

## Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 2

### MEMORIZE

- Choose either 2 Timothy 3:16-17 or Psalm 119:7-14, and make it the family emphasis for the month of January.
- For those with 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders at Brook Hills, focus on the verses that they are memorizing in Children’s Ministry for this unit.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade – John 3:16
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – Psalm 139:7-10
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Psalm 23:1-6
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Philippians 3:20-21
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Colossians 1:15-18

### READ

As our church reads through the Bible for the next two years, each day will include a chapter from both the Old Testament and the New Testament. As a family, decide if you want to read one or both of these passages. The Faith Family Worship Guide will look back at the readings for the previous week, but for this first month, we will emphasize why the Bible is important, how to read and understand the Bible, how the Bible is supposed to change us, and why we pray. Included below are the readings for last week from the Bible Reading Plan.

<b><u>Monday</u></b>	<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	<b><u>Thursday</u></b>	<b><u>Friday</u></b>	<b><u>Saturday</u></b>	<b><u>Sunday</u></b>
Genesis 6	Genesis 7	Genesis 8	Genesis 9-10	Genesis 11	Genesis 12	Genesis 13
Matthew 6	Matthew 7	Matthew 8	Matthew 9	Matthew 10	Matthew 11	Matthew 12

**Where We Are In The Story (Old Testament):** As the first book of the Bible, Genesis explains that God is the all-powerful Creator who cares about His creation even when they disobey Him, and it teaches that God takes evil and transforms it for His glory (Gen. 50:20). Written by Moses when Israel was wandering in the wilderness, Genesis also provides the history of God’s covenant with Israel by telling about Adam and his descendants, which include Noah and Abraham. In this week’s readings, God responds to the overwhelming wickedness of mankind by sending a worldwide flood, but even with the flood, God spares Noah and his family and establishes a covenant with Noah, promising to never again destroy the world with a flood and giving the rainbow as the sign of this promise. Genesis 11:27-32 introduces us to Abram whom God blessed and made the founding father of the Israelite nation, and while Abram demonstrates faith in God by leaving his family and country to move to the place God led, he was still a sinner, as evidenced by his deception in Egypt. The God who made the universe was not surprised by man’s sin, and He chose people like Noah and Abram to carry out His plan.

**Where We Are In The Story (New Testament):** Matthew is the first of four Gospels that tell about the life of Christ. As one of the twelve disciples (Matt. 9:9-13), Matthew focuses on demonstrating how Jesus fulfills Old Testament promises concerning the Messiah. With regard to structure, Matthew includes five collections of Jesus’ teaching (Matt. 5-7; 10; 13; 18; 24-25), and each of these sections concludes with a statement saying “And when Jesus finished these sayings...” The first of these collections is called “The Sermon on the Mount” (Matt. 5:1-7:29), and in it, Jesus teaches His disciples what life in the kingdom of heaven is really about and how to live as His followers. Matthew 8-9 includes acts of power that support His authority to teach such things, and in Matthew 10, Jesus presents another collection of teachings also directed towards His disciples that includes instructions for their mission.

**Read:** Matthew 6:5-15

The Bible is God’s Word and is one way God communicates with us. In Matthew 6:5-15, Jesus teaches us how to pray. As with any relationship, communication - listening and talking - is essential for the relationship to grow. In contrast to those in Jesus’ day who prayed in order to make themselves look good in front of other people or who prayed as an attempt to manipulate God into getting what they want, Jesus teaches that our prayer should be motivated by a desire to grow in relationship with God. This is why Jesus teaches us how to pray. In Matthew, The Lord’s Prayer includes four main parts: praise (v. 9), submission (v. 10), petition (v. 11-12), and mission (v. 13). As we pray, do we praise God for who He is? Do we confess our sin and yield to God’s will? Do we bring our requests to God? Do we pray for the salvation of the lost, boldness in sharing the gospel, and strength to obey God?

### Questions

- Why do we pray?
- How do we pray?

**Bottom Line:** Christ-followers pray as one way to grow their relationship with God.

## SING

It is astounding to think that the very same God who heard the prayers of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob hears our prayers! In fact, throughout all of history God has maintained a special relationship with His people. Even when we have sinned against Him, the Lord has never abandoned us. So let's continue in worship by singing "How Great is Your Faithfulness". Written in 2009 by Redman and Myrin, the lyrics attest to the unchanging, trustworthy character of the Lord. The bridge reads:

*From generation to generation  
You never fail us, oh God  
Yesterday and today and tomorrow  
Until the day You return*

Let's exalt our God for His faithfulness to us!

Visit our website for a link to this song: [www.brookhills.org/gathering/this\\_week.html](http://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 Matthew 6:5-15 and read the scripture to your preschooler.
- Explain to your preschooler that Jesus is teaching us how to pray in these verses.
- One of the easiest ways to help preschoolers understand prayer and its importance in our lives is by modeling prayer for them. Show them that simple conversations with God are the best and these prayers can happen at any time and at any place. The best way for children to understand how to pray and when to pray is for them to hear their parents praying in simple conversations to God.
- Play the "I can pray anywhere, anytime" game with your child. We can pray anytime, anywhere, and about everything in our lives because God is always listening. Ask several questions like these:
  - I'm thinking of a place I can pray when I'm lying down at night. Where is that place?
  - I'm thinking of a place I can pray when I'm hungry and getting ready to eat. Where is that place?
- When you end the game, emphasize that God wants us to pray continually so that we will have the strength and help we need each day.
- God knows everything. God is all-powerful. When we pray to Him, He hears us. Prayer is our way of talking to God and we should talk to God continually throughout the day and night.
- Why do we pray? How do we pray?
- Let's pray now and thank God for hearing our prayers.

### Children

- This week we have the privilege of talking with our children about how to pray to God.
- Gather a Bible, 2 pieces of plain construction or copy paper, and crayons or markers.
- With your children, read Matthew 6:5-15 (allow children to read it if possible). Explain to your child that in these verses, Jesus is teaching us how to pray.
- Ask why they think it is important to pray to God. Many young children assume that prayer is asking God for "stuff" for ourselves. They treat prayer like a cosmic vending machine. Make sure they understand that ultimately the goal of prayer is for us to grow in our relationship with God and to pray that God's mission will be fulfilled among all nations.
- Work together as a family to create a poster of the Lord's Prayer that you can display in your child's room. Let them know

that this prayer is a model of how we can pray to God, so it will help to see it on their wall or door. Allow them to decorate the page however they want.

- After creating the poster, talk through the elements of the Lord's Prayer, explaining what each means. The Lord's Prayer includes four main parts: praise (v. 9), submission (v. 10), petition (v. 11-12), and mission (v. 13).
- On a separate piece of paper, list each of these 4 parts. Then walk through each part of the prayer, writing down ways you could pray using this model.
  - Praise: What are some things they can praise God for?
  - Submission: Were there any bad choices they need to confess to God?
  - Petition: Who do we want to pray for? What do we want God to help us with?
  - Mission: Pick either an unreached people group or a missionary to pray for.
- Close by praying as outlined above. Remember that it is important to allow children an opportunity to pray out loud so they can become comfortable praying aloud. If they are not yet comfortable, invite each member of the family to say a portion of the prayer outlined above.

### Students

- Begin by reading Matthew 6:5-15 together. After reading the passage place a shoe with untied laces on a table or surface in front of you. Tell your students that they are going to give you verbal instructions on how to tie a shoe. Be sure to tell them that you will only do as you're instructed, so they need to be specific.
- After following their instructions for a few moments (and being sure to illustrate that instructions can only be moderately helpful), ask them why it is so hard to give perfect instructions for such a simple everyday task. Certainly, they are able to tie a shoe with ease, but it probably is not because someone gave them a list of all the perfect steps to tying a shoe. They had to see it done and then practice it frequently until they got the hang of it. The same holds true for prayer – it is important for students to see prayer modeled by their parents and they pray themselves so they will learn how to talk to God.
- Point out that all of Jesus' disciples had at least some religious background. They knew what prayer was, and even Jesus pointed out that they had seen poor examples of those around them who simply prayed in order to be seen. So, why did the disciples ask Jesus how they should pray? Note that Jesus does not chastise them for asking the question, but instead teaches them how.
- Continue by asking your students what Jesus did in order to teach His disciples. (He prayed!) Ask them if they ever struggle with prayer themselves. In light of how Jesus prayed (praise, submission, petition, and mission), do they have an intentional way that they approach prayer in their own lives? Are there ways in which they would like to better understand prayer and how to pray?
- The best way to improve this area of our spiritual lives is by seeing others do it, and then doing it ourselves. If you don't already, pray out loud with your students every day. Let them hear how you speak with your Heavenly Father. Then ask them to pray out loud with you as well. Intentionally begin asking them to pray at meals, or any gatherings where friends or family come together. If they struggle with prayer or talking out loud in front of others, have them begin by writing out their prayers in a journal. An easy next step is asking them to pray for someone, and to then write that prayer out in a card and send it to them as an encouragement. At first it may seem awkward, but they will quickly learn that you learn to pray by praying.