

Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 9

MEMORIZE

1 John 3:5 – You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.

1 Peter 2:24 – He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

Revelation 1:18 – I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

READ

Read 1 John 3:5, 1 Peter 2:24, and Revelation 1:18.

It is vital for our understanding of the gospel and personal evangelism that we have a proper understanding of who Christ is and what He has done. The truth about God and man points us to Christ, helping us to see that who Christ is and what He has done is exactly what we need for salvation. Christ has done *everything* that is necessary for our salvation. There is nothing else that needs to be done. You don't need to be a good person. You don't need to be a great mom or dad or get this or that issue right in your life. Jesus Christ has done everything for your salvation and there is nothing else that needs to be done. His person and work (life, death, and resurrection) are sufficient.

Questions:

Why is it important that Jesus never sinned?

Why did Jesus have to die?

What did Jesus' resurrection demonstrate about His relationship to sin and death?

Bottom Line: Jesus alone is able to remove our sin and reconcile us to God.

SING

The glorious truth of the gospel tells us that what is impossible for us is made possible by and through the sacrifice of Jesus. For this reason we chose "In Christ Alone" as our worship song this week.

Til on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

Rejoice with renewed humbleness at the gift of redemption found in Christ. Praise our King in heaven who ransomed you and restored you to Himself!

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: masking tape and 2 pillow cases with several cans of food in each pillowcase.
- Make a long straight line on the floor with the masking tape.
- Read 1 John 3:5. Explain that the Bible tells us that when we are born we are sinners. Sin is making bad choices/choosing to disobey God. God is Holy. He never sinned. He is without sin problems.

- 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. Jesus is the only one who can help us with our sin problem.
- Have your child hold their arms straight out to the side and walk along the masking tape line. Once they have finished say, "That was easy, wasn't it? Without the problems of sin in our life it is easy to walk the path, but lets see what happens when we introduce the burden of sin."
- Once again have your child hold his or her arms straight out to the side. This time place one pillow case of cans in each hand and ask them to walk the length of the line again trying not to step off the line. Ask your child if it was harder this time. Explain that the cans represent our sins. Continue adding cans until it is impossible for your child to walk the path without dropping the pillowcases. Explain that every one of us sins, and it is impossible for us continue in life with the weight of sin.
- After talking about the activity, once again explain that Jesus is the only one who can forgive our sins because He is the only one who never sinned. Talk about how He bridges the gap between God and us. When we choose to be sorry for our sin and turn away from it, God forgives us and we can be with Him forever.
- Conclude your family time with prayer. Thank God for loving us so much that He sent us Jesus to save us from our sin.

Children

- Materials:
 - Several brownies or cookies, individually wrapped with price tags of \$1 on each.
 - A dollar bill.
- Place the treats on the table and say they are for sale. Choose one child to pretend to "steal" a brownie. You will pretend to "catch" them and hold a trial. Say that the accused child has broken one of the 10 commandments, which says a person must not steal. Pronounce the child "guilty" and announce that they must receive a punishment to cover the cost of the brownie. Have the other parent present a dollar and say that they want to pay for the brownie that was taken. Ask if the parent is sure they wants to pay for a brownie that they did not take or even get to eat. Have the parent reply that they choose to give up the money to pay for the stolen brownie so the child will no longer be guilty and can go free.
- Tell the child(ren) that in the skit, the "thief" had his crime forgiven because someone chose to pay for the brownie. Jesus paid for our sins by dying on the cross. He did it knowing that we were guilty and deserved to be punished.
- In our skit, the person could cover cost of the stolen brownie with money, but money can't pay for our sins. Only Jesus had what it takes to forgive the sins of the world—He was without sin and that gave Him authority to die in our place and then be raised from the dead.
- Pray with your child(ren) and thank God for Jesus' sacrifice for us so we could be free from sin.

Students

- Before you meet together take time to come up with a list of chores that would be required for your students to receive any future birthday and Christmas gifts. You may have them clean their room before receiving a small gift or wash a car for a larger gift. The point is to illustrate that a gift is no longer a gift if you are working or paying for it, the price was been paid when the item was purchased.
- To begin your time with your students tell them that before you start your family worship there are a couple of things you need to discuss with them. Tell them that in order for them to receive any future presents they are going to have to contribute more around the house. You may even start out with what seems like very reasonable requests, but try and make the ones further down the list a little more exaggerated (ex. paint the house before opening Christmas presents). Once there is protest to this new approach to gift giving, ask them what is wrong with someone asking you to work for your gift.
- Read Romans 6:23 together. Ask, "If God offers salvation as a gift to us, can we really work or do anything to deserve it?" Obviously, the answer is no! However, salvation still comes with an enormous price tag, just like that last Christmas or Birthday present. Say to your students, "Even though a gift that is given to us is free, there still a cost associated with that gift? Every gift that is given costs the one giving it. It is no different when it comes to the gift of salvation."
- Read 1 John 3:5, 1 Peter 2:24, and Revelation 1:18 together. According to these passages, what was the cost of our gift of salvation? Share with your students that, just like with any gift, there is no possible way to work for the gift that is given (it would no longer be a gift), and Scripture clearly teaches that Jesus paid for the gift of salvation in full. There is no remaining cost for salvation. There is no way to work for the gift God offers in salvation.
- This is the beauty of the gospel. So many people speak of Christianity in terms of being closed-minded or intolerant, yet nothing is more openly loving than the truth that God offers us the gift of salvation through the cost of His Son, and we owe nothing for it. The question is whether we have graciously accepted God's offer and have turned to follow Him.