

Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 11

MEMORIZE

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 – In flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.

Philippians 3:20 – But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 3:16 – For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

READ

Read 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9, Philippians 3:20 and John 3:16.

There is a huge reason why the gospel must be woven into the fabric of our conversations. Man's eternal destiny hangs on his response to Jesus. Scripture teaches very clearly that after death there are two options – eternal life, glory, honor, and peace, or eternal wrath and anger and trouble and distress. The reality is that every single person will be irreversibly thrust into one of these two destinations: heaven or hell. Scripture confronts us with the truth that at death there is a road that is leading to eternal joy and there is a road that is leading to eternal, everlasting suffering. Which road are you on? If God is just and we are sinful, then apart from Christ we are on a road leading to an eternal hell. That's frightening to consider. That's a reality that most Christians would like to avoid. The gospel is important because eternity is forever and our response to Christ and the gospel determines where we will spend forever. This final thread raises the stakes of all the threads.

Questions:

What will send people to eternal punishment in hell?

Through what means does someone have access to eternal life?

How does the truth of eternity affect the way we live today?

Bottom Line: Our eternal destiny hinges on our response to Jesus.

SING

The very first song we see recorded in the bible is the Song of Moses in Exodus 15. God had just delivered His people from the oppressive hands of Egypt by sending ten dreadful plagues and parting the Red Sea. Israel saw the mighty hand of God at work, and as a result, they worshiped Him by singing.

This week's worship song is called "Song of Moses" by Aaron Keyes. This song is based on the song in Exodus 15 that Moses and the people of Israel sang thousands of years ago. Join together and sing of God's greatness and strength. He is our Mighty Warrior.

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 John 3:16 and gather these items: wrapping paper, tape, and a small gift item (ex. gift for an upcoming family member's birthday or a special card or craft you make to give a neighbor or friend).
- First begin by explaining who the gift is for and then ask your child to help you wrap it.

- Thank them for helping wrap the gift. Ask if they like to receive gifts. If I were to give this gift to you or to someone else and ask you to give me money for it, would it be a gift? No, if you have to pay for it or do something to get it, it isn't a gift. When someone gives you a gift, there is no cost to you. All you have to do is accept it. That makes it a gift.
- What was the best gift you have ever received? We all have different ideas about what makes a great gift, but I want you to know about the greatest gift ever given. It is the gift of eternal life. It is a gift from God. It is given to anyone who wants to receive it.
- Let's look in our Bible and read what God says. Read John 3:16 to your child. The greatest gift of all is for you and me.
- Can you imagine how much God loved us to send His one and only Son to earth to die on a cross so that we could have eternal life? Can you imagine how much Jesus loved us to be willing to die on that cross so that we could have eternal life in heaven? God wants us to choose to follow Him and to love Him more than anything. He wants us to turn away from our sin and to trust Him. Jesus made a way for us to live with God forever in heaven. How wonderful it is that God gives us a hope and that we can look forward to heaven.
- End your time with prayer. Thank God for giving us the gift of His son, Jesus.

Children

- Have a copy of the "Threads" booklet and a map on hand.
- Read 1 Thessalonians 1:8-9 with your child and ask them what they think it means to "know God" and "obey the gospel"? Discuss this with them for a few minutes.
- Make sure your child understands that knowing God doesn't just mean knowing about Him or believing He is God. Emphasize that "knowing" involves having a relationship with God, when someone turns from sin, trusts in Jesus to save them, and now walks in obedience to Him.
- Ask your child what this verse says about those who do not know God or obey the gospel. Explain that those who don't have a relationship with God will face life without God and an eternity of punishment separated from Him. Explain that it is sin that separates us from God, and we are unable to pay the penalty for our sin.
- Read Philippians 3:20 and explain that this verse is directed to those who have put their faith in Christ. Ask your child what awaits these people (life on earth with God and eternity with Him in heaven).
- Explain to your child that we see in these two verses that people have two choices for how to respond to God.
- Open up the map and show your child that the map has all kinds of roads on it and you can follow those roads to get from one place to the other. Show that often there are many ways to get to one place.
- But we only have two roads to choose in life, and the choice we make will determine whether we spend eternity separated from God or eternity with Him in heaven. This means every person on earth is currently on one of these roads. If someone doesn't put their faith in Jesus, they choose the road that leads to separation from God and eternal punishment. This news is sad, but there is good news too! If someone puts their faith in Jesus, they choose the road that leads to eternity with God.
- Ask your child what someone can do to have a relationship with God, and therefore have eternity with Him instead of eternal punishment. Allow some discussion, and use the Threads diagram to explain the way to God. If your child has been memorizing the Threads verses each week, you may want to see how many of them they can remember—make sure and tie each verse into the corresponding Thread.
- Encourage your child to think about what road they are on. If they have not already done so, invite them to put their faith in Jesus and turn from their sin. If they have put their faith in Christ, encourage them to share the gospel with those who are on the road that leads to eternity separated from God. Finish by reading John 3:16.

Students

- Introduction
 - **Prep:** Parents, gather one white object and one black object. You could use sugar cookies and Oreos if you would like to make it a yummy illustration.
 - Holding up the two objects ask, is it easy for us to see the difference between these two things?
 - Do you ever confuse the color white with the color black?
 - When we look at things that are different colors we can easily see that they are different; they are either one or the other.
 - We typically use white to represent right and black to represent wrong.
 - But rather than accepting that things are black or white, we often throw the color grey into the mix. Grey fills the space between black and white.
 - In our culture, when we think about life, we like to think in terms of grey rather than black and white. We don't like for things to be absolutely right or absolutely wrong because we like to put in our own ideas and perspectives.

- Think about movies in terms of our illustration.
 - Are there things acceptable in movies today that were not acceptable 20 years ago?
 - Rather than saying things are black and white, those who make and watch movies have decided to say things are grey and therefore nothing is absolutely wrong or unacceptable.
- Discussion
 - Why do you think it is important to know the difference between looking at things in black and white versus in shades of grey?
 - If things are grey rather than black and white, what does that allow us to do? Lead your teen to understand that shades of grey allow us to determine whether something is right or wrong rather than judging it against a universal set of standards. In short, anything goes, and every person can justify virtually any decision they make, i.e. if it is true for you, then it is ok.
 - If we put ourselves in charge of deciding whether something is right or wrong (i.e. God-honoring or sinful), is that biblical?
 - Read 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9.
 - Who will suffer eternal punishment in hell?
 - Read Philippians 3:20.
 - Who will have citizenship in heaven?
 - Does God ever mention a third option in addition to heaven and hell?
 - Walk through the *Read* section above.
 - What means has God given us access to eternal life in heaven? Read John 3:16.
- How does the truth of eternity affect the way we live today?