

Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 18

MEMORIZE

1 Corinthians 2:3-4 – And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.

READ

Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5.

Christian preaching is a corporate act of worship in Christ's church, involving both preachers and hearers. Its primary goal is for God to be glorified as people put their faith in Him. To accomplish this, His Word should be delivered free of distraction, rooted in Christ's cross, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Certainly Paul had preaching in mind when he wrote of his proclamation of the testimony of Jesus Christ among the Corinthian church. These verses for this week highlight the means through which the message of a sermon is delivered, namely the preacher. Paul makes it clear that the power of what he preached did not come from his own delivery or personality. Rather it was a result of the Spirit's work through the preaching event. The result of gospel-centered, Spirit-empowered preaching is for people to come to or strengthen their faith in the power of God rather than the abilities of a particular preacher.

Questions:

What does it mean for preaching to be a demonstration of the Spirit and of power?

How can a preacher avoid making much of himself?

Why does preaching result in faith in God's power?

Bottom Line: Preaching should magnify the power of God and not the abilities of preachers.

SING

The power of God is most clearly displayed in the cross of Jesus. It was at the cross that the forces of Satan, sin, and death were decisively defeated. And it is through the cross that hopeless sinners are reconciled to a holy God. As we continue in worship, let's praise the power of Jesus by singing "God is Able". Written in 2010 by Ben Fielding and Reuben Morgan, this song exalts the Lord for doing abundantly more than all we could ask or think. The chorus reads:

*Lifted up, He defeated the grave
Raised to life, our God is able
In His name we overcome
For the Lord our God is able*

Let's rejoice in the matchless power of our 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 open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 2:3-4, and grab a magnifying glass.
- Talk about the magnifying glass and ask your preschooler what you do with a magnifying glass. (Ex. look for clues, look at small things up close, etc...) We look at things with a magnifying glass so we can see details and differences. We can use it to see the details of some of the smallest things that God created. (Ex. leaf, seed, bug) We can even use it to make the words in our Bible bigger and easier to read. Use the magnifying glass to read the scripture together.
- God created everything. God had a plan for how He created everything. Nothing on earth was made by accident. He knows all the details of each of us and He doesn't need a magnifying glass.

- No one is the same. God made you a certain way with abilities and strengths. No one else is like you! God made our pastors and teachers with certain abilities and strengths.
- Remember last week we talked about the role of our pastor. God has given our pastors and teachers the ability to teach and preach. The pastor teaches us about God and Jesus. He uses the Bible, God's Word, to teach others.
- It is important to remember that all our gifts, abilities, strengths, and talents come from God. God loves us so much because He created us. He wants us tell other about His love for us. Our focus should be to use our abilities and talents to glorify God and share the Good News. We need to share with others that God sent Jesus from Heaven to Earth to save us from our sins and bad choices. Everyone needs to do their part in teaching and telling others about Jesus.
- Pray and thank God for the talents and abilities He has given you and your pastor and teachers.

Children

- Ask your child to think about what first comes to their mind when they think about church. Ask them what they think the purpose of church is and have them list some regular activities that take place at church. Allow them to share for a few minutes.
- Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5.
- Look at verse two and ask your child what Paul says is the one thing he wants to share (Jesus Christ and Him crucified—the gospel). Emphasize that Paul was a preacher of the gospel.
- Read verse four again and explain that Paul says he doesn't use fancy words when he preaches, and he doesn't depend on himself. Instead the Spirit helps him to preach God's words.
- Ask your child to think about the last time they sat in a Sunday service and what they learned. Ask them if they remember what the pastor shared and the passage of scripture he shared from. Allow some discussion.
- Ask your child to think about what it means to worship. What are some ways that we can worship God?
- Tell your child that we often think that singing is the way we worship God. Emphasize that this is true, but singing is not the only way we worship. Explain that there are many other ways to worship God. In fact, everything we do should be done as worship to God. Have them list some things in their daily schedule through which they can worship God.
- Tell your child that listening to preaching is also a way they can worship God. Paul tells us that the purpose of preaching is to learn about God and see His power at work.
- Read verse five again to your child and explain that that the purpose of preaching is to point us to God, not the person preaching. Explain that Paul also tells us in this verse that as we hear preaching, our faith can be strengthened, because the preacher is sharing truth from God's Word. Emphasize that it is not the words the preacher uses that matter, it is the message he shares. Tell your child that God uses the one who preaches to bring God glory, and as the pastor teaches, he helps the listeners to also glorify God.
- Challenge your child to listen carefully the next time they are in church. Remind them that they can worship God as they hear preaching. You may even want to challenge them to take notes about the things they hear and learn. To encourage this, you could buy them a small notebook and a pen so that they can keep their own notes in their own special notebook. As you wrap up this time, present them with the notebook and pen.
- Take time each week to discuss with them what they learned during the sermon.

Students

- The Corinthian Church held eloquence and persuasive speech in the highest regard. They judged a teacher or speaker by their presentation rather than by their content. What problems might this create?
- Let's pretend that one of your loved ones were to walk out of your house right now and into the street. Now imagine you followed that person outside and observed a Mac Truck barreling toward down the road. In this moment what would be the most important thing you could do? To speak truth with power would be the best possible action, not eloquence. You would shout for them to watch out and get out of the way of the truck.
- Many times as Christ followers we shy away from sharing the Gospel because we are afraid. We fear the inadequacy of our abilities, our knowledge, and also the way we may be perceived. Why do you think this is the case?
- What causes change in someone's heart? Read Ephesians 2:1-6. This passage communicates that only God can make something dead come to life. Only God has the power to change someone on the inside.
- Read 1 John 3:24. Based on this passage, what are our responsibilities as Christ-followers? The Word calls us to obey. If we obey, the Spirit is faithful to show the power of God.
- Close in prayer asking the Lord to make his power evident in and through your life. Ask him to give you wisdom and resolve to know and share His Word.