

Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 15

MEMORIZE

Acts 2:42 – And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

READ

Read 2:41-42.

The last paragraph in Acts 2 is most often viewed as a description of the activity of the newly birthed church of Jesus Christ. And so it is, for in detailed fashion it describes the life of the newly formed community of faith, a life produced by the Spirit of God in its midst. However, this passage is a picture of the body of Christ only because it is a picture of what individual believers were doing as a result of the presence of God's Spirit living within them. Consequently, we learn much about the life that the Spirit produces inside of every Christian by seeing the things that characterized these early Christians together, as well as the activities they involved themselves in. So this passage—in a very real sense—provides a roadmap for people who have just recently begun the journey of the Christian life. Luke identifies several characteristics of the church in its purest form that every new believer would do well to emulate.

Questions:

How do you devote yourself to the teaching of God's Word?

How do you fellowship with other Christ-followers?

How do you devote yourself to prayer?

Bottom Line: All Christ-followers should devote themselves to God's Word, fellowship with other believers, and prayer.

SING

"Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!" ~Psalm 95:1-2

God is the rock of our salvation. He has provided the way for us to be made right with Him by sending His Son, the Promised One. This beckons us to live a life of worship. One way we can worship Him is through music. Music is pleasing to His ears. This week as you continue in worship, sing the old, traditional Irish hymn, "Be Thou My Vision."

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 you will need your Bible and a road map.
- Tell your child that you want them to imagine you are going on a family car trip. Ask them what you take with you on your trip. We will need clothes, food, money, etc. But one of the most important items we will need is a map. The map will tell us if we are on the right road to our final destination.
- The Bible is like a road map. It has been given to us by God and provides clear directions for our lives. Read Acts 2:42 to your child.
- This verse gives us directions of what our lives, as Christ followers' should look like. So this passage—in a very real sense—provides a roadmap for people who have just recently begun the journey of the Christian life. We should strive to be a Christ follower that shares God's word, fellowships with other believers, and devotes our life to prayer.
- Questions to discuss: How can we devote ourselves to the teaching of God's Word? How do we fellowship with other Christ-followers? How do we devote ourselves to prayer?
- Conclude your family time with prayer. Ask God to help you grow into a person who willing shares with others.

Children

- Prepare: Find a game that your child is not familiar with, maybe a simple card game or board game. Grab a Bible and find a comfortable place to sit in your living room. Set the game up and explain the rules to the game, step by step. Spend a few minutes playing the game, or if the game takes some time, just play a round or two, and then set it aside. You can finish the game at the end of your worship time.
- Ask your child to think about what it means to be a Christian. How do Christians act? What kinds of activities do they participate in? Allow them some time to share their thoughts with you.
- Read Acts 2:41-42. Ask your child if they know who this passage is talking about. Explain that these are the first Christians and they formed the first church.
- Explain that the first church was formed after Jesus returned to heaven, and He left important instructions with His disciples. Ask your child if they know what these instructions were (the Great Commission—sharing the gospel). Explain that this is what had just happened earlier in Acts 2. People heard the gospel, believed it, were baptized, and then they were added to the church.
- Read verse 42 again and ask your child to help you come up with the three different activities that the church participated in that are listed in this verse. Explain that they were devoted to the teaching of God’s Word, they fellowshiped with other Christians, and they committed themselves to prayer.
- Talk about how this model of the early church is what we can follow today. They taught these three important practices and we still do them today.
- Tell your child to think back to the game you played. Explain that it was a new game and you taught them—or modeled for them—how to play it, like the early church modeled Christianity for us. Now that your kids know how to play this game, they can go and teach their friends how to play it. As Christians, and thus the body of Christ, we can follow the model of the early church and show others what it means to follow Christ and be a part of the church.
- Encourage your child to think about ways they can study God’s Word and share it with others (such as reading their bible daily and going to church regularly). Encourage them to think about ways they can fellowship with other believers (such as going to church and participating in a small group). Encourage them to devote themselves to prayer as well (you can help them with this by writing out a prayer list and praying with them each night).
- Encourage them to be practicing these things in their own life so that they can grow, and also so they can show others what it means to be a Christian and a member of the church.
- If you have time, finish playing the game. When you are finished, see if your child can explain the rules of the game back to you.

Students

- Make a list of the things you’re known for in your community or in your school. Now think of different people in your grade. What are they known for? (e.g. football player, band girl, church kid, that kid who did something memorable in the 8th grade, etc.)
- Reread Acts 2:42. This passage communicates that believers are to be known for certain things. What are the believers in your school known for?
- This passage says they “devoted” themselves to a few specific things. What do you think that word “devoted” means? (Note: in the Greek this word is translated “continuing” or “persevering”) To what are you devoted? What things do you find yourself working through until completion? What things have you become proficient in because you continually invest your time and attention in them?
- For too many students in our area, the answers to these questions are things like baseball, soccer, band, school, and gymnastics. While these things are not bad activities, they can become things that use up all our time, attention, and affection, leaving us with little or no time or desire for God.
- This is not to say that we can’t enjoy these activities. However, we must ask, “Are these activities becoming our primary focus?” Author and Pastor Matt Chandler once articulated this point with the following statement: “Find the things that stir your affections for Christ and saturate your life in them. Find the things that rob you of that affection and walk away from them.”
- What stirs your affection for Jesus?
- What robs your of your affection for Jesus?