

## Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 7

### 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 has been looking back at the readings for the previous week.

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Genesis 43 Mark 13	Genesis 44 Mark 14	Genesis 45 Mark 15	Genesis 46 Mark 16	Genesis 47 Luke 1:1-38	Genesis 48 Luke 1:39-80	Genesis 49 Luke 2

**Where We Are In The Story (Old Testament):** This week’s readings focus on the life of Joseph. His story is instructional in how it emphasizes obedience to God’s commands, the contrast between the righteous and the wicked, the sovereignty of God in the midst of suffering, and the ultimate blessing of the righteous. Despite persecution from family, slavery, false accusations, and imprisonment, Joseph continues to profess faith in God and acts righteously. Genesis 50:20 provides the thesis of the entire book, for from the Fall to the life of Joseph, God continually demonstrates His sovereignty. Nothing happens outside of His knowledge or control. In Genesis 45, Joseph reiterates these truths as he tells his brothers that “God sent me” (Gen. 45:5, 7, 8, 9).

In Genesis 49, Jacob blesses his sons, identifying the twelve tribes of Israel (Gen. 49:28). Instead of there being a tribe of Joseph, Jacob named Joseph’s two sons Ephraim and Manasseh as recipients of his inheritance (Gen. 48:1-6). So Joseph received a double portion of inheritance, so his two sons would be equal to Joseph’s brothers. When doing the math, this adds up to thirteen tribes, but since the tribe of Levi was the priestly tribe and did not receive any inheritance of tribal land when Israel reached the Promised Land, this tribe is not typically included in the list of twelve. These prophecies from Jacob in Genesis 49 would remind his descendants of their history and their inheritance.

Included in the blessing of Genesis 49 is a prophecy regarding Judah. Although he was the fourth son of Jacob, he received his father’s blessing instead of his older three brothers because Reuben had slept with his father’s concubine (Gen. 35:22; 49:4) and because Simeon and Levi had murdered the male villagers after the defiling of their sister, Dinah (Gen. 34; 49:5-7). The prophecies regarding Judah involve a line of kings (Gen. 49:10), and Matthew 1:3 and Luke 3:33-34 inform us that Jesus descended from the line of Judah. Genesis 49:11-12 depicts a time of plenty, for a foal tethered to a vine and garments washed in wine would only occur in a season of abundance and blessing. These descriptions apply to a golden age of rule by the line of Judah.

**Where We Are In The Story (New Testament):** In Mark 13, Jesus teaches about the end of the age and foretells of His death and resurrection, and Mark 14-15 details the Passover and His betrayal, arrest, trial, and death. Mark 16:1-8 tells of Jesus’ resurrection, and the remainder of the chapter (Mk. 16:9-20) is introduced by the statement, “some of the earliest manuscripts do not include 16:9-20.” How do we treat this portion of Scripture as well as another like it in John 8? Although Mark 16:9-20 expresses some content not otherwise found in Scripture, it does not alter our understanding of Jesus or contradict biblical truths. The reason for this note in our Bibles has to do with important early manuscripts (Vaticanus and Sinaiticus) not containing these passages, while other manuscripts do include them. Mark 16:9-20 was likely added by someone other than Mark because 16:8 presents an awkward and abrupt ending to Mark’s Gospel. While no doctrine is threatened by this passage, we must read it carefully and thoughtfully.

In Luke 1: 1-4, Luke explains why he wrote this book – for his friend Theophilus (and for us) to have certainty regarding the identity of Jesus and the beliefs to which Christ-followers commit themselves. While Matthew focuses on Jesus as the Promised Messiah and Mark emphasizes that He is the Son of God, Luke depicts Jesus as Savior. Even the name that Gabriel gives to Mary in Luke 1 points to this role, for Jesus’ name means “God saves.” The stories of John the Baptist and of Jesus as a child set the stage for the salvation theme of this Gospel. The prophecies fulfilled by John the Baptist indicate that he would be the forerunner for the Messiah, directing people to turn to the Lord (Luke 1:16-17) and giving knowledge of salvation to the people (Luke 1:77). Even the story about Jesus being presented in the Temple reveals that He was recognized as God’s salvation as an infant (Luke 2:22-38).

**Read:** Genesis 50:15-21

**Questions:**

- Why does God allow evil things to happen in the world?
- Why does God sometimes allow bad things to happen to me?
- How does God use hurtful situations for our good and for the praise of His name?

**Bottom Line:** God is in complete control of all things at all times.

**SING**

*Who has given counsel to the Lord.  
Who can question any of His words?  
Who can teach the one who knows all things?  
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?*

Sometimes it is hard to understand why bad things happen, but we can trust that God is good even in the midst of tragedy. He is all knowing and gracious, and we know that He is working all things together for our good and His glory, even when we don’t understand how.

As you continue in worship, sing “Behold Our God” by Sovereign Grace Music. This song is a beautiful reminder of God’s greatness. He is the mighty creator of all things, and no one could ever compare to Him. He deserves all praise and honor!

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, review the words to the popular children’s song “My God is So Big”
  - My God is so big, so strong and so mighty*
  - There’s nothing my God cannot do*
  - My God is so big, so strong and so mighty*
  - There’s nothing my God cannot do*
  - The mountains are His, the rivers are His,*
  - The stars are His handiwork too*
  - My God is so big, so strong and so might*
  - There’s nothing my God cannot do*
- Read Exodus 50:15-21 with your preschooler.
- Explain to your preschooler a short version of the details of the story. (Joseph’s brothers asking for forgiveness, etc.) Now explain that the reality of the story is God’s plan. Joseph tells his brothers, “You planned it for evil, but God planned it for good.” The lesson is this: In God’s world, we are not helpless in the face of evil’s plan. Our God is so big and He can do anything. He is in control of everything. God is the creator of everything and everything God made is good! God wants us to know that He is good.

- He also has a plan for us just like He did for Joseph and his brothers. God loves us so much He sent His son Jesus to rescue us too from the power of our sin. What a good and great God!
- When we trust in God and believe in Him during the sad and hard times in our lives, other people will see God's love and strength through us. Then, maybe someone who doesn't know God will learn from our example. Maybe they will come to know God's love too.
- Conclude by singing "My God is So Big" and praying that other people will see God through your family. Thank Him for having a plan for our lives. Thank Him for being in control at all times.

### Children

- Joseph's brothers feared for their lives once their father, Jacob, was dead. These men worried Joseph would finally get his revenge for selling him into slavery so long ago. Fortunately, though, Joseph had a proper understanding of God and because of that, he understood why these experiences had happened to him.
- This presents a great opportunity to talk with your children about the value of knowing, understanding, and trusting God.
- Along with your own ideas, consider these suggestions and questions:
  - Think of an experience or period of time in your own life that was very difficult and you had no idea why it was happening. Share your thoughts, feelings and behavior during that experience or time. Tell whether or not you were a believer. Share whether your understanding of God helped you through. If you failed to understand and trust God, be appropriately vulnerable to share that, too.
- Ask your child about his own experiences or periods of time that were really hard and maybe confusing. If your child cannot recall an experience or time, maybe you can. Help your child remember and talk about it. Ask about his thoughts, feelings and behavior during that experience or time. Ask if he thought about God. If so, what did he think about Him? If not, why not? How might thinking about God and praying have helped?
- The children's Bible memory passages are full of rich theological and practical truths. The current passages have much to offer regarding understanding and trusting God. Take a look:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade – John 3:16 (Jesus' great suffering brings eternal life to many.)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – Psalm 139:7-10 (No matter what happens and no matter where we go, God is with us.)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Psalm 23:1-6 (Jesus, our Shepherd, is with us even in the "valley of the shadow of death".)
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Philippians 3:20-21 (The truth of our eternal citizenship in heaven offers enormous hope.)
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Colossians 1:15-18 (Jesus is in complete control.)

### Students

- As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. (Genesis 50:20)
- The story found in Genesis 50 reminds us that even in the midst of suffering, trials, and disaster the Lord is aware of our situation and He is in control of our circumstances.
- When was the last time you felt chaotic and stressful circumstances?
- As a family, make a list as many characteristics of God as you can think of.
- Why is it important to be reminded of the character of God when difficult circumstances arise?
- Read Proverbs 3:5-6. What does this passage tell us about God? What does it tell us about ourselves?