

Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 7

MEMORIZE

Isaiah 43:15 – “I am the LORD, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King.”

Proverbs 17:15 – He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous are both alike an abomination to the LORD.

Titus 2:11 – For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people.

READ

Read Isaiah 43:15, Proverbs 17:15, and Titus 2:11.

God is the starting point of the gospel. The gospel flows from God. It is “the gospel of God”. We cannot understand the gospel unless we understand God. Therefore, if we have a distorted understanding of God, we will inevitably have a distorted understanding of the gospel. As followers of Christ, we must be prepared to present God accurately. This begins with us having a proper understanding of His character and His unique qualities. These verses do not present a comprehensive view of God’s character, but do highlight some of His essential qualities as they relate to the gospel, specifically His holiness, justice and grace.

Questions:

What does it mean to be holy?

How is God’s justice different from the concept we have of justice?

How has God demonstrated His grace?

Bottom Line: God is the holy, just, and gracious Creator of all things.

SING

Now, let’s take time to worship God through music as we sing the hymn, “Holy, Holy, Holy.” Reginald Heber wrote this hymn in the early 1800’s. Soon after Heber penned its four verses, John B. Dykes composed the Nicaea tune to which it is set. “Holy, Holy, Holy” has been a popular hymn in the Western church for over two centuries. It has been sung by many generations before us. Today as we sing, we join our brothers and sisters in Christ who lived in centuries passed. We celebrate our eternal God who is perfectly holy. Indeed, there is none beside Him.

*And one called to another and said:
“Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts;
the whole earth is full of His glory!”
Isaiah 6:3*

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 Isaiah 43:15 and read the verse to your preschooler.
- Talk to your preschooler about the word ‘holy.’ Tell them that God is holy. That means that God never sinned, never made bad choices, and He never will. He is different from everyone else – He is greater and better.
- God loves us so much that He sent someone who can help us with our sin. He sent Jesus. When we make bad choices and choose to sin, we can pray and ask Jesus to help us turn away from that sin.
- Conclude your family time by singing the worship song, “Holy, Holy, Holy.” Pray and praise God for how wonderful He is.

Children

- Sit down with your child and have them write out a list of things they know about who God is.
- Discuss what they put on their list.
- Read Isaiah 43:15. Remind your child that what we know about God, we find in His Word.
- Ask your child what this verse tells us about God—that he is holy. Ask your child if they understand what it means to be holy. Emphasize that holy means perfect and without sin.
- Explain to your child that God is holy, but we are not. Because God is holy, He cannot accept our sin and allow it to go unpunished.
- Ask your child to think about a recent time when they got into trouble and were punished. Talk through this with them. What happened? What was their punishment? What did they learn?
- Ask your child what it is called when someone receives punishment for doing something wrong. Explain that we call this justice.
- Read Proverbs 17:15. Emphasize that God is a just God. There is some justice in the world, it is good, but it is not the same as God's perfect justice.
- So, if God is perfectly holy and just and therefore must punish sin, then we deserve punishment because we sin.
- Read Titus 2:11 and explain that this verse tells us that God is also gracious.
- Ask your child if they understand what grace is. Explain that grace is when God gives us something that we don't deserve—in this case, forgiveness for sin.
- Refer back to the list your child made and emphasize the importance of understanding the truth about God if we are going to tell others about Him and the good news that He has made a way for our sins to be forgiven.
- Emphasize with your child that in these three passages, we learn that God is holy, just and gracious.

Students

- What are some of the worlds' common misconceptions about God?
 - Do they usually see Him as holy? Just? Gracious?
 - Why do they have trouble seeing Him as a holy, just, and gracious God?
- What are some misconceptions you have about God?
 - Do you truly see Him as holy, just and gracious?
 - Do you find it difficult to believe these characteristics? Why?
- How does our view of God determine our view of the gospel?
- As Christians, we are to be imitators of God and mirrors of His character to the world. We are to know His characteristics in order to display them. For example, 1 Peter 1:15 says that because He is holy, we are to be holy.
 - Because God is holy, just, and gracious, we are to be holy, just, and gracious. Are those characteristics of your life?
- Most likely, you have friends who do not have an accurate picture of who God is.
 - Who is a friend you know who does not know the true character of God?
- How can you, in your action and words, help correct your friend's view of God?