

Family Worship Guide – Week 31

MEMORIZE

1 Corinthians 8:12-13 – Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

READ

Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-13.

In this chapter, the Apostle Paul addresses the question of how Corinthian believers should approach "food offered to idols." This matter seemed to stir up some controversy, with some saying "it's just meat - eat," and others believing the food was demon food and therefore must be avoided by Christians. On the one hand, he shows that this meat, in and of itself, is not defiled. However, he goes on to say it may be that "not all possess this knowledge," and therefore Paul wants the believers to not only ask whether it is defiled or not, but to also ask what my partaking of this meat would do to my brother. This is then a key text on how believers, then and now, ought to think about and handle morally permissible but religiously and culturally controversial activities.

Questions:

What does it mean for someone to "stumble?"

Why should we be concerned about what others think about what we do?

How can we live in such a way that we seek to keep our brothers and sisters from stumbling?

Bottom Line: As Christians we should consider the spiritual well-being of others above our own supposed liberties.

SING

This week's FFWG song is "Beneath the Waters (I Will Rise)" by Brooke and Scott Ligertwood. This song celebrates Christ's work on the cross and its implications for us. As Christ Followers, we have been buried with Christ in baptism and raised to walk with Him in newness of life. "For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his" (Romans 6:5). Sin and death no longer have dominion over us. This is something to celebrate! So continue in worship this week and sing "Beneath the Waters (I Will Rise)".

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 8:12-13 and read the verse to your preschooler.
- Go outside and collect rocks and sticks. Use the collection to build a tower. While building the tower, practice saying loving and kind words to each other.
- Remind your preschooler that words we say and kind actions we show to each other build us up to be strong just like the tower you built. Talk about the other things we do and say that show love.
- Say, we should always be concerned about the well-being of others and show love whenever possible.
- Let's pray and ask God to give us more love to share every day.

Children

- Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-13.
- Use the commentary above to explain this passage to your children.
- Obviously in our day we are not tempted with meat that has been sacrificed to idols. But we do have other temptations that Christians might be faced with that can serve as stumbling blocks to others. Ask your children what some things are they might still struggle with (i.e. lying, cursing, watching TV with inappropriate content, being unkind to people, etc.).

- Discuss how once they have turned from their sin and trusted Jesus for salvation, they cannot lose that salvation even if they make a mistake and sin. Even Christians still struggle with sin. However, what happens if they slip up and commit a sin and someone else sees them? What if that person is a new Christian and is looking to them as an example? What if that person is not yet a Christian?
- Ask what it means to “stumble”. What would happen to your child if you and your child were walking side-by-side and you stuck your foot out in front of them? Your actions would cause them to stumble or even fall. Explain how this is what it is like to make someone else stumble. Your sinful actions may cause them to fall into similar sins.
- Why should we be concerned if we cause someone else to stumble? (It is hard to move forward and grow as a Christian if you are constantly tripping and falling. Also, as Christ followers we are responsible for causing our brothers and sisters in Christ to stumble. It is important to avoid that, but also to repent and make it right if we do.)
- Re-read verse 12. Ask who we sin against when we cause someone to stumble. This verse reminds us that when we cause someone else to stumble, we are not only sinning against that person, but we are also sinning against Christ. Jesus gave up His life so we could be forgiven. So why wouldn't we be willing to give up a certain temptation to help others experience Jesus' forgiveness?
- Ask how we can live in such a way that we don't cause our brothers and sisters to stumble. Encourage each family member to search their hearts for sins they may need to repent of that may have been causing others to stumble.
- Pray and ask God to help us all live in ways that honor Him and that do not cause others to stumble. Thank Him for forgiving us when we fall, and help us to hold others up by leading by positive example instead of causing.

Students

- What does it mean to cause someone to stumble? How does it happen?
- Does this mean we are to try to constantly make others happy with our actions?
- Read 1 Peter 1:13-16. As Christ followers what are we called to pursue holiness. How do we do that?
- Paul said in 1 Cor. 6:12 that everything is permissible but not everything is beneficial and/or helpful. How you conduct yourself communicates a lot about you to the world around you. Others will judge you based on their understanding of the knowledge they possess and based on their experience. Have you ever found this to be difficult? How?
- Let your measuring stick be Christ, pursue holiness, and do not expect others to have the same understanding you do.
- How far should we go in giving up our rights when it comes to causing others to stumble?