

Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 10

MEMORIZE

Mark 1:15 – “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Romans 10:9 – If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

READ

Read Mark 1:15 and Romans 10:9.

It’s one thing to know the truths about Jesus and what He has done. It’s an entirely different thing for those truths to be appropriated in our lives resulting in salvation. After all, even the demons know the truth. So how are the truths of the gospel appropriated in our lives? How do they become a reality in our hearts? How do they transform us? God’s Word is clear on this. It’s by faith. The gospel is apprehended only, altogether, and completely by faith. But we’ve got to be clear on what faith means, for just as mentioning God in our culture today brings up all kinds of unbiblical ideas about who He is, so faith is often understood in ways that are foreign to God’s Word. We can’t assume anything, not even in the church. So what is faith? Simply put, it’s turning from our sin and ourselves and trusting in Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Questions:

What is faith?

Why is faith necessary for salvation?

Have you turned from your sin and trusted in Christ for your salvation?

Bottom Line: We can be restored to God only through faith in Jesus.

SING

All people exercise faith, but faith is only as good as its object. The power of Christian faith lies in its gloriously perfect author – Jesus Christ. He alone created the universe, was born into human flesh, lived a sinless life, bore the punishment of our sin on the cross, and rose victorious from the dead.

The familiar hymn “There is a Fountain” conveys this very truth. Written in 1772 by William Cowper, the lyrics celebrate the complete forgiveness of sin that comes through faith in Christ. Verse 3 reads:

*E’er since by faith I saw the stream
Thy flowing wounds supply
Redeeming love has been my theme
And shall be till I die*

Praise the Lord that our faith is secure in the person and work of Jesus!

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 open your Bible to Romans 10:9. Gather a few items that you can use to talk about the five senses (ex. sugar, air freshener, pine cone).
- Read the verse to your preschooler and begin to discuss the items you’ve displayed.

- We know what these items are because we can hear, smell, feel, taste, and see them. Is it possible to believe in something that we don't see, hear, smell, touch, or taste? Yes, it is possible! Give examples of things that are real that we cannot see, such as air, electricity, etc.
- The word "faith" means to believe in something or someone that we cannot see. Although we cannot see Jesus, we know that He is real. The only way we can be saved is to believe in Jesus. Even though we may not see or touch Jesus, we believe that He came to earth, lived a sinless life, died on the cross and rose again.
- God loved us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, from heaven to earth to save us from our sin problem. When we choose to be sorry for our sin and turn away from it, God forgives us and we can be with Him forever.
- End your family time with prayer. Thank God for sending His son, Jesus, to save us from our sins.

Children

- Read Mark 1:15 and Romans 10:9 above. What word is found in both verses? (Believe)
- These two verses seem to state that if a person believes in the gospel, or the story of Jesus, they will be saved, right? Is this true? Well, it depends on what "believe" means.
- Ask your child if they believe that Barak Obama is the President of the United States. Ask your child if they believe that Birmingham is a nice place to live. Ask them if they believe that vanilla ice cream is better than chocolate ice cream. Now take time to explain that we can prove that Obama is the President. But the other 2 are just opinions. Your child may believe in this answer, but someone else may not.
- So, if a person simply believes that Jesus exists, that doesn't mean that they are a Christ-follower. The Bible actually tells us that even the demons believe in Jesus and shudder in fear, but they certainly don't follow Him.
- Many people know the truths about God and Jesus, but many of these people have not chosen to have "faith" in Jesus. Let's try to understand this better. Pretend that you are in the mountains hiking with your family, and the trails leads to an old suspension bridge. When you look down, a rocky gorge lies several hundred feet below, and the bridge is the only way across.
- Your dad tests out the bridge and says it seems safe to cross. At this point, you believe your dad when he says the bridge is safe, but the fear you still feel about actually walking across the bridge is very real, which means you do not yet have faith that the bridge will hold. Then, when you step out onto the bridge and start walking across it without falling, your belief becomes faith. You trust that the bridge will keep you from dropping onto the rocks below.
- Having faith in Jesus means to turn from our sin and ourselves and to trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- To become a Christ-follower we must turn away from something (our sin and our own desires) and trust in something else. We must trust Jesus to be the Savior and Lord of our lives.
- Pray as a family, thanking God for salvation through Jesus. Also ask God to show you any areas in your life where you still need to turn away from sin and selfish desires and trust Christ to help you follow His commands.

Students

- Read Hebrews 11:1. This passage tells us that faith is assurance of things we hope for, and the conviction of things we haven't yet seen. What does that mean?
- What does faith do in your life? Faith in God is what sets Christians apart from the rest of humanity. Faith is what causes us to have joy in struggle and hope in uncertainty. True faith, like true belief is seen in our actions.
- What areas do you lack faith in your relationship with Jesus?
- Where are the areas you have the most faith? Read 1 Corinthians 2:5. What is the wisdom of men?
- Close in prayer asking the Lord to help you trust His promises, love His Word, and share His goodness with those around you.