

Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 8

MEMORIZE

- For those with 1st-5th graders at Brook Hills, focus on the verses that they are memorizing in Children’s Ministry for this unit.
 - 1st Grade – John 3:16
 - 2nd Grade – Psalm 139:7-10
 - 3rd Grade – Psalm 23:1-6
 - 4th Grade – Philippians 3:20-21
 - 5th 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 forward to the readings for the upcoming week.

Readings for February 24 – March 2

Exodus 7-13 & Luke 10-16

Where We Are In The Story (Old Testament)

Background of Exodus: The title “exodus” comes from the Greek word meaning “going out” or “departure” and describes the major event that occurs in the book. Exodus opens where Genesis leaves off – the descendants of Abraham are living in Egypt instead of in the Promised Land. The events in Exodus occur approximately four hundred years after Jacob’s family moved to Egypt, and as prophesied in Genesis 15, Abraham’s descendants became slaves. While Genesis highlights God as Creator, Exodus focuses on God as the Deliverer of His people, for He keeps His promise to free His people and to bring them back to the land of promise.

Structure of Exodus:

- Exodus 1-18 focuses on the deliverance of the people Israel from Egypt and God’s provision for His people.
- Exodus 18-24 explains God’s covenant with Israel.
- Exodus 25-31 provides instructions for the construction of the Tabernacle and explanation for the priestly role.
- Exodus 32-34 describes God’s response to His people’s idolatry.
- Exodus 35-40

This Week in the Old Testament: Exodus 7-10 contains descriptions of the ten plagues that God sent to deliver Israel and to judge Egypt for oppressing God’s people. Numbers 33:1-4 also explains that God destroyed all of the gods of Egypt through the plagues. The gods of Egypt were all tied to their economy – the Nile River, the livestock, the sun, etc. The plagues were not chosen at random; they specifically targeted what the Egyptians worshipped and how they made money. Through the plagues, God showed Himself as more powerful than any man or god, which is why God reiterates with the plagues that through them “you shall know that I am the LORD.”

The final plague, the Passover, resulted in the release of God’s people. When God gave Moses the instructions for this event, He did so with a view towards a greater meaning of the Passover. While God used this plague to deliver the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, He also designed it to point to Jesus Christ, the ultimate Passover Lamb whose blood enables those who trust in Him and turn from their sin to escape God’s judgment and to find freedom from slavery to sin (1 Cor. 5:7-8). After the Exodus, God instructed the Israelites to celebrate the Passover each year in order to remember God’s redemption of His people – redemption that occurred through the shedding of a lamb’s blood.

In Exodus 13, God instructs the Israelites to celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread for seven days after the Passover. The Jews recognized that leaven symbolized sin, and before the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the people were to clean out all of the leaven from their homes (Ex. 12:19). This spring cleaning was meant to be symbolic of the purity that is to come after redemption. For Israel, this feast signified the results of their deliverance. They were to remove from their lives all of the corrupting influences of Egypt. After the Exodus, the Israelites continued with this feast as a reminder of the purity that should follow being delivered by God.

Where We Are In The Story (New Testament)

Background of Luke: 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 that Christ-followers commit themselves to. While Matthew focuses on Jesus as the Promised Messiah and Mark emphasizes that He is the Son of God, Luke depicts Jesus as Savior.

This Week in the New Testament: Jesus came “to seek and to save what was lost” (Lk. 19:10), and by featuring Jesus’ interactions with three unlikely groups of people (the poor, the sinners, and the Gentiles), Luke shows that Jesus came to save all types of people – not just the Jews. These three groups were on the fringes of Jewish society, but Jesus chose to interact with them despite the comments of the Jewish religious leaders. In the parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk. 10:25-37), Jesus portrays the righteous person as a *Samaritan*, and despite the racial prejudice between Jews and Samaritans, Jesus teaches that His followers should love and care for all people, including those who are different from themselves. Through the three parables of Luke 15, especially the parable of the prodigal son, Jesus expresses God’s delight in saving sinners. If God finds such delight in recovering the lost, how can His followers refuse to welcome sinners who respond to God’s invitation?

Luke also addresses the subject of wealth and how it can either be used to advance God’s purposes or to distract disciples from obeying Christ. The parable of the rich fool and its subsequent teachings clearly warn believers of the folly of living for earthly things (Lk. 12:13-34). In the parable of the wedding feast (Lk. 14:1-24), the reasons people give for rejecting the banquet invitation include possessions and human relationships, and this points to the importance of Christ-followers orienting their lives around following Christ and not the things of this world. The parable of the rich man and Lazarus reinforces the meaninglessness of wealth in comparison to eternity (Lk. 16:19-31). As followers of Christ, do we hold our money and possessions with a light grip, or are we foolishly living for money and possessions when they will not last? As Luke 16:13 states, “You cannot serve God and money.”

Read: Exodus 12:21-32; 1 Corinthians 5:7

Questions:

- What is the meaning of the Passover?
- Why did God instruct the Israelites to continue this practice after leaving Egypt?
- How does the Passover connect to Jesus?

Bottom Line: Through the Passover, God sets His people free from their slavery.

SING

What better tune this week than to sing Englishman Stuart K. Hine’s beloved hymn, “How Great Thou Art”? Hine was a missionary in Poland during the 1920s when he heard a Swedish poem set to a melody that peaked his interest. He later penned original English lyrics and wrote an original arrangement of the tune, which became the famous hymn we sing today. The third verse perfectly captures the magnitude of God’s sacrifice and love as well as the freedom He grants us through Christ:

And when I think that God His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die I scarce can take it in
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin

We praise you, God, for Your mercy and grace that frees us through Christ from our sin! My God, how great Thou art!

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 and read Exodus 12:21-32.
- Help your preschooler understand what is happening in the scripture you read. You can use paper and crayons or paint to help you demonstrate the blood painted on the doorframes and explain that, through the Passover, God freed His people from slavery. Let your child help with the drawing. (Alternative demonstration: use a paintbrush, dipped in water if preferred, to trace the frame around your front door.)
- Then explain that God gave Moses special instructions that he and God's people should repeat this ceremony every year on the same day as a reminder to them that God keeps His promises. God kept His promise to free the people of Israel from slavery and lead them out of Egypt.
- God was so merciful and loving to His chosen people. God had made a promise to them, and nothing can stop God from carrying out His promise. And just like God freed the people of Israel from slavery to Egypt, He frees us from slavery to our sin through Jesus.
- Pray together thanking God for keeping His promises and saving the people of Israel, and especially for saving us and allowing us to come to Him through Jesus.

Children

- Ask your children if they have a favorite story or passage from the recent Bible readings. Allow them to share.
- Read Exodus 12:21-32. Ask your children if they remember what has been happening in the previous verses and chapters (Moses has been asking Pharaoh over and over again to release the Israelites, and even after all these horrible plagues, Pharaoh continues to refuse to let them go).
- Refer back to the reading from Exodus 12 and ask your children why the Israelites were commanded to cover their doorposts with blood (it would protect the household from death—the death of the firstborn son).
- Ask them if they can think of another time in the Bible where it talks about shedding blood (the book of Leviticus, which details the law and requirements for sacrifices; the crucifixion of Christ; the book of Hebrews which reminds us of the Old Covenant of sacrifice and the New Covenant ushered in through Christ).
- Remind your children that this event you've just read about was called the Passover and God commanded the Israelites to continue recognizing the Passover, even after they left Egypt.

Students

- If the President of the United States said that a disaster was coming to your area and that everyone who went to the local Red Cross would be saved, would you go? Why?
- Do you think there would be some people who would not go?
- What reasons might they give for not going?
- Why do some people disregard God's warnings and instruction today?
- Invite students to share about moments when they ignored what the Lord was instructing them to do. Share experiences of blessings they received by following the Lord's direction.
- Spend some time as a family praying and ask God to give you strength and desire to obey His instructions, even when you might not quite understand their purpose.