

Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 13

MEMORIZE

Acts 17:24-25 – “The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.”

Acts 17:30 – “The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.”

READ

Read Acts 17:16-34.

When the apostle Paul was questioned in the midst of the Areopagus concerning his preaching of Jesus and the resurrection, he responded with an indirect approach of sowing gospel threads among his secular audience. He clearly indicated that God was the sovereign Creator of all things, mankind is sinful and in need of salvation, repentance and faith are necessary for his salvation, Christ has been ordained and is sufficient as the object of that faith, and people need to respond quickly because eternity is impending. Paul’s words were met with a variety of responses, including curiosity for further exploration and even total embrace of his message. In his presentation Paul also modeled several helpful approaches to sharing Christ with secular people.

Questions:

How do you see each of the gospel threads in Paul’s presentation to those present at the Areopagus?

How did the people respond?

How can we follow Paul’s model of weaving gospel threads?

Bottom Line: Paul modeled how to weave gospel threads into conversation with unbelievers.

SING

Our worship song this week, “Crown Him (Majesty)”, was originally written by Matthew Bridges and Godfrey Thring in the mid-1800s under the title “Crown Him With Many Crowns”. Each verse of the song describes the various attributes of Christ as our heavenly King: He is the Lord of love, Lord of life, Lord of lords, Lord of years. Chris Tomlin’s version focuses on just a few of these, one being “Crown Him the Lord of life, who triumphed o’er the grave”, which goes on to talk about how Jesus then rose again in order to save His people. We praise our God and King who humbled Himself to die on a cross for our sins and then conquered death itself by raising to life again. This is the gospel thread of the sufficiency of Christ, who alone is able to remove our sin and restore us to God. Let these words compel us to sew gospel threads as we rejoice in this good news!

Awake my soul and sing of Him who died for me
And hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity!

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

- Read Acts 17: 24-25 with your preschooler.
- Explain to your preschooler that in these verses from God’s Word, the apostle Paul is telling people about God. Paul loved God, and because he loved and followed God he wanted other people to know how good and wonderful God is too.
- Paul knew that God created the whole wide world and everything in it. God created heaven, earth, and man. Because God is creator, He is God over everything. God is good and He never changes. His love for us never changes.
- The Bible also tells us that we are born with a sin problem. Man sins and makes bad choices. But, God loves us so much that He has a plan to save us. God sent His only son, Jesus from heaven to earth to save us from our sin and bad choices. This is good news!

- Paul knew about this good news and He wanted to tell everyone about it. Paul wanted people to know that if they believe and trust in Jesus, God’s Son, and turn away from their sin and bad choices, and tell God they are sorry for their sins, that God will forgive them. Then, man can live forever with God!
- When Paul shared this good news of Jesus with people, some people asked him many questions and wanted to learn more about God. Some people began to trust in God to be their Savior too!
- God used Paul to show us how to tell other people about Jesus.
- Pray and thank God for loving us so much that He sent us Jesus to save us from our sin. Ask God to help you share the good news of Jesus just like Paul did.

Children

- Have a copy of the Threads booklet on hand.
- Together with your child read Acts 17:16-34, using the above commentary to explain how Paul was sowing gospel threads among a group of people who were not Christians.
- Use a piece of construction paper or plain copy paper and a piece of colored yarn or thread to help create a visual for helping your child understand how they can sow the threads of the gospel with those around them. If possible, use multiple colors of yarn or thread.
 - Cut the yarn into 5 small strips approximately 1” long.
 - Have them glue or tape one strip of yarn at a time to the left side of the paper.
 - Beside each piece of yarn, have them write one of the 5 main gospel threads (refer to Threads booklet).
 - Read the verses that go along with each of the main threads, reviewing their meaning as necessary. See how many of these verses they have been able to memorize.
- Refer back to Acts 17:16-34. Ask if they can see how Paul used each of these gospel threads in his presentation to those present at the Areopagus.
- If your child has never trusted Christ, use this visual (and the picture on the back of the Threads booklet) to present the gospel to your child and give them an opportunity to turn from their sin and trust Christ.
- If your child has trusted Christ, ask them to think of some other children who they come in contact with who aren’t Christians. Help them brainstorm a list of individuals on the bottom of their page.
- Ask them to think of ways that, like the apostle Paul, they can begin weaving the gospel threads into their conversations with those children.
- Role-play a scenario with your child, giving them a chance to practice sowing gospel threads. For example, consider a situation where they are in the lunchroom at school and they see one of the children listed on their paper.
- Pray, asking God to give your child opportunities to share the gospel with these children, and then to give them the courage to share the gospel.
- Encourage your child to hang their Threads picture somewhere in their bedroom where they can be reminded to weave gospel threads with those around them.

Students

- Read the Acts 17:16-34 passage together as a family and ask your students if they remember the gospel threads from the previous weeks of study (God is the holy, just, and gracious creator of all things; we have all been corrupted by sin; Jesus alone can remove our sin and restore us; restoration only comes through faith in Jesus; and, our eternal destiny hinges on our response to Jesus). Go through each thread of the gospel, and then ask your students if they can remember any other passages of Scripture that go along with the threads (see <http://www.brookhills.org/media/series/threads/>). Now ask them if they see any of the threads present in the message Paul shared with those at the Aeropagus.
- Point out that it is wonderful for us to be able to identify how Scripture lays out these threads, but what Paul did was to explain these threads in a way his listeners could understand and respond. Spend some time going through the questions below with your student asking them how they would define the term and how they would explain it to one of their friends. Remind them that we never want to learn more about God simply so that we can say we know more things, but so that we can lead more people to Him! Once you have gone through the questions, each of you take a turn praying for a specific person with whom you want God to help you share the threads of the gospel.
 - What does it mean for God to be holy?
 - What is sin, and what does it mean to be spiritually dead?
 - What does it mean to repent?
 - How does a person place their faith in something?
 - Why do we say that Christ’s sacrifice is sufficient? Why is it important?
- Why is it important for someone to respond to the gospel quickly?