

Family Worship Guide – Week 8

MEMORIZE

Romans 3:12 – All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.

Romans 3:23 – For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 6:23 – For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

READ

Read Romans 3:12, 3:23 and 6:23.

Our sinfulness is not the most fun topic to talk about. In our day many have tried to get around this fact by offering the gospel without confronting man's sinfulness. The gospel then becomes something you can add to your life to make it better, like working out or eating healthy food. However, the biblical gospel confronts us at the core of who we are and offers a radical change to our sin-corrupted hearts. The problem is not that we have done some bad things or made some bad decisions. The problem is that we are utterly sinful at the core of who we are and dead without God. People might think, "Well that sounds kind of extreme." But it's exactly how scripture portrays us. As a result of one sin, death became a reality for all people (both spiritually and physically), so that all people are born in rebellion against God.

Questions:

What is sin?

How has sin affected us?

What is the consequence or are the consequences of our sin?

Bottom Line: We are each created by God, but we are all corrupted by sin.

SING

This week's song is 'Nothing But the Blood', written by Robert Lowry. A Baptist minister in the late 1800s, Lowry was also a noted writer of gospel music as well as hymns with around 500 compositions to his name.

This song is a simple but powerful reminder of our sinful nature. Before Christ, we were slaves, unable to "wash away [our] sin", incapable of making ourselves whole and righteous before God. Now, under the cross of Christ, we have been mercifully released from those bonds and set free to joyfully, humbly, and submissively worship our Lord and King. He has redeemed us through the precious blood of Jesus – the only thing powerful enough to break us free. Hallelujah! What a Savior we have in Jesus!

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 gather the following items: 2-3 sheets of plain white paper, scissors, black crayons.
- With your preschoolers, trace and cut out heart shapes from the white paper. You will need 1 white heart for each member of your family. Next, trace and cut out 1 larger cross shape from the white paper.
- Explain to your preschooler that we are all created by God. Pick up the heart shapes, and as you speak each person's name write their names in crayon on the hearts. Say, "God created Mom. (Write Mom's name on a heart.) God created Dad, God created Timmy, etc.) Next, write "Jesus" in the center of the cross.
- Read Romans 3:23. Explain that the Bible tells us that when we are born we are born sinners. Sin is making bad choices/choosing to disobey God. God is Holy. He never sinned. He is without sin problems. God hates sin. God punishes sin.

- Help your children think of some bad choices/sin and as you name those choices begin to shade in the white hearts with the black crayons. (Ex: telling a lie about doing a chore, not sharing a toy, disobeying Mom or Dad.) When the hearts are full of sin & completely colored black say, “These black hearts with our names on them show what our hearts are like when we choose to sin. These hearts don’t look anything like God do they? No they are ugly, black, and colored with sin. Sin separates us from the love of God. Because God is Holy and without sin He cannot be with us as sinners. Separate the black hearts from God.
- But, God had a plan. A good plan. God loved us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, from heaven to earth to save us from our sin problem. Show your child the white cross of Jesus. When we choose to be sorry for our sin, turn away from our sin/bad choices, God forgives us and we can be with Him forever. Now, write each person’s name again on the backside of the white hearts and place them with the cross. Say, “Now our hearts look more like God again right? God is good and His love for us is good!
- Pray and thank God for loving us so much that He sent us Jesus to save us from our sin.

Children

- Sit down with your child and have them write out a list of things that some kids do that are wrong.
- Ask them if they have ever done any of the wrong things on their list.
- Tell them about something you did wrong when you were their age (or something you have recently done wrong).
- Read Romans 3:12. Ask your child what sin is. Explain that sin is when we do something that we should not do, or when we do not do something that we should do. All the things written on their list are sins.
- Ask your child, “according to Romans 3:12, who in this room has sinned?” Ask them to point to everyone who has ever sinned.
- Emphasize that everyone has sinned, even you! Everyone makes mistakes and makes bad choices.
- Ask, “What is the problem with sin?” Read Romans 3:23.
- Make it clear that when we sin, we fall short of God’s glory. We are then separated from God.
- Use the illustration of a bow and arrow to illustrate how we may aim for the middle of the target, but most of the time we miss the mark. Often our arrows fall short of even making it to the target. This is what happens when we sin. We fall short of God’s mark; our sin separates us from God. God is holy and perfect, and sin cannot come into His glorious presence. This illustration also shows us that no matter how good we are, we are never good enough. We always fall short of God’s glory.
- Read Romans 6:23a (“for the wages of sin is death”).
- Ask, “What does this verse say happens because of our sin?” (We are dead in our sin; the cost of our sin is death.)
- Explain that even though the perfectly holy God created us, our sin corrupts our lives.
- Take a glass of fresh water. Show how clean and pure the water is. This is how God is – pure and holy, and it is how God originally created man. But when sin entered the world, look at what happened. Use a dropper to squirt a few drops of black or red food coloring into the water to illustrate the effect of just a few drops of sin in our life. Because of our sin, we are corrupted!
- Ask, “So how can we ever have a relationship with God if we are sinners and He is perfect and holy?”
- Read Romans 6:23b (“but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”)
- Share the good news that God loves us so much that He sent His son Jesus to pay the price for our sin. When Jesus died on the cross, He took on our punishment. As a result, when we turn from our sin and trust Jesus, we are forgiven of all our sins and can receive His free gift of eternal life!
- Pray with your family, thanking God for loving us so much that He sent Jesus to pay the price for our sins. Acknowledge to God that we are all sinners, but praise Him for His free gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Students

- Introduction
 - Have you ever been sick? (More than likely, we can all say yes to this.)
 - Have you ever thought about how there are two kinds of sickness?
 - First, there is the kind of sickness that we can cure ourselves of, maybe with the help of a little medication.
 - This could be something like a cold, headache, stomachache, etc.
 - What do you do to feel better when you have a cold?
 - These are common things that don’t really worry us too much because we know that we can get better on our own.
 - We are in control.
 - We can make healthy choices that help our bodies fight off the sickness.

- Then there is the second kind of sickness; the kind we cannot cure or really even treat ourselves.
 - This could be something like cancer, meningitis, appendicitis, etc.
 - These illnesses require us to seek treatment elsewhere (i.e., doctors, hospitals).
 - We are not in control of these illnesses.
 - We cannot cure ourselves.
 - We cannot make a bunch of healthy choices that just make these kinds of illnesses go away.
- Discussion
 - In addition to our physical illnesses, we also have a spiritual illness: sin.
 - What is sin?
 - We don't really like to talk about sin.
 - It's not pretty.
 - It doesn't make us feel good about ourselves.
 - We try to avoid it the same way we try to avoid talking about things like cancer.
 - Many times, when we do talk about or think about sin, our own sin, we try to put it in the wrong category.
 - We like to put sin in the same category as a cold or a headache.
 - We prefer for sin to be something that doesn't worry us too much and isn't that big of a deal.
 - We feel better when we tell ourselves that the consequence of sin is something that we can control.
 - We think we can cure ourselves of it on our own.
 - But, sin is not in that category.
 - We cannot save or cure ourselves from sin.
 - We cannot do enough good or healthy things to save ourselves from sin.
 - Read Romans 3:12, 3:23, and 6:23.
 - Walk through the "Read" section above.
 - Is sin a big deal?
 - Does sin affect everyone?
 - How does Ephesians 2:1-3 describe us in our sin?
 - What is the consequence or are the consequences of our sin?
 - Can we cure our save ourselves?
- How can we be cured and saved?