

Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 42

MEMORIZE

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 – For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

READ

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.

This week we take a look at the importance of the resurrection in the Christian faith. You were probably hoping for something a bit easier after a few weeks of teaching on spiritual gifts. Thankfully, as far as our faith family worship guide goes, we're going to simply focus on the first few verses of 1 Corinthians 15 which basically give a summary of the gospel message. Before our children can begin to comprehend the importance of resurrection in the Christian faith they first have to understand the importance of Christ's resurrection. His death certainly paid the price for the sins of all who believe, but His resurrection demonstrated the power God has over both sin and death, making Him the only one who can provide the reward of eternal life.

Questions:

What is resurrection?

Why is it important that Jesus was resurrected?

Why is resurrection important to the church?

Bottom Line: Our resurrection as Christ-followers is possible only because Christ Himself was first resurrected.

SING

Jesus is the only person in all of history who brought Himself back from the dead. In doing so, Jesus proved that He truly is God in the flesh and has power over sin and death. The hope of all believers rests in this reality. So let's celebrate the saving work of our God as we sing "Man of Sorrows". Written in 2012 by Brooke Ligertwood and Matt Crocker, this moving song retells the story of Jesus' sacrificial death and supernatural resurrection. The fourth verse reads:

*See the stone is rolled away
Behold the empty tomb
Hallelujah, God be praised!
He's risen from the grave!*

Let's praise Jesus for defeating sin and overcoming the grave!

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 print photos of an Easter lily bulb and Easter lily or purchase a bulb and flower from the store.
- Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.
- Say to your preschooler: This is an Easter lily. The lily reminds us of Jesus.
- Now show your preschooler the lily bulb. Tell your child that you usually don't see the bulb because it is buried in the dirt. However, this is what the lily flower grows from. If we don't have a lily bulb, we can't have a lily flower. This bulb looks dead. It has to be buried to grow into a lily. In a few days it will come to life and becomes the beautiful lily.
- The bulb and lily flower remind us of Jesus. Jesus had to die on a cross to save us from our sins (bad choices). He had to be buried in a tomb, but there is good news. Jesus did not stay dead. Jesus rose from the dead and this is the good news! God's plans are ALWAYS good plans.
- Questions: What did Jesus say He would do? Did Jesus rise from the dead? Yes, Jesus always does what He says He will do. God loves us so much that He sent his only son, Jesus, from heaven to earth to die on a cross. When we choose to

believe in Jesus and turn away from our sin (bad choices) He saves us and He is the only one who can provide the reward of eternal life. His resurrection showed the power He has over both sin and death.

- Conclude by re-reading 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.

Children

- Object Lesson:
 - Put on a glove. Demonstrate the incredible things that can be done by the “glove.” It can turn on a light. It can scratch a head. It can wave. It can tickle someone. It can point. It can pick up a toy. While you are demonstrating explain that the “glove” is an incredible creation and can do so many things.
 - Then take off the glove. Ask the glove to do the same things you just demonstrated. Look puzzled and confused when nothing happens. Ask the children what the problem is.
- Explain that the reality is that it is not the “glove” that can do all those things but the hand inside it. The glove is just the container for the hand and without the hand the glove is lifeless.
- Explain that God created us like a hand and glove – a body with a spirit that lives inside it. When a person dies, the spirit leaves the body and the body becomes lifeless. The spirit still exists but is separate from the body. The exciting news is that God can put the body and spirit back together again. That is exactly what happened when Jesus died and was resurrected.
- The word resurrection means ‘rising up from the dead.’
- We know that Adam, the first man, brought sin and death to all people when he disobeyed to God’s commands. We are all sinners and we will all die.
- We also know that Jesus died for our sins. But Jesus never sinned. He kept all God’s commands and lived a perfect life. In obedience to God, He went to the cross for us. But Christ’s death wasn’t the end. His death alone doesn’t show us God’s purpose and power. God showed His perfect justice and ultimate power by resurrecting Jesus – raising Him from death to life. Because our God is a Living God, death had no claim on Jesus. Our God is alive and has power over all things, even death.
- God had promised Jesus’ resurrection in scripture. Jesus even told His disciples He would be raised. God has promised us many things, even things that seem impossible. If God can raise Jesus from the dead, is there anything too hard for Him to do?
- The resurrection of Christ gives us hope for the eternal life promised to us through Christ Jesus.
- The resurrection of Christ teaches Christians three important things: (1) our sins are forgiven; (2) death is not the end; and (3) because we will live forever in the presence of God our priorities in this world should be focused on God and His mission.

Students

- Before you begin reading the passages of Scripture together, visit <http://www.bhg.com/halloween/crafts/fall-crafts-with-leaves/>. This will give you some great project ideas that you could complete as a family and possibly deliver to an older family member, neighbor, or someone you may know in a retirement home.
- As you put together the craft with the fallen leaves discuss the reality that the leaves have in fact died. They will never again be connected to the life they once displayed, yet once the spring returns, new life is brought forth from the limbs off of which the old leaves had fallen. This is a great natural reflection of what you’ll find in the following passages.
- Now Read through 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 as a family. (See also Isaiah 53:10-12 and Matthew 12:40.)
- Point out that Christ’s resurrection was a demonstration of the power of God to conquer both sin and death. This is the bedrock of our faith. We often move past this area of the gospel too quickly and forget how amazing it is and how it applies to our daily lives.
- Now discuss the following questions:
 - What implications does the resurrection have for our journey through life (sanctification)?
 - Does the resurrection give us power to conquer sin?
 - Is there any sin in your life you view as really difficult to overcome at times?
 - What does the reality of Christ’s power tell you about the sin you face? (See 2 Corinthians 12:9-10.) Discuss practical steps your students can take when they struggle with sin (prayer, confession, accountability etc.).
 - Are there any non-believers in our life we view as too far off for the Lord to save? How does the resurrection crush that thought?
 - End your time by having students name some specific ways they have seen Christ demonstrate His resurrection in them already (if they are Christians). Share with them ways in which you have seen God work in your life. Then discuss with them that this is just a glimpse of what His resurrection power in our lives looks like.
 - Pray together for a greater awareness and confidence to live in light of this reality.