours talk about interpersonal relationships in the home and relationships to God. You know why all those people are going to hear that man? Because he is talking about the home. You say, "Preacher, do you agree with everything Bill Gothard says?" Well, that's not the purpose of this, but I would like to say this, I don't know of any man that I could listen to for 30 hours or more and agree with everything he said, and listen to listen to 30 hours of my own tapes.

Paul H. Dixon:

And all the rest of you are the same way. And I think that the man is saying something today and he has something to contribute. And I'm like this by anybody. I can listen to most people, almost everyone has something to say to me, almost everyone has something to contribute to my life. And I want to learn from everyone, everyone who can teach me and that I can and learn from. Why is it that thousands of people will go to hear Tim LaHaye and Howard Hendricks and all these others are having their family life seminars today and pay money for it because they want to hear things about the home.

Paul H. Dixon:

Any preacher, any pastor can announce that on Sunday night they will be having a series on the home and have the largest crowds of the year on those particular Sunday nights, because people are concerned about the home. Each year as the number of divorce couples grows larger. Last year, one million couples for the first time in America, one million couples were divorced in 1974. In 1973, 918,000 couples were divorced. It's no wonder that people are concerned about the home. I'm here and I'm

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confident that these missionaries are concerned about their homes. I know that you pastors are concerned about your homes. We're concerned about the homes of other people and those we minister to, but we're concerned about ours, we'd better be.

Paul H. Dixon:

In fact, fellows, I think we'd better get down to business, you'd be surprised how many wives I've had come to me saying, "How do you get your husband, who teaches all these people the Word of God to teach you the Word of God?" We have a responsibility men, standing in these pulpits, standing in these classrooms, teaching the Bible to everyone else, to teach the Bible to our wives, to teach the Bible to our children. It's commanded in the Word of God. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 says, we are to diligently teach our children by word and by example. In Proverbs 6:20 and 21, my son keep thy father's commandment and forsake not the law of thy mother. Bind them continually upon thine heart and tie them about thy neck.

Paul H. Dixon:

Quite obviously, this injunction goes beyond mere human commands. And it's talking about the precepts of God that we're to be teaching in our family. Surely, somehow we have to come up with a regular, systematic plan of instruction where we're going to be giving out the Bible in our families. In Ephesians 6:4, the Word of God talks about teaching our children in the nurture and admonition. In fact, I think we ought to turn to it. Turn Ephesians 6:4. I want you to mark this in your Bible if you've never marked it before. Ye fathers provoke not your children in wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. The word nurture has to do with teaching by deed. The word admonition has to do with teaching by word.

Paul H. Dixon:

It is our responsibility, men, women to discipline our children. I believe you ought to spank kids. I believe you ought to have rules in your home. I believe we need to train our families through outward discipline by deed, but that's not enough. There also needs to be discipline by word. There needs to be training by word. And I think sometimes we lose sight of what discipline is all about. The ultimate goal of all discipline is eventually self discipline. What we're trying to do is train that child so he can become a servant of God. And so he will know what the precepts of the Word of God have to say to him and so he can apply them to his life. Family worship is not only commanded by the word, it's compelled by the world we live in. The public schools, television, radio, the newspapers, magazines constantly delude our families with teaching that is anti God.

Paul H. Dixon:

The situation grows worse every day and we know it. And what we have to do is like Nehemiah in chapter three, is build walls around our homes. And the only way that we can build these walls around our homes is through the Word of God. But you know what the average Christian parents doing today? The average Christian parents taking their kids to church and most of the people here this morning, I'm sure would be those who'd go Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday night, every night to the revival meeting, the missionary conference about the Bible conference and look folks I'm for that. But we usually park our kids in the pew and we say, "Okay, now you listen." And so we're saying, "Pastor, missionary, evangelist, Bible teacher, you train our kids. You teach them the Bible." And then we even go one step beyond that and when things start going tough, we go up to the pastor and we say, "Now, pastor, we need a youth director in our church.

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Paul H. Dixon:

Or we're having problems with our young people and so we need to call a full time youth director. And so he can help us out with our problems. And so we call them the youth director and what we're saying is, and don't get me wrong. I'm for youth directors. But what we're saying is, "Okay, youth directors, now you do the job. Pastor, you do the job. Youth director, you do the job. Sunday school teacher, you train our children in the Bible." And then we start our Christian school and don't get me wrong, I'm for Christian schools, thank God for this one. Thank God for every Christian elementary school, high school, college, Bible school, seminary. But we put them in the Christian school, and we say, "All of you Christian school teachers now you train our children in the things of God." Wait a minute, that's not what Deuteronomy 6:6-7 said.

Paul H. Dixon:

God, didn't say all of you other people, you train the kids. He said, "You parents, you Christian parents who've received the Word of God and have applied it to your life, you have a responsibility to diligently teach your children." And the biggest problem is, we're leaving the job up to the church and the schools and we're dropping the ball when we need to be fulfilling the responsibility ourselves. But for many people, they desire to do this. They just don't have the design. They purpose, they purpose, they plan. They say, "I want to have a family altar. We're going to study the Bible. We're going to read the Bible. We're going to pray in our home," but they don't have a plan. For years, I've preached on the importance of family altars.

Paul H. Dixon:

I go to church and every once in a while, not every meeting, but frequently, I'll preach one entire service on the importance of studying the Bible and having family altar and I'll give an invitation and couples will come forward. And I always feel a responsibility. You fellows, when you get out and preach, it's one thing to tell people to do something, it's something else to give them the tools so they can do it. We tell people, "Go out and win souls," but they don't know how. They want to, but they don't know how. We tell people, "Okay, you have a quiet time," but they don't know how.

Paul H. Dixon:

We say, "Okay, have family worship," but they don't know how. I'd get them together, I'd tell them how. I'd tell them how I was doing it. Though just one problem, I didn't like how I was doing it. Because I knew down deep inside that I wasn't doing what Deuteronomy 6:6-7. Oh, I'd tell them about Richard De Haan's Daily Bread. Don't get me wrong, I'm for Richard De Haan's Daily Bread, but that's not Deuteronomy 6:6-7. I'd tell them about the Bible story books, that's great, but that's not Deuteronomy 6:6-7. I'd tell him about how we would dramatize Bible stories when Scott was a little boy, but that's not Deuteronomy 6:6-7. Well, I mean, this thing started eating on me.

Paul H. Dixon:

Back last summer, I took my old college doctrine's book and I took my family and for the entire summer, I taught the doctrine of God to my family and it was profitable. But I went home and I still said, "Now, where am I going to go from here? What's the next step?" I still wasn't satisfied. I started working on a plan to systematically study the Word of God. And the plan that I'm going to give you right now, centers on the New Testament. It can be expanded to the Old Testament, but it centers on the New Testament.

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I'm not saying that this is the only plan, but I do believe it is a plan. And perhaps God can use it in your life.

Paul H. Dixon:

I would say the first thing you have to do, if you want to really study the Bible as a family, you have to make it a priority. If you are not going to make it a priority, forget it. You're going to have to say all of the things at school and at work and at church and everything else, somehow we're going to look at it, we're going to see what the schedule is. And a priority on this list is meeting together as a family, studying the Word of God.

Paul H. Dixon:

I read Matthew Henry. I challenged myself last year to read through Matthew Henry's Commentaries. I didn't know what I was doing. Did you ever try and read that, it's great reading, but I didn't make it. I'm still working on it. You'll never make it in a year. But I read that introduction. Well, I'll tell you it's worth buying Matthew Henry's Commentaries just for the introduction. Matthew Henry says, and this what he said. He said, "In our home, we study to buy two hours every day." Isn't that's shameless. Two hours every day. He said my daddy he'd call the family and he'd sit us down and he'd teach us the Bible. He said, "He made us take notes." He said, "I'd be writing all the time." He said, "What you see in Matthew Henry's Commentary, basically I received at my father's knee." Can you imagine that?

Paul H. Dixon:

A father who two hours a day, would systematically teach the Word of God to his family? Well, I doubt that any of us are going to be able to spend two hours a day. But I am going to recommend that if you want to, in a measure, fulfill Deuteronomy 6:6-7 set aside 20 minutes a day. 20 minutes a day, prime time, a goal. We're going to diligently study the Bible. Now we're ready to consider specifics. Choose a small book of the New Testament to be studied first.

Paul H. Dixon:

I would like to recommend Philippians. You say, "Why Philippians?" Number one, because it's an excellent book. Number two, psychologically, if you'll use this plan, you'll finish the Book of Philippians, studying it as a family in a month's time. The goal in this study is to study a chapter of the Bible a week. And there's just something psychological to be able to look at each other in the family and say, "Hey, we finished a whole book of the New Testament. Don't start with Matthew. It'll take you seven months to get finished and you'll probably never finish it. But if you'll start with Philippians, you're on your way. Start with a small book of the New Testament. Sit down and choose two verses a week from the Book of Philippians to be memorized by every member of the family.

Paul H. Dixon:

In other words you're studying four chapters in Philippians. You're studying a chapter a week. You're going to be memorizing eight verses from the Book of Philippians by the time you're finished. You don't have to take two from every chapter, you may end up taking eight from one chapter. But go through it, pick out the eight verses and assign these verses to every member of the family. Check up on them there to memorize two a week and have all eight of them finished by the end of the month. Be careful in selecting these verses that they're significant verses, they're important verses in the book, your children's ages will influence your selection. Some verses would be too difficult for younger children to

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memorize. Now, each person is going to be working on these verses in private. When the family meets for Bible study and prayer, they're going to be practicing saying these verses together.

Paul H. Dixon:

Of course, at the end of the month, every member of the family will be able to say the eight verses. Now, the next thing you're going to do is encourage every member of the family to have his private devotions from the Book of Philippians. Begin to see what's going to happen here. Everything is zeroed in on the Book of Philippians. Private devotions for that month in the Book of Philippians. You say, "How are they going to have private devotions?" All right, make sure everyone has a readable Bible. Did you get that? A readable Bible? In other words, big print. Most of the Bibles that they're selling as children's Bibles shouldn't be sold at all. The print is so small that the average kid can't even see it. The only thing that makes it a children's Bible is a kid's picture on the front. Buy a Bible, you don't have to buy them an expensive leather bound Bible, buy them an inexpensive hard back skull field, but that has large print.

Paul H. Dixon:

Make sure they have a readable Bible. Number two, every member of the family is going to have a notebook. Boy is this notebook important, good notebook. You're going to keep your list of memorized versus in your notebook. All of your private devotional thoughts will be put in the notebook. What you learn in family Bible study will go into that notebook. You're going to encourage the children to carry at least some of the paper, or all that notebook to church. And when the pastor preaches they're to take notes on the pastor's sermon, and it's all going to go into the notebook.

Paul H. Dixon:

Every type of Bible study that's fed into that life is all going to go into the notebook. These notebooks will be kept for life, hopefully. So make sure that you make a reasonable enough investment that they'll withstand the years. With Bible, notebook, pen in hand, every individual is going to have his private meeting with God. Mark 1:35 says, in the morning, rising up or great while before day Christ went out and departed into a solitary place and there prayed. Every member of the family's going to have his place there at home. And Johnny's going to go in and Judy and mom and dad privately, and you're going to sit down. And the first thing you do is you open your Bible, the first chapter of Philippians.

Paul H. Dixon:

Then you bow your head. And you say, "Lord, I can't understand this unless you give me the understanding." You ask God for help. And then you read the whole first chapter of Philippians. After you've read the entire chapter, you go back and you take all about four verses. You see, Philippians has 30 verses in the first chapter. So you're going to have to average about four verses a day to finish it in a week. Now make sure every member of the family is studying the same verses. If we're studying Philippians 1:1-4, and it's Monday, every member of the family is having his private devotions and he's zeroing in, he's reading the whole chapter, but he is zeroing in on Philippians 1:1-4. And he says, "What does that say to me?" And he takes this notebook and he writes at the top, Philippians 1:1-4 and he puts the date. And in three or four sentences, he writes down what that says to him.

Paul H. Dixon:

Comes back the next day, reads the whole chapter again. But he's assigned five through eight. And he looks at five through eight. And he says, "What does that say to me?" And he writes it down. And the

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result of this meditation, he's chewing it up. He's saying, "How can I make this work in my life?" It's not just casually going through these verses and saying, "Now I've had my quiet time," and close our Bible. We don't know what it says, but we're making it effective in our lives. We're meditating on it.

Paul H. Dixon:

That's what Joshua 1:8 is saying to us. You're spending one week in Philippians chapter one. Children will need direction as to what verses will be studied. Everyone's studying the same verses. And as they're going through these verses, I don't want you to miss this, this is a very important part of it, every member of the family is encouraged to note any word he doesn't understand. Most of us read our Bibles and there are hundreds of words that we read and we have absolutely no idea what they mean. It's not that we don't know what the Greek meaning is, we don't know what the English meaning is.

Paul H. Dixon:

What does the word righteousness mean in Philippians one? What does the word contention mean in Philippians one? What does the word old English word strait, S-T-R-A-I-T mean in that first chapter? The word conversation. Do we understand what Paul is saying when he states, some preach of good will. And he says, "How can something be an evident token of perdition?" What is an evident token of perdition?

Paul H. Dixon:

We're noting, every member of the family, "Here's a word that I don't understand. Here is a part of a verse that I don't understand." And you're putting it in your notebook. I'd like to recommend that every household have a good English dictionary and every household invests in an Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words by W. E. Vine. You say, "I'm not a Greek student." You don't have to be a Greek student to use this. Would say out of all the tools that I would recommend, that would be number one, that every family ought to have, W. E. Vine's book an Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words. You can look up those words that you don't understand. Now, they're going to be some words that are not easy to define. They're going to be numerous verses that are difficult to understand, and they're going to be discussed as a family. And I can anticipate some parents sitting out there right now and you're visiting.

Paul H. Dixon:

And you're not a preacher and you're not in Bible school. And you're saying, "What in the world are you talking about? You want me to tell my kids to come up with words and verse that they don't understand? And then we go to family Bible study and they say, "Hey, here's a word, what's that mean? And I don't don't know what it means. I'm going to be embarrassed to tears." Hey, you know [inaudible 00:21:53] one of the greatest things that could happen in your house? Is to have your kid ask you a question and you don't know what the answer is.

Paul H. Dixon:

Be super, be a real learning experience for both of you. He'll find out what you've known all along that you don't have all the answers, and you just tell him so. "Hey, I don't know what that means. But I'll tell you what we're going to do. We're going to dig this out together." Thus is good for preachers to have people come up to us after services and ask us questions. And don't ever be afraid to say, "Well, I don't know what that means." That all of us good every once in a while to get nailed to the wall by somebody.

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Be willing to admit it, but be willing to put the time into it, to dig it out and try to find out what it is saying. Now I want to review. I want us to review. I've listed them like this. If you haven't listed them this way, maybe you'd want to.

Paul H. Dixon:

Number one, we're establishing the priority of Bible's study in the home. Number two, we've chosen the book of Philippians to study. Number three, we've selected two verses to be memorized each week from Philippians. Number four, we've purchased readable Bibles and study notebooks for every member of the family. Number five, we've trained each one in how to have private devotions. Number six, we finished the first chapter of Philippians in one week. And then number seven, we've noted all words and verses that are not understood. Now we're ready to meet as a family. And I don't know what's best. The best time for you to meet in your house. It may be before you go to bed, it may at breakfast time, it may be at supper time, but whatever fits into your household, you're going to meet at this time on a general basis for family Bible study.

Paul H. Dixon:

Now, there will be times when you'll need to make some adjustments as to time because of schedules, but overall, you're going to be consistent. You're going to sit down together. You're going to discuss it. You're going to make a decision, what time is best for us as a family. And you're going to take the first chapter of Philippians and guess what you're going to do? You're going to read it. Boy, I was training a family. We recently had another family with us on vacation for a week. And so I took the wife and three little boys, the dad was still back working and Pat and Scott and I were going through this. And so I said, "Well, you're going to do it with us." And man, they're working on their verses and everything. And we're practicing. And the little kid came up. He says, "Hey," he says, "Mama, when in the world are we going to leave John 16?"

Paul H. Dixon:

We're reading John 16 every morning for devotions. We're memorizing in John 16. We're having fire family Bible study in John 16. He got the message. We're trying to saturate ourselves that week with the 16th chapter of the gospel of John. I believe that kid probably knows John 16 now like he never knew it before. You're going to sit down as a family and you're going to read Philippians one. And you're going to go back and you say, "Johnny, what'd you get out of the word this morning?" And he's going to read it out of his notebook what he got in private devotions. "Judy, what'd you get this morning?" And she reads and mom shares and dad shares. And you pull your thoughts and the blessings that you received in private devotions from Philippians 1:1-4. And you talk about those words that you can't understand. And those verses that are difficult to understand.

Paul H. Dixon:

You're going to have a prayer time together. And I'll talk about that a little bit later. Now I'm sure that some of you are saying right now, "I just don't think I could do this because I just don't know enough about the Bible." I'd like to give you some suggestions. If you're studying Philippians, go out and buy an inexpensive paperback commentary on the Book of Philippians. Let me recommend one. For a dollar and a quarter you can buy, Be Joyful by Warren Wiersbe. That's the best dollar and a quarter you'll ever spend on Philippians. And you can probably find an expensive paperback commentary on every New Testament book that you study. Go out and buy that, and it'll help you to teach it to your family. I am

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recommending every place I go that every family have a copy of Warren Wiersbe's New Testament notes.

Paul H. Dixon:

I was in his old church, Calvary Baptist in Covington for meetings a few weeks ago, back in May. And Mrs. Estep told me, she said, "We are receiving so many requests for those sets." She said, "We don't know why, but there's suddenly been explosion of requests for Warren Wiersbe's New Testament notes." I said, "I think I know why. I am recommending that every family in America have a set of those notes." It'll help you to teach Philippians. Let me tell you how to order them. It'll cost you \$5. \$5, can you bleed a big set of mini graph notes on New Testament, \$5, your right to Calvary Baptist Church, West Southern and Tibbatts, T-I-B-B-A-T-T-S. Covington, Kentucky 41015.

Paul H. Dixon:

Calvary Baptist Church, West Southern and Tibbatts, Covington, Kentucky 41015. If you like, you can also order a set of his Old Testament notes, but we're especially recommending the New Testament notes. Build a family library, a paperback commentary in every book you study. The set of these notes, vines book, a good concordance, a good Bible dictionary, a good Bible handbook, acquaint your family with these tools and how to use them. And some of you're saying, "I have younger kids. How does this work with the little kids?"

Paul H. Dixon:

Can everyone follow this, please? Let's stop selling these little kids short. Boy in America, we're supposedly so far advanced, but if you begin to study 100 and 150 years ago, kids 150 years ago probably knew more by the time they were six years old than most kids who graduate from junior high school in our day, they didn't sell them short. I get so tired of this Sunday school material and they teach them how to cut out things and color and... Listen, we need to start teaching some doctrine in our Sunday schools.

Paul H. Dixon:

We need to get some kind of publishing houses that believe that these kids have some minds and we'll give a challenge to these kids when they're primaries and when they're beginners, and when they're juniors. We need to teach us some doctrine in our Sunday school. And I'll tell you what, those little kids who can't read yet to memorize better than you can. Oh, they can memorize. Boy, those little kids they'll work at it. I couldn't get over these little guys that we had with us on vacation, man, they're sitting out there with their Bibles and the three brothers. I think one was 11 and one was six and the other was eight.

Paul H. Dixon:

And they're practicing on each other and saying it back and forth. What a thrill? The little ones can memorize those verses when they... Have them in your family time even if they can't read, when they can read, they'll just be assimilated into the program. Oh, you say, where do we go after we finish Philippians? Go to Colossians. You've studied Philippians in a month, why don't you take another small book of the New Testament? And this is certainly optional, but take another small book of the New Testament the next month. And by the third month, why don't you take one of the gospels? I would

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recommend the gospel of John. I have never been so thrilled in Bible study as I have the last 17 weeks in the gospel of John.

Paul H. Dixon:

Unbelievable. 21 chapters in this book, it'll take you 21 weeks to finish it. But what you'll have after those 21 weeks, don't take the gospels consecutively. I just came up with this. I think this way we're going to go. We took about seven or eight books of the small books first. And then we moved to John. We should have moved to John sooner, but I'd say after a couple small books to wet your appetite and to kind of get this thing in gear and work out the rough places, then moved of the long one, the gospel of John.

Paul H. Dixon:

And after you finish the gospel, I wouldn't take too long ones together. I'd move to another short one. Take John's epistles. See? And after you finish his epistles, take the Book of Revelation. What a thrill? Suddenly see how what Paul is saying in the gospel, dovetails what he's saying in the epistles and that'll all carries over into the Book of Revelation, and you'll be studying everything that John wrote right together. It'll help you as a family. It'll help you as a person. In five years, you will complete the New Testament. Five years you'll finish the New Testament with this method. You will have memorized 520 verses as a family.

Paul H. Dixon:

And I believe that you'll find some who will really apply themselves, will probably know more about the New Testament than many of our young people who graduate from our Bible schools. And we will have done it in the home and that's where God says it's supposed to be done in Deuteronomy 6:6-7. It's a plan. It's not the only plan, but at least it's a plan. Upon completing the New Testament, perhaps you'd like to go the Old Testament. Now, maybe you'd like to take your children through the New Testament two or three times, depending on what age you start them. With us, we'll just finish the New Testament before my son will be graduating from high school. You say, "But what about after all the kids are gone?" Where in the world did we ever get the idea that we're doing this all for the kids?

Paul H. Dixon:

One of the biggest mistakes that's being made in the American home is that our homes are child centered instead of husband, wife centered. And we do everything for the kids. And then we read in the newspaper people have been married 25 years and they get a divorce. And we say, "How can people put up with each other for 25 years and then finally throw in the towel? Just doesn't make sense." Sure it does. They lived for the kids for 25 years. And then the kids got out of the house and they looked at each other and said, "Who are you?" They didn't know each other. All these years they'd been pouring themselves into the kids and they don't know how to get along with each other. Do you want to be a good father? Let me tell you how to be a good father. Be a great husband. You want to be a good mother? Be a great wife.

Paul H. Dixon:

You ask any teenager where he would rather have mom and dad love each other or love him or her, that is the teenager. And that teenager will say I would far rather that mom and dad love each other. We need to have a husband, wife centered relationship in that home and not a parent child relationship.

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And we're not just having family Bible study so we can inform our kids. Listen, dad, you need it and I need it. I need to do this because I need all the study I can get. Man, I'll tell you, I have learned just as much in the studies as we've been in them for about a year now, as my son has. My wife needs this and your wife needs it and the whole family needs it. And when the kids are gone, you stay at it, husband and wife, mom and dad staying in the Word of God, studying the Bible together, memorizing the Word of God together.

Paul H. Dixon:

And the kids come back and they're married now and the guy's saying to his wife, he says, "You're going to have an experience tonight because you're going to sit on a family Bible study like you've never attended before. When I was a kid, my mom and dad used to train me the Bible. And would you believe that they're still training each other in the Bible?" And then they come back five years later, they're bringing the grandkids and they're saying to the grandkids, "And you know what we do at home? You know how we train you in the Bible? You're going to see that grandma and granddaddy do the same thing because that's what they did with us when we were at home." That's a kind of consistency and faithfulness generation from generation that we need in Christianity today.

Paul H. Dixon:

Let's review. I'm souled on review. Let's go back over it, make sure you have it. We're talking about family Bible study now. Incidentally, I left out of portion I have to throw in because there's so many pastors here. Back in February, worry, I've been souled on this thing. When I get excited about something, I talk about it. And so every pastor I'm with, I have something else I'm working on. I am working on a discipleship program one on one that is structured, that shows you how to take a new convert or a weak Christian, and give him to one of your deacons or one of your Sunday school teachers. And they put something in their hands so they can train them systematically in the Word of God. I believe there's a great need for this today. Something that's structured. And I was sharing this with a pastor and he said, "Would you take all of our people in Sunday school and give it to them?"

Paul H. Dixon:

Well, I said, "I've never done it publicly before, but if you want me to do it, I'll do it." So he got all the adults and the young people together in combined Sunday school rally and he had them together. That pastor got so excited. He said, "I'm going to implement this in my church program." He said, "I'm going to preach once a week from the chapter that my people are studying at home."

Paul H. Dixon:

He said, "I'm going to see to it that any tools that my people need..." He said, "I'm going to write to that Calvary Baptist Church that I'm going to order about 100 copies of Warren Wiersbe's New Testament notes. I'm going to have them right here at the church so my people can buy them with the church. They don't have to write off, they can get them right here from us." He said, "I'm going to go down the bookstore and I'm going to get as many of those Be Joyfuls as my people want while they're studying Philippians so they can get them right here at the church." He said, "I'm going to help them pick out verses to memorize." He said, "We're going to dovetail this whole thing together." That's what it's all about.

Paul H. Dixon:

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The life from the family and the church and it's all are working together. You can make this part of your church program. You can encourage it. You can teach it. Well, let's go back. I got a bunch of letters. I don't know whether you evangelist ever had this happen or not. But this event, I like this guy, this young fellow first church he's ever pastored, he's doing a great job. I went in that church they had 80 prospects. Now at the first night, they said, "Here are the 80 people that we're praying for trying to reach," I couldn't believe what God did.

Paul H. Dixon:

The Wednesday night after the meeting closed, I think he waited a couple weeks. He gave all the people paper and asked them to write me a letter, write then a note on what God had done in their lives that week of meetings. I bill that's the only time I've ever had that done. It thrilled me. I got a big envelope with all these slips of paper cramped into it. And you talk about having a field day, man, I'd sit there on those couch at couch, and I'd read that and I'd read, how what God was saved or how the Lord worked in my life or what... You know what most people said? 75% of them, they said out the whole week, it was that Sunday school time and that thing on family Bible study that helped us the most.

Paul H. Dixon:

One man said, "Would you believe I had to go out and buy eight notebooks Monday." Let's review. Number one, use a specific time for study. Number two, reading the chapter together. Number three, sharing individual notes from private devotions. Number four, discussing difficult words and verses. Number five, you're explaining and reviewing the memorized verses. And I emphasize this, explain those verses they're memorizing. They can memorize those words and have absolutely no idea what that verse is saying. Explain it and review the memorized verses. Number six, using Bible study helps.

Paul H. Dixon:

Number seven, we're finishing Philippians in four weeks. Number eight, we're moving on to the next book for study. Now another very important part of family worship in a faltering world is prayer. Many years ago, someone suggested to me the following format for a prayer list. And I believe you can use this as a family and you can also use it as an individual and I'd like share it with you. A prayer list. Monday, you pray for the unsaved. One of the best ways to motivate every family member's involvement in evangelism is to make them conscious of lost souls. There's no better way, no better method of doing this than through prayer. And so on Monday in the notebook, you list the unsaved that you're praying for. On Tuesday, you pray for the brethren, the friends in Christ, their buddies, neighbors, people at church, Christians, you pray for the Christians on Tuesday.

Paul H. Dixon:

John 13 34 35 says a new commandment I give unto you that you love one another. It goes on to say that by this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have loved one to another. One of the best way to love people is pray for people. For somebody you don't like, you got a problem with someone, pray with them, you'll probably like them and love them after that. That's right. Change your whole attitude toward people if you pray with them.

Paul H. Dixon:

Wednesday, pray for the local church, local church ministries and its needs. Man, I'm souled in local church. That's why I'm for organizations like Baptist International Missions and mission groups that

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believe in the local church. I just want to throw this out for you. Now, this is something that is totally unrelated to what I'm saying this morning, except that I did say pray for the church. We need as missionaries and evangelists to support the local church. And let's stop, let's stop draining the local church for our personal needs and let's encourage people to support God's work through the local church.

Paul H. Dixon:

I'll say it once, I don't care whether you agree with me or not I just want to tell you how God's convicted me. I do not take a dime from any individual. Say you mean it, I mean that. No one writes to me and sends me money. I don't want it. I tell them I don't want it. Any money that comes to me comes through that love offering in the local church. And I want you to know, God wonderfully takes care of me through the local church. I'm not going to give you some poor, sorry, tale about how poverty stricken I am as [inaudible 00:40:58]. I am wonderfully taken care of through the local church. And you know why? Because God teaches that if you'll honor Him and you'll honor the institutions that He starts, He'll take care of all of your needs.

Paul H. Dixon:

You missionaries get your support through the local church and you'll be better off. Now you may not agree with it, I'm just telling you that you get your support through the local church and you have an organization behind you. You get your support through an individual and brother, you can be out there and they can cut you off so quick, you won't know what happened to you. You be supported by the local church and you evangelists, if you keep going in there with all your projects and trying to get people through your letters to send you money, to take care of you, you are the death of evangelists today. We need evangelists who support the local church and the pastor.

Paul H. Dixon:

We need missionaries who do it. Thank God for Tennessee Temple Schools, you know why this school is so great? Because it's built around a local church. Most of the schools that are having problems today financially in every way, just wish that they could have the situation of a local church, a local church centered school like Tennessee Temple has. When people ask me about Tennessee Temple, I say the one thing as far as I'm concerned that makes it surpass all other schools in America is because you're not only learn in the classroom, but you learn in the local church. What this church is, it's built around the church.

Paul H. Dixon:

Well, I was talking about praying for the church, right? Pray for that pastor. Pray for all the workers, pray for the Sunday school, pray for the new converts, pray for the local church on Wednesday. Just as surely as God established, the home has established the church. It must be supported because God supports. I'm tired of all these organizations going around and they want our support and they put down the local church and tell how the local church is found. I'll tell you what, I challenge them to show me in the Bible where their organization exists. You can't find it, but I can show them in the Bible where the local church exist.

Paul H. Dixon:

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Thursday, pray for home missions. That means rescue missions. That means the camps and all of us as evangelists would appreciate if you'd put us on that list. Home missions, evangelists, camps, children homes, missions, schools. That's when you ought to be praying for Tennessee Temple and all the Christian schools. "You mean you pray for all the Christian school?" I sure do. I pray for just about every Christian school in America on Thursday. "You mean..." Yeah, that's right. I pray for them too. "You mean you pray for evangelists?" Yeah. I pray for that evangelist too. Oh, you say I would and I would. Yes sir. Pray for every Christian school, you pray for all those evangelists. You may not agree with all them, pray for them anyway. How do you expect them ever get things straightened out if you don't pray for them? Quitting knock them and start praying for them, it'd be better off.

Paul H. Dixon:

Friday, pray for foreign missions And you put down the names and this is the way to acquaint your children with missionaries. The names, the laces, the [inaudible 00:43:58], the harvest mission. Well, whatever they are, the boards and all those who are home, as well as those who are on the field, you pray for Dr. Freeney. You pray for Wendy Kempton. You pray for these men who are heading up these mission board, who stay here. And those who work with them and the needs at home, as well as the needs on the field. Prayer letters will be helpful in guiding you as you pray.

Paul H. Dixon:

Saturday, you pray for personal requests. You have a bank note that's due. You're having problem with losing your temper. The test that has to be taken or decisions that have to be made, personal needs. And you include these personal requests every day that you pray. When you're praying for the unsaved on Monday, you're including those things on Saturday. Sunday is a day of praise, we need more praise today. Psalm 150:6 says, let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord, praise God for all the answers to prayer and what he's in your family. Family worship is our privilege and it's our responsibility.

Paul H. Dixon:

Ephesians 5:16 says, redeeming the time because the days are evil and I don't know of a better way to do it than to have a kind of a plan, at least some plan like we're talking about today. I want to close this out with one verse of scripture, on the most powerful verses in the Bible, Genesis 18:19. Genesis 18:19, incidentally, you have any questions? Don't hesitate if you see me walking around sometimes say, "There's something I didn't understand." Or if you have any suggestions, man, I'm open for all the suggestions you can give me. This is in manuscript form, I don't usually use a manuscript like this when I preach, but this is in manuscript form, it's going to be printed in the next few months and anything you can give me to add to it, I'd just love to have it.

Paul H. Dixon:

Genesis chapter 18:19, God is about to pronounce His blessing on a man by the name of Abraham. One of the most blessed, one of the most greatly used of God's men in the Old Testament, Abraham. And why does God so bless him? Verse 19, before I know him, God says that he will command his children and his household after him, they shall keep the way of the Lord to do justice and judgment that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which He hath spoken to him. God, why you going to bless that man? I'll tell you why I'm going to bless Abraham. Because he knows how to train his family after me.

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Paul H. Dixon:

Let's train other people's families, brethren, but while we're training others, let's not fail in training our own. You young couples who've just been married, start this, right away. And who aren't married, use it privately, and then you can do it together. I'd like for us just to stand together, everyone stand, would you please? And I'd like to have a special word of prayer for your families. I'm concerned about families. I'd appreciate it if you should ever think of it, that you would pray for my family, not just for me when I'm in the work, but for my wife, where she's back home and son as he's in school. Let's pray for each other's families.

Paul H. Dixon:

Now, father, I pray for these men that you'll help all of us to take the leadership in doing this that we've been challenged to do from Deuteronomy 6:6-7 today. I pray for the wives and their important part in this and be times when they have to carry on when we're gone and that you'll help them. I ask for our children, that you'll give them hearts for you and for your word and prayer. And God just give us a lot of love in our families. And I pray that for all of our children and for those that you'll give, these who don't have any, that they'll just fulfill your plan in their lives. That's all we want, Lord. We don't know what it's going to be, but we want your plan to be fulfilled in their lives. Thank you for what you've done today, in Jesus' name. Amen.