

Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 43

MEMORIZE

1 Corinthians 16:2 – On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.

READ

Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-2.

Paul attached great importance to money being collected for the needy Christians in Jerusalem. He not only preached the gospel, but he also tried to assist those who had physical and material needs. The offering referred to in these verses had not only a philanthropic motivation, but it represented a unique gesture of solidarity by Gentiles to Jews. Apart from keeping his promise and meeting a great need, Paul's greatest motive for taking up the offering was to help unite Jewish and Gentile believers. This showed the nature of the gospel, which could break down the decisive racial barrier. Note also the care with which Paul handled money in order to avoid any allegations of impropriety, and his encouragement to Christians to do the same. We can learn much in terms of Christian stewardship from what Paul has to say here.

Questions:

What is it important to help others?

How can giving of our money help others?

What other types of things can we give in order to help others?

Bottom Line: We should give from what God has given us to be a blessing to other people.

SING

This week's FFWG song is "Follow You", a collaborative work between the Christian band Leeland and Brandon Heath and released in 2009. When speaking about this song, lead singer Leeland Mooring said, "Jesus said by this the whole world will know that you're my disciples, by the way you love each other." In the gospels we see Jesus' love in the way He cared for the poor and broken. As Christ followers our desire is to become more and more like Christ. This song acts as a call to live as Jesus lived.

And I'll follow you into the homes that are broken
Follow you into the world
Meet the needs for the poor and the needy God
Follow you into the World

This week continue in worship and sing "Follow You".

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

- Open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 16:1-2. Read the verses to your preschooler.
- This text talks about the members of the early church being generous, or giving freely to help those in need.
- Talk about how your family gives to the church and talk about new ways you can give and be generous to help others. Ask these questions: Why is it important to help others? How can giving of our money help others? What other types of things can we do to help others? Examples include: visiting the sick, helping to feed the hungry, being cheerful and thoughtful to someone who is sad, praying for one another, working in a shelter for the homeless, being a friend to

someone who is lonely, earning money to buy a toy for a child in need. We should give from what God has given us to be a blessing to other people.

- Remember: God loved us so much that He sent His one and only Son to earth to die on a cross so that we could have eternal life. He gave us the greatest gift of all, Jesus. God wants us to choose to follow Him and to love Him more than anything. He wants us to turn away from our sin and to trust Him. God wants us to share the good news of what Jesus has done for us with others too.
- Conclude your family time with prayer and ask God to help us find ways to give to others. Thank Him for everything He does for us.

Children

- Gather a bowl of goldfish crackers (or any snack you have on hand). Set aside for later in the talk.
- Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 with your child.
- First, ask your child what they think this verse is saying. Then explain that in this verse, the Apostle Paul is encouraging Christians to save money each and every week to help people in need.
- Ask your child why they think Paul said to set aside the money “on the first day of the week.” Explain that perhaps Paul said this so that people would save money early in the week before they had a chance to spend it on other things throughout the week.
- Ask your child why they think it is important to help other people.
- To illustrate this point, pull out your crackers and begin eating them, saying that the crackers are really yummy, and you wish they had some crackers too. Ask how it feels to see someone else enjoy something you don’t have. Ask how they might get some of their own crackers. If they suggest you can share some of your crackers with them, then go ahead and share your crackers with your child.
- Explain how you had an abundance of crackers. You had more than you really needed; yet there were others around you that didn’t have any crackers. Relate this to how many of us have way more money and stuff than we really need. So what do they think God calls us to do? To give to the needy.
- What are some things we can do to help these people?
- Make a plan for a specific way that you can work as a family to help people in need. Perhaps you are already doing this by sponsoring a child through Compassion International or another organization. Or perhaps you regularly give to the Global Missions and other offerings that help those in need in our faith family and community. Use this time to recommit or to commit freshly to helping the needy as a family.
- Pray, asking God for guidance as you seek ways to help people in need. Thank God for the ways He has blessed your family with money and other resources, and ask for His help as you help others in need.

Students

- Giving is a touchy subject with most Christ followers. Unfortunately, if we never discuss giving, we lose an opportunity to pass on biblical truth to the next generation.
- Truth #1: Giving is not a contest. What you decide to give should be based on the Word, and not some competition with your neighbor.
- Truth #2: Money matters! How Christ followers use what they’ve been given effects the advancement of the Gospel, the recipient of goods/funds, as well as the heart of the giver. In the same breath, we serve a God who is more than capable to move mountains for the sake of His goals and desires.
- Why does God desire to use our blessings to bless others? How has God used money to bless you?
- When you receive money, are you grateful?
- Read Acts 11:27-29 and Philippians 4:18. What was money given for in these two passages? (Acts 11:27-29 is a disaster relief offering and Philippians 4:18 talks of money given to a missionary.)
- Is giving all about finances? What else are we called to give? Possessions, talents, accomplishments, time, etc.
- Are you effectively managing you possessions, talents, accomplishments, and time for God, or are you using them only for yourself?
- Close in prayer. Begin by thanking the Lord for His many blessings in your life. Ask Him to open your eyes to ways to bless others with the things He has so graciously given.