

Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 1

MEMORIZE

- Choose either 2 Timothy 3:16-17 or Psalm 119:7-14, and make it the family emphasis for the month of January.
- For those with 1st-5th graders at Brook Hills, focus on the verses that they are memorizing in Children’s Ministry for this unit.
 - 1st Grade – John 3:16
 - 2nd Grade – Psalm 139:7-10
 - 3rd Grade – Psalm 23:1-6
 - 4th Grade – Philippians 3:20-21
 - 5th Grade – Colossians 1:15-18

READ

As our church reads through the Bible for the next two years, each day will include a chapter from both the Old Testament and the New Testament. As a family, decide if you want to read one or both of these passages. The Faith Family Worship Guide will look back at the readings for the previous week, but for this first month, we will emphasize why the Bible is important, how to read and understand the Bible, how the Bible is supposed to change us, and why we pray. Included below are the readings for last week from the Bible Reading Plan.

<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Genesis 1	Genesis 2	Genesis 3	Genesis 4	Genesis 5
Matthew 1	Matthew 2	Matthew 3	Matthew 4	Matthew 5

Where We Are In The Story (Old Testament): As the first book of the Bible, Genesis explains that God is the all-powerful Creator who cares about His creation even when they disobey Him, and it teaches that God takes evil and transforms it for His glory (Gen. 50:20). In this week’s readings, we see this truth in play when God promises salvation after Adam and Eve sin in the Garden of Eden and explains to them the consequences for their sin (Gen. 3:15). Written by Moses when Israel was wandering in the wilderness, Genesis also provides the history of God’s covenant with Israel by telling about Adam and his descendants, which include Noah and Abraham.

Where We Are In The Story (New Testament): Matthew is the first of four Gospels that tell about the life of Christ. As one of the twelve disciples (Matt. 9:9-13), Matthew focuses on demonstrating how Jesus fulfills Old Testament promises concerning the Messiah. This is why Matthew 1 includes a genealogy that begins with Abraham and includes King David since the Messiah would be a descendant of Abraham’s son Judah (Gen. 49:10) and a descendant of King David (2 Sam. 7:12-13). Other fulfilled prophecies in Matthew 1-5 include how the Messiah would be born of a virgin (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14), born in the city of Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), reside in Egypt (Hosea 11:1), be preceded by a prophet who would prepare the way for the Messiah’s coming (Isa. 40:3), and minister in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali in Israel (Isa. 9:1-2). With regard to structure, Matthew includes five collections of Jesus’ teaching (Matt. 5-7; 10; 13; 18; 24-25), and each of these sections concludes with a statement saying “And when Jesus finished these sayings...” The first of these collections begins in Matthew 5 and is called “The Sermon on the Mount” (Matt. 5:1-7:29).

Read: 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 119:7-14

As we read the Bible together these next two years as a church, the goal is to ensure that children of all ages understand that the Bible is from God. He used 40 men over a period of 1600 years to write the words that He gave them. Why would God give us the Bible? To teach people about who He is, who we are, what is wrong with the world, and how to live in relationship with Him. In Scripture, God lays out His plan from beginning to end of how Christ would come to earth to save those who turn from their sin and trust in Him and how He will later return for His church and establish the new heavens and the new earth.

Questions

- What is the Bible?
- Why is the Bible important?

Bottom Line: The Bible is God’s letter to us that explains who He is and how to live in relationship with Him.

SING

We are starting off 2014 with an original Brook Hills tune written by worship staff members Audrie Cirlot and Mandi Kottas. “The Creation Song” was written for our new album “The Great God and His Big Story”, released in December. Echoing the early chapters of Genesis, this song establishes God as our Creator and illustrates His goodness and worthiness to receive all our praise. Let your voices rise with joy as you sing to the glory of our Great God!

Visit our website for a link to this song: www.brookhills.org/gathering/this_week.html.

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created by the age-group ministry leaders as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God’s word and worship Him together.

Preschool

- Before you begin, grab your Bible and one of your child’s favorite storybooks. It would be helpful if your child is somewhat unfamiliar with the details of the story.
- Sit down with your preschooler and say, “Today we are going to read a good story, but I don’t want to read the entire book. I think it will take me too much time. So, I’ll read just a little of it.” Read only the first sentence or paragraph.
- Say, “Isn’t this story good? What do you think happens in this story? Well, maybe I need to read something from the middle of the book to help us find out more. (Read a sentence from the middle of the book.) Now do you know what happens? Do you know how the story ends? (Read the last sentence of the book). Did you like the story? Well, I didn’t really read enough of the story did I? If we really want to know what happens in the book, I need to read the whole book. I need to read all the words on all the pages.”
- Now pick up your Bible and read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 to your preschooler.
- Explain that the Bible is a lot like a storybook. It has lots of pages and words, and many people don’t want to read the entire book. They just look at parts of it and think they know the whole story.
- The Bible is God’s story. The Bible is God’s letter to us that explains who He is. If we want to know God’s entire story, then we need to read the whole Bible. Not all at once, but a little at a time. Over the next two years, we (the entire church body) will be reading the entire Bible, verse by verse. (As we read the Bible together these next two years as a church, ensure your preschooler understands that the Bible is from God.)
- We can take great joy and learn a lot from reading all of God’s word. One of the greatest gifts God gave us is the Bible. We should be so happy to learn more about God from the Bible. God is so good and loves us so much!
- Ask these questions to your preschooler after your discussion. “What is the Bible? Why is the Bible important?”
- End your family time with prayer. Thank God for giving us His story in the Bible.

Children

- Start by gathering a bunch of books from around the house. Include some children’s books and some of your favorite books as adults. Include a Bible in the mix. Talk about which of these books you all like and why.
- Ask your child why the Bible is different from all of the other books you see in front of you. Let them know that **the Bible is a very special book**. Ask if they know why.
- Let’s see what the Bible has to say about why it is such a special book.
- Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What does this verse say? **Bottom Line: The Bible is like no other book because the Bible was written by God!** Let that truth sink in deep. Don’t skim past this incredible truth. Help communicate your awe that the Bible is actually God’s Word.
- If the Bible is God’s Word, then how should we treat our Bible? We should treat it with respect and honor. We should be in awe that we can actually read the words of God!
- Who did God write the Bible for? God wrote the Bible for us – for you and for me.
- Why do you think God wrote the Bible for us? **Bottom Line: The Bible is God’s letter to us that explains who He is and how we are to live.**
- Since the Bible is God’s letter to us, what should we do with the Bible? Let’s read another verse to find out.
- Read Psalm 119:7-14. What does this verse tell us about what we should do with the Bible? We should read the Bible, we should learn what the Bible means, and we should memorize God’s Word (“store it in our hearts”).
- How does storing God’s Word in our hearts help us? It helps us know God better and to become more like Him. It helps

keep us from sinning.

- Go back and re-read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and note that the Bible also helps us get ready to serve God.
- Practice memorizing your child's memory verse assigned to their grade (see Memorize section above).
- Pray, thanking God for His Word, and asking God to help you store His Word in your hearts.

Students

- Often times the debate regarding the validity of Scripture ends on the note that Scripture is in fact true. But what is it for? Encyclopedias, books of statistics, and the founding documents of our country contain truth, but we do not read them daily. II Timothy 3:16-17 and Psalm 119:7-14 give us great descriptions of how God intends for His word to not only be a part of our life, but how He intends to use it to shape us. Begin by reading the passages of Scripture and follow up by walking through the discussion questions below:
 - At the end of Paul's encouragement to Timothy in this passage, what is the intended "end" of studying and applying God's word to your life?
 - God always intends for the study of His word to guide our actions, and ultimately shape how our lives impact the world around us.
 - What are the purposes of teaching, reproof, correction, and training? What are the differences between these terms?
 - Teaching brings to light new truths.
 - Reproof exposes ideas and actions that are wrong.
 - Correction shows how to rectify what is wrong.
 - Training shapes a person's thoughts and actions to carry out what is right.
 - Which of these four things do you think is the hardest to be confronted with in your life?
 - In Psalm 119, David's concern with sin seems to be about more than simply doing the right things and not doing the wrong things. What does he see as the purpose behind "storing up God's word in his heart?"
 - That he might not sin against God. Ultimately, David's concern with his sin is in how it affects his relationship with God.
 - How does sin disrupt this relationship? Why?
- In light of God's word being intended for the strengthening of our relationship with Him and the equipping of His people to do "good work," what topics of Scripture would you like to find applicable verses to memorize in order to see this happen in your life?
 - If you need help in finding these visit www.biblegateway.com and search for keywords that match your needs. Keep in mind that you may need to search various translations to match the words/phrases you are looking for.