

## Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 5

### 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. Included below are the readings for last week from the Bible Reading Plan.

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Genesis 28 Matthew 27	Genesis 2 Matthew 28	Genesis 30 Mark 1	Genesis 31 Mark 2	Genesis 32 Mark 3	Genesis 33 Mark 4	Genesis 34 Mark 5

**Where We Are In The Story (Old Testament):** This week’s readings focus on the lives of Jacob and Esau, Isaac’s two sons. After deceiving his father and stealing his brother’s inheritance, Jacob flees to his Uncle Laban’s household, and Jacob the deceiver gets a taste of his own medicine as he is deceived by his uncle in Genesis 29. While Genesis 29-30 records the births of Jacob’s sons whose descendants would constitute the twelve tribes of Israel, this chapter also demonstrates how our desire for approval, satisfaction, and security cannot be found in people or earthly things. Only God can satisfy, and our pursuit of satisfaction outside of Him only leads to bitterness, jealousy, insecurity, and discontent.

In Genesis 30-33, Jacob and his family return to the Promised Land and reconcile with Esau. On their journey, Jacob spends an entire night wrestling with God, and the encounter concludes with Jacob’s hip permanently out of joint and with Jacob receiving the name “Israel,” which means “God fights.” This story is a turning point in Jacob’s life, for his encounter with God demonstrates his lack of self-sufficiency and God’s power.

This week’s readings conclude with a heartbreaking chapter of rape, passivity, revenge, and murder (Gen. 34), which demonstrate the devastating effects of sin in the world. This passage also expresses how mingling with the world leads to defilement by the world (Gen. 34:1-3). Despite Shechem’s sin against Dinah, personal vengeance should not be the response of God’s covenant people. While we should seek justice, we should not do so in a manner that profanes God’s name. As a consequence of their actions, Simeon and Levi were passed over with regards to their inheritance as the older sons (Gen. 49:5-7).

**Where We Are In The Story (New Testament):** We conclude our readings in Matthew with chapter 28, which records Jesus’ resurrection and His commission to the disciples. As the shortest and the earliest of the four Gospels, The Gospel of Mark focuses on Jesus’ identity, and Mark 1:1 introduces Him as human (“Jesus”), the Messiah (“Christ”), and the Son of God. Although Mark emphasizes Jesus’ identity, he consistently records Jesus *silencing* those who state Who He is. By focusing on this question of Jesus’ identity, Mark demonstrates Who Jesus is and how He fulfills the promises of the prophets.

Throughout this Gospel, Mark also explains why Jesus came. In this week’s readings, Mark expresses that He came to destroy the power of demons (Mk. 1:24), to preach the good news of the coming kingdom (Mk. 1:14-15, 38), and to call sinners to repentance (Mk. 2:17). Mark 1-5 also demonstrates Jesus’ power over sickness, nature, demons, and death, which prove His authority to make such claims about His purpose.

**Read:** Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 1:16-20.

**Questions:**

- What is a disciple?
- Why is disciple-making important?
- How do we make disciples?

**Bottom Line:** God calls people to enter into relationship with Him and to join with Him in His work.

## SING

This week our musical worship song is “Living for Your Glory” by Rachel and Tim Hughes. It reminds us that the world is fleeting but God is eternal. When we are in relationship with Him, then our lives can bring honor and glory to His great name. Sing with praise and surrender in your heart to our merciful, loving Father.

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 you Bible to Matthew 28:16-20 and Mark 1:16-20.
- Read the verses to your preschooler and play the game “Follow the Leader.” Remind your child that the disciples followed Jesus. Begin the game with you as the leader, and then allow your child to be the leader.
- Tell them that Jesus told all of His followers to go out from the places they lived and to let others know about Jesus so they could follow Him as well. Who do you know that needs to learn about the love of Jesus? What can you do to tell them or show them about His love?
- Explain to your preschooler that “to make disciples,” means that Jesus’ followers should go out into the world and tell everyone about Jesus. God wants everyone to hear about His love. When we tell others about Jesus, we are doing what God wants us to do.
- Jesus wants us to tell everyone we meet about His love for us and share what He has taught us in the Bible. God sent Jesus from Heaven to Earth to save us from our sins and bad choices. He sent the Savior, Jesus, for everyone! Because God loves us, His children, He sent His only Son to save us, and now we need to share this good news with other people.
- Pray with your preschooler and ask God to help your family tell others about Him and His love for us.

### Children

- Grab some Playdough or some type of modeling clay and your Bible, then sit down with your children.
- Ask your children to create something with their Playdough or clay and as they work, read Mark 1:16-20.
- Ask your children who the characters are in this story (Jesus, Simon, Andrew, James and John), and ask them what Jesus tells the men (He calls each of them to follow Him).
- Ask your children what is significant about these men’s decisions to follow Jesus. Let them share their thoughts.
- Emphasize that these men obey Jesus and follow Him immediately, and they leave everything behind. They really believe that following Jesus is worth this sacrifice.
- As your children finish making their creation, tell them to make another one that looks like their first one. As they do so, read Matthew 28:16-20.
- Ask your children to name the characters in these verses (the 11 disciples and Jesus). Remind them that among these disciples are those Jesus called in Mark chapter 1.
- Explain that these disciples have been following Jesus for a long time, and now Jesus is telling them to go out and tell others about Him and show others how to follow Him, just as He called the disciples to follow Him.
- Explain that a disciple is someone who follows another person and tries to be like that person. The disciples followed Jesus and became more like Him because they followed Him. Then the disciples modeled what Jesus did by showing others how to follow Christ.
- Point to your children’s’ creations and note that the two creations look similar—just as we follow Jesus as His disciples, we will look more like Him. And as we share about Jesus with others and they follow Him, they will also look like Him.

- Emphasize that disciple making is really important because this was Jesus' final command before He left the earth, and it is His purpose for everyone who puts their faith in Him, even today.

### Students

- One of the most important questions we ask our children is what they would love to do when they get older. It helps guide them to pray and plan for their future. However, this question can be asked so often that it loses its weight. So, another way to ask a question that probes their hearts is to say, "If you could be a part of any event in history, what would it be?"
- Think through and share some of those events that you would have liked to be a part of and share them with your students. These could be anything from great moments in history (like the first steps on the moon) or a special moment in a family member's past. Give your students time to respond and don't let a moment of thoughtful silence stop you from waiting for a genuine response.
- Read Mark 1:16-20 together.
- This is one of those moments we would love to go back in time and witness for ourselves. It would be amazing to have the Creator of the universe invite us to "follow Him." In fact, most of us would say that there are countless moments in biblical history we would love to witness for ourselves. Ask your students to share any biblical scenes they would like to witness for themselves.
- Pick one of the moments that was expressed and ask the question, "What was God's purpose for that event in time? How did He use that moment for something bigger?" One great example would be when David took his brothers food as they were on the front battle lines with the Philistine army. He was sent to deliver a meal, yet God had something much bigger in mind, even greater than a giant. The truth of the matter is that, though we may not relive moments from the past, God has placed us here to take part in moments He designed us for. Share some special times in your student's lives for which you are grateful to have been a part.
- Now Read Matthew 28:16-20.
- The reality is that God has invited us to be a part of a significant undertaking – making disciples. Though we cannot create new believers (only God can do this redemptive work in a person's heart), we do get to be a part of leading others to follow Him, teaching them what it means to be a Christ-follower.
- Take some time to share ways you can begin to make disciples or how you are already doing that in your lives. Talk about how you can align your lives to more closely reflect God's purpose for you. Pray together for strength, humility, guidance, and dependence on the Holy Spirit to lead you to follow and become more like Christ, so that those you lead will follow and become more like Him as well.