

Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 23

MEMORIZE

1 Corinthians 5:4-5 – When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

READ

Read 1 Corinthians 5:3-8.

Churches and individuals must not be complacent about sin among their members, but expose and discipline those who are sinning, both to help those who Christ has died for to live purely, and to witness effectively to those outside the church. This type of corporate discipline is designed to address public and unrepentant sin in the church. This can be a difficult section of 1 Corinthians to teach to younger children for a number of reasons, not the least of which is the specific sin that is initially being addressed in 1 Corinthians 5:1. However, what can be understood from these verses and is essential to recognizing why corporate discipline needs to exist is that ongoing, unrepentant sin does not only affect the sinner. It sullies and taints the greater body as well, just as a small bit of leaven affects an entire lump of dough. We all need to be aware of sin in our own lives and repent of our sins. However, we also have to be aware of the sin of others as well and seek to address it within the church for the sake of the sinner, the greater body, and the glory of God.

Questions:

How does leaven affect dough?

How does sin affect the church in a similar way?

What is the proper response when confronted with sin?

Bottom Line: Unrepentant sinners should be removed from the fellowship of the church so their sin does not affect everyone else.

SING

This week's worship song is "How Sweet And Awesome Is the Place." This aged hymn was written by English hymn writer, Isaac Watts, who during the 17th and 18th century penned over 700 hymns including "Joy to the World" and "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross." It was set to an ancient Irish Melody called St. Columba, and published in 1707 in *Hymns and Sacred Songs*. Originally, the first stanza began "How sweet and *awful* is the place." However, in recent versions "awful" is replaced with "awesome," using more modern language to better communicate the idea of being full of awe.

As you continue in worship, sing "How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place." As you think about the severity of sin against a holy God, it is good to be reminded of God's redeeming grace in how, though we were still sinners, He sent His Son to die for us. God has welcomed us as guests at His table where He has prepared for us a feast. Let's rejoice in His rich mercy as it spurs us on to share this Good News.

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 explain to your preschooler that God, who created the world and everything in it, is Holy. This means that God is different than everyone and everything else. He is stronger than anyone or anything. God has never sinned. But we are all born with a sin problem. To sin is to disobey God and make bad choices. Because God is Holy, He dislikes sin. He hates sin. God punishes sin. Sin separates us from God.
- Read 1 Corinthians 5:3-8 with your preschooler.

- Tell your preschooler that this scripture from the Bible is about people who say they follow Christ but are choosing to sin and disobey God. They make bad choices. These people, who are part of God's church, are not sorry for their sin problem. This makes God unhappy.
- Say, "I am your parent and God gave you to me. Because I love you and God, it's my job to teach you about sin and to warn you to turn away from your sin and bad choices. It's also my job to punish you when you choose to disobey."
- Explain that because God knew we would have a sin problem, He sent His Son, Jesus, from heaven to earth to die on the cross and take care of our sins. God sent Jesus to make a way for us to live forever with Him in Heaven.
- It's my job as your Mom/Dad to tell you when you make bad choices that Jesus wants you to turn away from your sin, be sorry for your it, and trust in Him.
- Did you know that God also wants people in His church to warn us when we sin and make bad choices? He does! God gave you parents, teachers and His church so they can help you to remember how much God loves us and wants us to choose to follow Him.
- Let's pray and thank God for placing people in our lives, to warn us about our sin problem.

Children

- Read 1 Corinthians 5:3-5. Explain that these verses help us to understand that God calls us to discipline sinners in the church who have public, unrepentant sin. Explain that unrepentant sin means that a person continues to sin and is not willing to turn away from that sin. They may not even be sorry for it.
- Ask your child why they think God wants us to discipline these types of sinners in the church. Explain that when a person continues to live a sinful lifestyle without repenting and turning away from that sin, their sin doesn't just affect the sinner, but it affects the whole church.
- Read 1 Corinthians 5:6-7. Explain what leaven (yeast) does to bread (it helps it rise). Explain that once the yeast is mixed into the bread, it affects the entire loaf of bread.
- A great object lesson to illustrate these verses would be to show the effect of a few drops of food coloring on an uncooked loaf of bread. Take a cup of flour and mix in a little water. Put oil on your hands so that it doesn't stick, but then knead the flour and water until you have a soft dough.
- Next, take a few drops of red food coloring and drop them into the mix. Ask the child what they notice about the loaf (it is turning colors, probably a light shade of red or pink). Explain to the children that allowing unrepentant sinners to stay in the church is like mixing in only a few drops of this red food coloring. As you knead the dough, you will see that just a few drops of food coloring taints the entire loaf, similar to the effect that the unrepentant sinner has to the church. Their sin affects the entire church.
- Pray, asking God to give church leaders wisdom in dealing with unrepentant sinners in the church. Pray that unrepentant sinners would be willing to turn from their sin and turn to Jesus.

Students

- After you gather together as a family share some reasons why you are always happy when summer arrives. For some of you it might be that a family vacation is right around the corner, for others it may be as simple as the fact that there is a break from school. You may also hear something like, "I am just thankful that the flu season is over!" If no one else does, throw in that item yourself. Share with you students that it seems like most things that are described as "contagious" are not considered very positive things at all. Ask them if they can think of any other things that are contagious that they do not enjoy receiving. The truth is that in many ways there are spiritual things that the Bible describes in a similar manner. Ask one of your students to read 1 Corinthians 5:3-8.
- When Paul uses the term leaven he is describing the effect that this substance has on an entire batch of dough. Specifically, it causes the entire lump to ferment and rise. Likewise sin may be small and applied within a specific area of life or person within a group, but it affects everyone. (You may want to share the story of Achan from Joshua chapter seven at this point.) Sin is contagious, and it affects all those who are around it. Ask your students to share ways in which specific sins may affect more than just the person who commits them (e.g. divorce, lying, sexual behavior outside the context of marriage). The point is that in every case sin affects more than just the people directly involved, and God takes it very seriously. Ask your students why they think God would be so concerned with the effect of sin beyond just the person who commits it. How could sin hurt the church? How can sin hurt the spread of the gospel? Many times we speak of not being judgmental in today's culture, and yet Paul is directly addressing a person's sin in this chapter. Walk through how a Christian should confront another brother or sister in Christ with gentleness, respect, and the motive of restoration as you finish your time together. Take turns praying for one another, that you would take sin seriously in your own life, and that you would lovingly approach those who are Christians around you when you see them living in a sinful manner.