

Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 41

MEMORIZE

1 Corinthians 14:12 – So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

READ

Read 1 Corinthians 14:6-12.

In 1 Corinthians 14, the Apostle Paul continued writing on the subject of spiritual gifts as he had been doing in chapters 12 and 13. The way the Corinthian church had been practicing gifts had been causing confusion and division, both of which should never be the results of spiritual gifts. In this chapter, Paul was primarily concerned with the Corinthians' understanding that any practice of gifts in their worship gatherings should be understandable and orderly. Gatherings in which that is not the case fail to build up the church. Unbelievers who are present leave distracted by the chaos on the one hand, and unchallenged by divine truth, unconvicted, and unconverted on the other. These verses deal primarily with the gift of tongues, which is difficult for many of us adults to understand, much less our children. However, the thrust of this passage is that all gifts should be sought in conjunction with our desire to encourage and edify one another.

Questions:

What is the gift of tongues?

Why is it important for people to understand what's being said when someone speaks in tongues?

How can you help build up the church?

Bottom Line: Seek all spiritual gifts as you strive to build up the church.

SING

This week's worship song is called "Living For Your Glory" written by Tim and Rachel Hughes in 2007. This worship song is about our desire to live our lives for the glory of God in everything we say and everything we do. The apostle Paul challenges us in this way in Colossians 3:17 when he says, "And whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." As Christ-followers, we want to do just that. We want our lives to bring God glory whether we are mowing the lawn or sharing the good news of Jesus with our next-door neighbor. He is worthy of all glory and honor!

As you continue in worship, sing "Living For Your Glory".

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 to 1 Corinthians 14:12.
- Read the verse to your preschooler.
- Think of different jobs or tasks that your family can do around the house. Have them do things like pick up trash, clean off counter tops, put away toys, etc. Make sure that everyone has at least one task to do. When everyone is finished, discuss why each job was important.
- Explain that we are continuing our discussion from a few weeks ago about spiritual gifts and why each person's service is so important. Ask what would happen if any person had not completed their job.
- Explain that God gives us all different gifts to serve Him and to serve others. He makes each of us different and special and with different abilities, yet they are all necessary and important for helping and encouraging each other. God loves

to give gifts and He has given each of His children some very special gifts that He want us to share with each other and to use to help each other.

- All these gifts, and many more, can be used to serve God and the gifts are part of His plan for your life. One of the most exciting things about growing up is to discover what special gifts, talents and abilities you have and then to use them to serve God.
- Conclude your family time by praying and thanking God for His many gifts.

Children

- Grab a map and sit down with your children. Ask them to point out a country they would like to visit. Ask them if they know what language they speak there.
- Ask them what would happen if they visited that country and tried to speak English. Would the people there understand them? What if someone in that country started speaking to them in their own language? Ask your children if they would be able to understand them.
- Emphasize that unless they know the language in that country, they would have a very difficult time communicating. They could talk to people, people could talk to them, but it would be pointless if they didn't understand each other's languages.
- Read 1 Corinthians 14:6-12.
- Explain that when Paul talks about "manifestations of the spirit" in this passage, he means spiritual gifts. Ask your children if they remember what spiritual gifts are (gifts God gives to His children to strengthen and serve the body of Christ).
- Tell your child that Paul is talking about a specific spiritual gift that was present in the church but was not being used properly—the gift of tongues.
- Explain that speaking in tongues is kind of like speaking in another language. People in the Corinthian church were speaking in tongues, but other people could not understand. The gift wasn't being used to encourage and build up the church, as it should have; it was not benefiting the church.
- Explain that Paul ends this passage by reminding us that the purpose of any spiritual gift is to build up the church.
- Point back to the map and remind your children that just as speaking to someone in a language they cannot understand would be pointless, so is using spiritual gifts in a way they were not intended to be used.
- Ask your children to think of some ways they can use spiritual gifts in the proper way in order to build up the church. Share with them some ways that you use your spiritual gifts to build up the church.

Students

- As you gather together to study I Corinthians 14 have your students bring their favorite electronic device with them. This could be a phone, a gaming device, or an MP3 player; the type of device is not significant. When they reach the room ask them if you can borrow the device, and then act like you are going to use it to prop a door open or stabilize the leg of a shaky table or chair. In all likelihood they will quickly stop you, and this will be a great lead-in to the Bible study. Ask them why they were concerned that you were going to use their device as a means to prop something up or open. If the device would have worked, even temporarily, why not use it? Share with them that you are going to look at a similar, but more significant issue in the passage you are studying together.
- Read I Corinthians 14:1-12.
- After reading, ask them what was being used in an improper way. (The gift of tongues) What did Paul say was the purpose we should have in exercising spiritual gifts? (We should excel in building up the church) Draw their attention back to using the electronic device in the wrong way. When something is used the wrong way it never simply impacts just that one person using it. The owner of a cell phone that is used as a door stop is obviously hurt or angered by the way you mistreated their device, but other people around you would also see that you are not valuing that person either. People would not trust you, and it would quickly lead to them not valuing what you say or what you say you believe.
- In I Corinthians Paul is addressed the way people spoke in tongues because no one understood what they were saying. People could not understand them and definitely could not understand the gospel if that was what they were communicating. Even more, this misuse of spiritual gifts, and undervaluing some gifts more than others, was breaking apart the church.
- Paul's point is that we should be intentional about how we exercise our spiritual gifts, how we worship, and how we communicate the gospel so that the church is built up. Ask your students to name some things they think we should be intentional about when we worship together. How can we communicate the gospel in ways that might be unclear to people listening? Many times we often come to a gathering of the church and never think about how we approach the words we use when talking about the gospel, or about being intentional in the way we worship together. This is a great opportunity to show your students the thought and biblical principles we should follow in these gatherings.