

Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 6

MEMORIZE

Acts 1:8 – “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

READ

Read Acts 1:1-11.

Acts 1:8 provides an outline for the advancement of Jesus’ kingdom in the book of Acts. In Acts 2-7, the disciples are preaching the gospel in Jerusalem and the church is formed there. In Acts 8-12, the disciples begin to preach the gospel in all Judea and Samaria and the church extends to these regions. In Acts 13-28, we see the apostle Paul taking the gospel to the ends of the earth and churches springing up all over the Roman Empire. We today are still a part of this story. We are disciples of Jesus who have been commanded to preach His gospel in every place on earth. We are witnesses who are called to proclaim the death and resurrection of King Jesus and to call all people to submit to Him as Savior and Lord. We will continue to do this as we look forward to His promised return (Acts 1:9-11). The questions facing us today revolve around how we begin to live out this story. To whom will we be witnesses? How will we be witnesses? When will we be witnesses?

Questions:

Who are some people whom you can tell about Jesus?
How will you try to tell those people about Jesus?
When will be the first time you try to tell one of them about Jesus?

Bottom Line: Jesus entrusted all of His followers to be His witnesses to the world.

SING

What a glorious privilege to be ambassadors of the gospel! Paul explains in 2 Corinthians 5:18-21 that the church has been entrusted with the greatest message on earth. So we joyfully proclaim that, in Christ, sinners can be completely forgiven of their sin and forever restored to God.

As we continue in worship, let’s join in singing “Greatly to be Praised”. Written in 2009 by Eddie Kirkland and Steve Fee, this song calls the church to both worship and mission. In other words, as we enjoy the glory of the Lord we are propelled into the world to proclaim His gospel. The second verse reads:

*Tell the world of the love He’s lavished over us
His daughters and His sons
Made alive, now we’re free
Rescued and redeemed, the victory is won*

Worship fuels mission!

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 a small bag of your preschoolers’ favorite snack (ex.: M & M’s, Goldfish, Cheerios, etc.).
- Open your Bible to Acts 1:8 and read the verse to your child. Open the snack and begin to share with your child.
- Explain to your child that just like you are sharing the snack, God wants us to share the good news of what Jesus has done for us with others too. He wants us to be a “witness.” God wants us to send His message of love to people everywhere. There are people all over the world that have never heard about Jesus and we can tell them. When we tell others about Jesus we are doing what God wants us to do.

- Conclude by praying that God will help you share His message about Jesus to others.

Children

- As a family, read Acts 1: 1- 11, focusing primarily on verse 8.
- Locate a Bible map and show your child(ren) exactly where Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria appear on the map. Explain how Jesus was giving His disciples a “game plan” as to how such a small group of people could impact the world and share the truth of the Gospel story with the World. Jesus was showing the disciples that they would start in Jerusalem (their home city with the Jews), go to Judea (their country) and Samaria (lands surrounding their country), and then to the ends of the earth (to foreign lands – places that had never heard the Gospel; for example, when Paul crossed over into Europe in Macedonia). And the key to all of this was that the Holy Spirit would be with them – they would not be left alone to accomplish this great task.
- What was the main work of the disciples in Acts 1:8? Their job was to be witnesses and tell the story of Jesus to everyone.
- Next, locate a map of the United States and ask, “Where is our Jerusalem? Our Judea? Our Samaria?” Give everyone in your family an opportunity to respond and make the comparison of his or her context to the biblical audience Jesus was addressing in Acts 1:8.
- Explain to your child(ren) that their “Jerusalem” is your neighborhood, school, the ball park, ballet or gymnastics class; “Judea” is the state of Alabama; “Samaria” is the United States; and finally, “ends of the earth” refers to all the other nations of the world.
- Ask, “To whom, or to which people, are we asked to take the Good News about Jesus?” Explain that God loves all people and that John 3:16 says that, “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whosoever would believe in Him would not perish but have eternal life.” God desires for all people to know the Good News of the Gospel so that they may believe.”
- So what is our part in this plan? To be witnesses, people who tell the story about Jesus to others.
- Where can you start to tell others about Jesus? In your Jerusalem! In your neighborhood, school, ballpark, or after-school activities.
- Pray with your family, thanking God that you know His story and have salvation through Jesus. Have each person write down the name of a person to tell about Jesus this week. Put the names in a bowl or envelope at the kitchen table and pray for them by name each day. Pray for God to receive glory and for your family to have boldness to share about Christ this week.

Students

- Intro
 - Cause and Effect.
 - You’ve probably had a few lessons at school on the subject.
 - But have you ever thought about how this affects your life?
 - Think about it this way:
 - Are you someone’s child?
 - Do/did your parents have rules and expectations?
 - Are you expected to follow those rules and expectations?
 - Do your friends have to follow similar rules and expectations in their homes with their parents? Or do they have their own set of rules and expectations?
 - For you, your parents have the authority and responsibility to determine rules and expectations for your household.
 - So, because you are their child, you obey your parents’ rules and expectations.
 - There are many things in our lives that are cause and effect.
 - If your house is zoned for Oak Mountain High School, you have to attend class at OMHS and not Hoover High School.
 - If you are allergic to peanuts, you don’t eat them.
 - As followers of Christ, there is an effect.
- Discussion
 - When we choose to turn from our sin and trust in Christ for salvation, our lives look different because of that. This is cause and effect.
 - God tells us specific ways throughout Scripture that our lives should look different.
 - Thankfully, He tells us this is not something we have to do on our own; He promises to work in and through us.
 - Read Acts 1:1-11.
 - Walk through the “Read” section above.
 - When you reach the questions as the end of the section, take time to really discuss them.
 - Lead your student(s) to think about specifics (e.g. people, dates, ways).
 - Lead your student(s) by example as you share in specific ways you will do this.
 - How can you encourage one another in this?
 - How can you hold one another accountable?